



Staff Report

PRESENTATION ON THE PARKS FOR THE FUTURE INITIATIVE AND A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PARKS FOR THE FUTURE CONCEPT AND THE PLACING OF THE MEASURE ON A FUTURE BALLOT

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

Parks for the Future is a ballot measure that will provide funding to Belmont and other agencies in San Mateo County for parks and recreation activities through a 1/8th cent increase in the sales tax. A presentation on Parks for the Future will be made at the Council meeting. The Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending that the City Council adopt a resolution endorsing the Parks for the Future concept and placing the proposal on the ballot.

Background

Parks for the Future is an effort to secure dedicated tax-based revenues to support the parks and recreation related activities of San Mateo County, the cities located within the County, the Ladera and Highlands recreation districts, and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District through a ballot measure to increase sales tax by 1/8th percent. For Belmont, this will be about \$268,000 in new revenues annually for parks and recreation. Many meetings have been held with representatives from the County, districts, and cities to develop and refine this proposal. In these meetings, consensus has been reached on many issues, including:

- An existing dependant board (e.g. CCAG) would be utilized
- Governance responsibilities – auditing and allocation of funds
- A fair and equitable distribution systems of the revenues collected.
- Broad use of funds for park acquisition, maintenance, construction, programs, etc.
- Sales tax adjustment if population changes – Department of Finance annual projections will be used.
- A maintenance of effort provision is needed that would assure that these revenues would not be used to replace other funding sources.

Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Commission is supporting the Parks for the Future concept and placing it on a future ballot for the voters to decide. At this time, the City Council is being asked to support the concept of placing the proposal on the ballot. When the proposal has been

finalized, it will be brought back to the City Council. City Council action is not required to place the proposal on the ballot, but support from the County, special districts, and city councils is important to determine general support and agreement on the need for such funding.

General Plan/Vision Statement

General Plan:

This proposal supports the following General Plan Goals by providing additional revenues that enhance park, open space, and recreation facilities and activities:

General Community Goals and Policies

3. To preserve significant open spaces, trees, views, waterways, wildlife habitats, and other features of the natural environment.

Parks and Recreation

1. To provide recreation areas for community and neighborhood use, conveniently located and properly designed to serve the needs of the residents of the community.
2. To cooperate with public and private organizations in developing facilities and programs for recreational activities.
3. To preserve and enhance existing parks, recreational areas and facilities to serve neighborhood and community needs to the maximum extent possible.
4. To expand opportunities for active recreation in existing community parks.

Open Space

1. To designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, views, trees, natural drainage channels and plant and wildlife habitats; for the managed production of natural resources; for out door recreation; for protection of historical and cultural resources; for public health and safety and for structuring urban development.
2. To provide opportunities for the enjoyment of natural beauty, solitude and relief from the pressures for urban life.
3. To actively pursue all sources of funding to acquire open space lands.

Vision Statement:

This proposal supports the following Vision Statements by providing additional revenues that enhance park, open space, and recreation facilities and activities:

- “We choose to make our home among these beautiful hills, trees, parks, views, and open spaces”
- “Our actions today preserve and enhance Belmont’s beauty to make it even lovelier for our grandchildren.”
- “Our wooded residential areas are diverse, peaceful, and well maintained.”
- “Our playgrounds and athletic fields are of high quality and in high gear.”

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- “The arts thrive in this creative, appreciative town – the arts hub of the peninsula.”

Fiscal Impact

It is estimated that this initiative, if approved, would generate an additional \$268,000 in revenues for Parks and Recreation activities.

Public Contact

A Parks for the Future presentation has been made to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission has been tracking and discussing the Parks for the Future proposal as it has been developing. Parks and Recreation Commissioners have also attended the Parks for the Future development meetings. The Parks for the Future group is making presentations to the various cities in the County.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending that the City Council approve a resolution endorsing the Parks for the Future concept and the placing of the measure on a future ballot. Staff concurs with this recommendation.

Alternatives

1. Take no action at this time.

Attachments

- A. Resolution of the City Council of the City of Belmont endorsing the Parks for the Future concept and the placing of the measure on a future ballot.
- B. Parks for the Future handout

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bridges
Interim Director of
Parks and Recreation

Jack R. Crist
Interim City Manager

Staff Contact:

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT ENDORSING THE PARKS FOR THE FUTURE CONCEPT AND THE PLACING OF THE MEASURE ON A FUTURE BALLOT.

WHEREAS, Parks for the Future is an effort to secure dedicated tax-based revenues to support the parks and recreation related activities of San Mateo County, the cities located within the County, the Ladera and Highlands recreation districts, and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District through a future ballot measure to increase sales tax by 1/8th cent; and,

WHEREAS, The Parks for the Future team has worked diligently to achieve consensus among the 20 cities, specials districts, and San Mateo County on a distribution system that is fair and equitable; and,

WHEREAS, The sales tax revenue will provide a stable source of funding to maintain Belmont parks in a clean and safe condition, to complete deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects, and to acquire new lands for parks; and,

WHEREAS, The Belmont Park and Recreation Commission supports the concept of Parks for the Future and recommends that the Belmont City Council also formally endorse Parks for the Future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont endorses the Parks for the Future concept and placing the measure on a future ballot.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on March 28, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont