

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Annual Discussion with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services/Tree Board		
DEPARTMENT:	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Eric Friedli, Director		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Over the past several years the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)/Tree Board spent considerable time supporting the development of 2019's Proposition 1. In late 2019 the Board recognized the need to transition to other topics and redefine its interests and priorities. In September 2019, the Board met in a retreat format and engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about the interests of each individual Board member and developed a unified set of priorities and objectives. Tonight, the City Council will be joined by the PRCS/Tree Board to discuss those priorities. The Board is also interested in hearing from the Council its priorities for the Board.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to having this priorities discussion with the PRCS/Tree Board.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council review the PRCS/Tree Boards priorities and objectives and provide feedback to the Board.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)/Tree Board advises the City Council and City staff on a variety of parks and recreation issues including plans and policies, park operation and design, recreation program activities, public art, property acquisition and development of rules and regulations. The Tree Board component of the Board's work was established by the City Council in 2012 as part of the requirement to become a Tree City USA. The Tree Board serves as an advisory board to the City Council on issues related to public tree maintenance and urban forestry. More information about the PRCS/Tree Board and the Board's membership can be found at the following link: <https://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-cultural-services/parks-administration/parks-recreation-and-cultural-services-tree-board>.

The PRCS/Tree Board typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month and has just started meeting virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The PRCS/Tree Board also usually meets annually with the City Council at a Council dinner meeting to update the Council on the work of the Board, Board priorities and the upcoming work plan. As Council dinner meetings have been cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, tonight's discussion will provide for this annual opportunity to engage with the City Council.

DISCUSSION

In September 2019, the PRCS/Tree Board held a goal-setting retreat to identify their priority interests. The initial work session identified a range of subjects that are of interest to the Board members:

1. Parks
2. Open Space
3. Funding
4. Cultural Services/Public Art
5. Community Engagement
6. Relationships
7. Equity & Inclusion Framework
8. Prop 1

PRCS/Tree Board Priorities and Objectives

At a subsequent working session, the Board focused on selecting its top priorities and identifying more specific actions steps. The topics established as the Board's priorities are:

1. Equity and Inclusion
2. Parks
3. Cultural Services/Public Art

More information and potential work tasks regarding these three Board priorities is provided below.

1. ***Equity and Inclusion***

- The PRCS/Tree Board ought to reflect the diverse population of Shoreline. This would bring the desired lens or framework to the Board's discussions.
- Develop a framework as a Board to approach diversity work.
- Take action to support inclusion.
- Engage in diversity and inclusion training; invite the City's Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator to present the City's initiatives and discuss barriers to inclusion with the Board.
- Invite specific people to provide feedback to the Board during meetings.
- The Board could meet in the community rather than at City Hall.
- Maybe one Board meeting could include a representative from each neighborhood.
- 'Level of service' is also an equity marker; parks and playgrounds should be accessible to everyone.
- Provide equity and access to all facilities, programs, activities and events for all residents in Shoreline.

2. ***Parks***

- Engage the community more regularly and deeply when it comes to park design, even for repair and replacement.
- Learn about emerging trends in Parks and Recreation including park designs, open spaces, and community gardens.
- Stay engaged in the conversation about the Light Rail station corridors as they relate to parks and open spaces.

3. ***Cultural Services/Public Art***

- Review the Public Art Funding Study and consider a funding recommendation.
- Consider the recommendation made by the PRCS/Tree Board during the Public Art Plan approval process to move the Public Art Coordinator position to full-time.

Priority Follow-up Actions

Since the Board's Retreat, the following follow-up actions were taken by the Board:

- The Public Art Funding Strategy was discussed, and a recommendation was made to the City Council.
- The City's Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, Suni Tolton, led the Board in a conversation on this topic.
- Staff have made presentations and facilitated a discussion on emerging trends in Parks and Recreation.

At its June 2020 meeting (its first in several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic), the Board began discussing a strategy for moving forward with these priorities during the rest of 2020 and beyond. . The Board is interested in discussing those priorities with the Council and is also interested in hearing from the Council its priorities for the Board.

Potential Parks Improvement and Acquisition Bond Measure

While the City Council has made the decision to not put a parks improvement and acquisition bond measure before voters this year, there is a possibility that the Council will consider this for public vote in 2021. The City Council is tentatively scheduled for its next discussion about a parks improvement and acquisition bond measure on November 2, 2020.

At its May meeting, the PRCS/Tree Board recommended that the Council consider a bond measure at a dollar amount that would be a renewal of the expiring parks bond. The Board also expressed interest in reviewing what improvements and acquisitions might be included in a bond measure.

The Board has established a sub-committee that holds its first meeting on July 16th to begin reviewing priorities for an improvements and acquisition bond measure. The Board will be interested in having a discussion with Council about priorities for a potential future bond measure.

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