



To: Jean Godden, Chair of Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries, and Gender Pay Equity Committee
From: Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Re: 2015 Statement of Legislative Intent-Interim Report-Lake City Community Center Improvements (54-1-A-2)
Date: **May 29, 2015**

Background

The 2015 Adopted Budget included a City Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) regarding the Lake City Community Center. Specifically, the SLI requested that the Department of Parks and Recreation explore any proposed changes in the use of the Lake City Community Center that are recommended by the Community Center Strategic Plan scheduled for completion later this summer; alternatives for rehabilitation or rebuilding of the Lake City Community Center including an alternative for construction of a new facility; costs and financing options for the preferred alternative; and a schedule for implementing the preferred alternative.

The final report is due to Council on September 4, 2015 with an interim report due June 2, 2015. The purpose of this interim report is to provide an update on how the Lake City is incorporated into the community center strategic planning process currently underway.

Lake City Community Center Overview

Parks operates 26 community centers across the City. Most centers are equipped with kitchens, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, gyms, spaces for child care and teen programming, computer labs, and weight/fitness rooms. Community centers are also available for private rentals such as wedding receptions, conferences, and sporting events. Centers offer lifelong recreation programs, before- and after-school programs for youth and teens, food, fitness and health programs, arts and music, community basketball, intergenerational programs, late night recreation programs for teens and other drop-in activities. In general, annual operating costs are funded by a mix of earned revenue and general fund support.

The Lake City Community Center is not operated as a full service community center. The Seattle Lake City Lions Club built the original building in 1955 to operate the Lake City Youth Center, Inc. providing recreational opportunities for youth. In 1964, Parks accepted the Center and adjacent property as a gift from the Lions Club with the condition that the Lions Club make improvements to the building and operate it as a public recreation center. In 1975, Parks expanded the facility to its current size of 15,800 square feet to allow for additional recreational and programming opportunities. The Lions Club ended their lease in 2012, and Parks issued an RFP that resulted in a five year lease with the North Seattle Chamber of Commerce to operate the facility. Parks is responsible for major maintenance of the building and the North Seattle Chamber of Commerce is responsible for operations; no general fund support is provided to operate

this facility. This operating model is more aligned with the department's performing and visual arts facilities like Pratt Fine Arts and Madrona Dance rather than a community center (as its name would imply).

Community Center Strategic Plan

The Community Center Strategic Plan will undertake an assessment of community center operations to provide (1) demographic information for each geographic team and facility, (2) a plan for each center based on demographic information and a recreation demand study, and (3) recommendations for future capital investments at the eight centers that were not funded in recent levies. The Lake City Community Center will be included in all three areas of the strategic plan.

Work on the Community Center Strategic Plan is underway and anticipated to be done in September.

- An outside consultant has conducted stakeholder interviews and completed a best practices survey which will inform recommendations;
- A demographic analysis is underway which will provide current and future population data to inform recommendations;
- Public input will begin June 20 with a mini-summit at the Seattle Center where we will gather ideas about:
 - What programs people would like to see at community centers;
 - What are the barriers keeping people from using centers;
 - What hours would best serve the community.

Community Center Major Maintenance Plan

To address the third area of the strategic plan, the capital investment recommendations, Parks is undertaking a separate facility assessment process for these eight centers that have not been funded for improvements in recent levies: Lake City, Green Lake, Hiawatha, Loyal Heights, Jefferson, Queen Anne, South Park, and Magnolia.

This work, which will get folded into the strategic plan, will focus specifically on major maintenance needs and will provide the following.

- Background data on each center (location, age, capital funding history, demographics, etc.)
- Assessment of building condition
 - Immediate and long term major maintenance and regulatory needs (seismic, ADA, life safety, energy code, etc.)
 - Ideas for programmatic improvements and operation efficiency
- Estimates specific to Lake City Community Center
 - Upgrades vs. Replacement
- Consultation with each Community Center Supervisor and Parks Skilled Craft Supervisor to gain insight into programmatic and major maintenance needs and vision.
- Analysis of the data and major maintenance needs and draft recommendations:
 - Analyze the final facility plans for each center, the department's distribution requirements, identified service area gaps, and most critical needs
 - Develop criteria to rank and prioritize the improvements
 - Develop draft list of prioritized recommended improvements with cost estimates and funding options

Conclusion

As part of the findings of the Community Center Strategic Plan, the department will provide the Executive and City Council with recommended operational changes to the community centers as well as a prioritized list of future capital investments. Since Lake City will be a part of that process, Parks would like the Community Center Strategic Plan to serve as the final report to this SLI.