

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Tukwila Pool Metropolitan Park District

TO: Tukwila Pool MPD Board

FROM: Rick Still, Parks and Recreation Director 

DATE: December 12, 2012

SUBJECT: MPD Governance Change

ISSUE

Shall the Board change the MPD governance at some time in the future?

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND

August 2011 the residents voted to create the Metropolitan Park District (MPD) and have the City Council serve as the MPD Commissioners. At their first meeting on September 12, 2011, the Board took action to organize the MPD and obtain \$1,100,000 financing to operate until tax levy monies would be received. The Board's focus has been to keep the pool open to the community and to make the necessary capital improvements to the thirty-nine year old pool to be operable for another twenty years.

At the August 20, 2012 MPD meeting, a representative from Sustain the Tukwila Pool (STP) requested that the Board investigate the process of changing the MPD governance structure. At the September 17, 2012 meeting, Tukwila Pool Advisory Committee (TPAC) Chair Bryan Nelson stated the citizens have asked that due diligence be a priority. In his view, these decisions have long-term impacts and taking the necessary time to gain the correct information will install confidence in the process. The Board discussed the issue and requested the Board's attorney provide the basic process for discussion at the October MPD Meeting.

MPD Attorney Lisa Marshall presented the steps necessary to change the governance structure in a memorandum dated October 9, 2012. The Board had several questions at this meeting and there was consensus that the MPD Board should consider the following statement "Shall the Board change the MPD governance at some time in the future, Yes or No?"

DISCUSSION

The process for the MPD governance change is a relatively easy process. The Board would need to adopt a resolution to put the item on a November ballot and the residents would need to approve the issue.

There are logistical issues that would need to be finalized prior to initiating this process:

- Costs associated with the election,
- Should there be an advisory vote to determine if the residents want a change the governance,
- Timing of the resolution that allows public participation in the decision process, as well as,
- Timing of the resolution and election to allow potential candidates for the Board of Commissioners to campaign for the positions.

The Board may want to consider the following items when discussing this issue:

Does a “no” vote mean that the Board will never discuss this again? Or does it mean that the Board wants to wait on making this decision until a later time?

Does a “yes” vote mean that the Board will work through the many options and issues associated with the governance change to determine if a change is desired by the MPD Board and residents?

Or does a “yes” vote mean that the Board will move forward with a change in governance as soon as possible?

Consensus was not reached by the Board defining what “at some time in the future” means. The Board may wish to discuss what this phrase means. For example, it could be interpreted that the election happens in 2013, 2014, five years from now once capital and operations are settled or when the loan or bonds are paid off in 2022 or 2028, respectively. A discussion or definition on this issue may be helpful to determine the Board’s desire.

RECOMMENDATION:

As recommended by the MPD Attorney, Staff does not consider it appropriate to make a recommendation on the form of governance of the TPMPD, believing that this is a policy issue, it is recommended that – should a change occur – it follow a lengthy process of public input and participation. Additionally, if the District made a decision to hold an election of Commissioners at the 2013 general election, this means that the District would have only between now and May to prepare for the election. Given the current objectives and tasks before the District, this may be too short a time-frame for the amount of preparation such a change would require