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March 26, 2025

Dear Mayor and City Council,

On March 20, 2025, the Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department (OPARD) staff gave a briefing to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) on whether to issue debt for Yelm Highway Community Park Phase I construction and the Armory Arts Center Phase I renovations. After a thorough presentation and lengthy discussion, PRAC voted (5-Yes, 1-No) to recommend City Council support the issuance of debt for these two long-standing community priorities.

Over several years, PRAC received briefings on these projects and understands both the long-standing community needs identified in parks plans and voted measures dating back more than two decades, as well as the investments made and grants received to-date. These projects represent a major step forward in delivering on important and complex projects that are years in the making and part of the long-term vision for parks, arts and recreation in Olympia.

PRAC discussed the importance of ensuring there is adequate funding to maintain the existing park system moving forward and expressed the desire for new revenue sources or funds that may come available in future years be used to restore the park capital funding levels.

Members of PRAC are grateful for the opportunity to provide City Council with this recommendation and are happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Jeff Prevost, Vice-chair
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)