



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

PARC Foundation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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Title

PARC Foundation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Recommended Action

Approve the PARC Foundation MOU

Report

Issue:

The PARC Foundation has been a strong partner for the City of Olympia for over 26 years, as they have a long history of supporting Parks, Arts and Recreation throughout Thurston County. They are in the process of transitioning their operating model, and we have developed a new MOU in conjunction with the PARC Foundation and regional partners.

Staff Contact:

Paul Simmons, Parks, Arts, and Recreation Director

Background and Analysis:

In 1995, James Reddick created the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Foundation of Thurston County. His vision was to preserve vital green spaces, expand and support art and artists in our community, ensure all children have free access to recreational opportunities, and expand the rich cultural diversity that is valued in Thurston County.

Over the last 26 years, the PARC Foundation has been instrumental in raising over \$600,000 to support parks, arts, and recreation throughout Thurston County. This impressive accomplishment occurred through the relentless pursuit of grants and philanthropic donations; and hosting a variety of community events that served as fundraisers.

As a result of this work, local agencies have provided hundreds of recreation scholarships to individuals with disabilities and low-income families. Partnerships with the former Olympia-based business Alpine Experience, resulted in over \$50,000 to support youth and outdoor activities. The PARC foundation has played a key role in developing a partnership with REI that has resulted in \$83,000 over six years to support Olympia trail development and volunteerism. James has also come to the rescue of programs that have suffered dramatic budget reductions such as the Tenino Quarry

Pool and Thurston County Specialized Recreation.

James has served as a volunteer for many years and is now in the retirement phase of his life. As such, the PARC Foundation Board has been working with regional partners to develop an MOU that will allow it to transition to a paid staffing or contract model. In this model participating agencies will pay a population-based fee to the PARC Foundation on an annual basis and will work with the agencies on defined outcomes and deliverables. Model agreements from Spokane, Tacoma, and Vancouver were used to develop the MOU.

Attachments:

PARC Foundation MOU