**2014-2019 King County Parks Levy Citizen Oversight Board**

**Summary Notes of Meeting # 1 – September 27, 2017**

Citizen Oversight Board Members Present: Staci Thompson-Adman (District 1), Adrienne Caver-Hall (District 2), Allegra Calder (District 4), Bill Finkbeiner (District 6), Ann Martin (District 8),

Citizen Oversight Board Members Absent: Dariel Norris (District 3), Thomas Stafford (District 9), Ian Jacobson (District 5), Brad Tucker (District 7)

King County Parks & Recreation Division Staff and Other Attendees: Karen Reed, Facilitator; Kevin Brown, Division Director; Katy Terry, Assistant Division Director; Doug Hodson, Finance Manager; Kathy Waymire, Operations & Maintenance; Monica Leers, Manager of Capital Planning & Land Management; Frank Overton, Capital Project Managing Supervisor; Jessica Emerson, Business Development & Partnerships Manager; Craig Page, Administrator; Felix Amerasinghe, DNRP CFO; Tricia Davis, PSB Budget Manager;

**Summary Notes:**

Karen Reed convened the Parks Citizen Oversight Board (Board) meeting at 5:00 p.m. Board members and Parks staff present did a round of introductions. Karen Reed walked the Board briefly through the outline of meeting agendas, roles & responsibilities, timeline, and work plan. Karen also reviewed the checklist of issues on which the Board is asked to report, specifically checklist items A (spending 47% of levy proceeds on operations and maintenance) and G (address the controlling of noxious weeds).

Kevin Brown welcomed the Board and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He introduced a topic referred to as the “culture of King County Parks”, which is focused on employee growth and development within the agency. A newly created “Parks 101 video” was aired. The intended purpose of this video is to educate new employees to King County Parks; inform the public and stakeholders about the many services provided by Parks; and to inspire employees to keep doing their best work. A link to the video will be sent out to the Board members.

Kevin Brown and Katy Terry covered a number of current events and highlights going on around the King County Park system. Comments from the Board focused on the potential impact of the Land Conservation Initiative on the upcoming renewal of the Parks Levy.

Doug Hodson provided a “King County Parks Levy Overview Presentation” to the Board. This covered the following topics:

* + levy funding components, including percentages for King County Parks O&M and Capital, Cities, and Zoo;
  + an overview of 2016 finances including eligible levy expenditures, revenues and distributions and carryover funding;
  + an overview of lines of business – Active Areas, Regional Trails, Passive/Natural Areas, and Programs;

Doug Hodson provided a more detailed presentation on the “King County Parks Levy 2014 - 2016 Progress Report”. This covered the following topics:

* 2014-2019 levy goals;
* progress on implementing levy priorities, including the rehabilitation of play areas, major maintenance of the 5 major sites, designing and/or constructing regional trail connections, acquiring additional acreage of open space, repairing or replacing bridges and trestles, and construction of trailheads to improve access to parks.

Doug Hodson provided more detail on the “King County Parks 2016 Operating Revenues and Expenditures”. This covered the following topics:

* 2016 operating revenues, including levy proceeds, business revenue, capital planning, etc.;
* 2016 operating expenditures;
* Progress on implementing levy priorities, including open space stewardship, noxious weeds, and community partnerships & grants;

Questions and comments from the Board focused on the following points, along with Staff responses to questions.

* + Question: what does it mean when we say “13 of 14 regional trails”? Please provide more detail about this progress. For instance, how many miles of trails are involved in the segments? What was the original levy target? What is the current and projected status over the levy period in terms of design and construction?
  + Comment: The Trailhead Direct Program seems like a new and creative way of addressing the goal of increasing accessibility and Parks should get credit for this.
  + Comment: While attending a recent farmer’s market, an observation was made about how the County parks staff was at an information booth and that the staff seemed really knowledgeable with respect to addressing noxious and invasive weeds.
  + Q: How do we know that 47 percent of the levy was spent on parks operation and maintenance?  **A:** please refer to pink sheet in the binder under the “meeting 1 tab”.
  + Q: Is there a continuing demand for CPG grants? **A:** Yes
  + Q: It would be interesting to see data on 2016 total expenditures by Parks “line of business” model and, if available, usage by line of business.

Karen asked the Board if they had enough information to check off items A and G from the checklist. The Board agreed that both items were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.