

June 7, 2019

Olympia Metropolitan Parks District Advisory Committee,

YES Olympia Parks Coalition supports Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation programs and monitors the City's and District's compliance with the Interlocal Agreement. Our aim is to make sure that the funding that we worked hard to direct to parks is actually used for parks purposes and can be tracked as such. A list of member organizations follows this letter.

The following are our comments on the report titled: *DRAFT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 City's compliance with funding levels set forth in the Interlocal Agreement between the OMPD Board and Olympia City Council*

1. It appears that the City and the MPD planned to be in compliance with the Interlocal Agreement for advance budget planning purposes. The report shows budgeted funds matching the required amounts.
2. We appreciate that the budgeted amount for Section 4.1.1 (i) General Funds tax revenues was adjusted during the budget process.
3. The report does not show actual revenues and expenditures and/or transfers to non-lapsing accounts devoted exclusively to Parks, Arts, and Recreation purposes. Our comments for the 2017 report and the MPD Advisory Committee letter for that report included requests for more details describing these, which should be included in this report. We believe it is very important that actual revenues and expenses/transfers be reported along with budgeted amounts. True compliance with the agreement would result in expenses/transfers to match the dedicated revenues and specified proportions of funds.
4. Since capital budget projects often take several years to complete, the report should include details tracking the funds over time for these multi-years projects.
5. At the May meeting of the Advisory Committee staff described that unused or unassigned MPD revenues are transferred to the City general fund at the end of each fiscal year. This does not follow the intent of the voted measure which directed funds to Parks purposes. This should be remedied by 'squaring up' assignment of these actual revenues at the end of each fiscal year. The details showing assignment of all MPD tax revenues to parks purposes should be included in the Compliance report.

We look forward to a final report showing the complete picture of MPD and City funds including budgeted amounts and actual expenses/transfers for both operating and capital funds.

In our comments last year and the Committee letter last year there was a request for consideration of a separate account structure for parks funding. The process to examine this was started this spring. While we support the creation of a separate structure, we request that the MPD Advisory Committee, City Council and MPD Board proceed deliberately to examine this. Researching potential accounting models should continue, but without a deadline for the 2020 budget process. An inclusive, transparent examination of this should continue at a schedule that can give everyone confidence when the 2021 budget is developed in the spring of 2020.

We appreciate the ongoing communication with City and MPD staff.

Sincerely,

Signed by Bob Jacobs and Karen Messmer – representing the YES Olympia Parks coalition

### Yes Olympia Parks Coalition

YES Olympia Parks is a coalition of organizations that support parks, open spaces, and recreation. Three years ago the coalition negotiated the wording for the MPD ordinance and the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the MPD. These documents defined the terms under which the coalition would support and campaign for the Olympia Metropolitan Park District (OMPD) ballot measure, which it successfully did.

- Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation
- Friends of LBA Woods (formerly LBA Woods Coalition)
- Friends of the Waterfront
- Woodland Trail Greenway Association
- Olympia Capitol Park Foundation
- Parks and Sidewalks Campaign Committee of 2004
- North Capitol Campus Heritage Park Development Association