



Staff Report

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PARKS FOR THE FUTURE BALLOT MEASURE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

On February 26, 2008 the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors had the final reading to approve the Parks for the Future ballot initiative. The recommendation was approved to (1) Adopt an ordinance proposing a 1/8 cent retail transaction and use tax for park and recreation purposes in San Mateo County; and (2) Adopt a resolution calling an election for the purpose of submitting to electors a proposition for the improvements, maintenance, programs and operations of parks and recreation agencies in San Mateo County. The Parks & Recreation Commission is recommending City Council endorsement for the "Parks for the Future" June 3, 2008 ballot measure.

Background

In 2004, representatives from San Mateo County and representatives from the municipalities located within the County began discussions on alternatives to increase funding for the operations, improvements and maintenance of parks located within San Mateo County. The effort grew from recognition that there is strong public support for the parks and recreation activities within the County, and the fact that other budget priorities have eroded the ability to maintain and improve park and recreation amenities, in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

A steering committee developed a proposed measure, to be submitted to a vote of the electorate at the November 2006 election, to establish a 1/8 cent sales tax for parks and recreation purposes. The measure had strong support from local Cities. Unfortunately, the measure failed.

Discussion

The Steering Committee believes that there is still strong support for a measure to support parks and recreation activity within the County, and a need for additional funding is greater than ever in light of tighter financial reserves. The Steering Committee is seeking endorsement of the Parks for the Future ballot measure from both appointed and elected officials within the San Mateo County jurisdiction, which will be put before the electorate on the June 2008 ballot. The major components of the measure are the following:

- The measure would be in effect for a period of 25 years, and could be extended by a vote of the electorate.

- Net tax revenues must be used to support parks and recreation services, including maintaining and improving park bathrooms, picnic areas and athletic facilities, repairing and upgrading playgrounds and play structures, improving access to parks and playgrounds for the disabled, preserving open spaces and maintaining hiking and biking trails.
- Allocation of net tax revenues, after deduction of administrative expenses, would be: 42% to the County, 6% to the 3 par districts operating in the County, and 52% to the cities within the County, with the allocation to the cities to be distributed based on population. Any growth in sales tax revenues exceeding 4% from one year to the next will be shared by the cities and districts only.
- The City/County Association of Governments will oversee the allocation of funds, will periodically audit the distribution and use of the funds, and will report on the status of the distribution and use of funds at a public meeting.
- Because the measure is a special tax, it must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the electorate. Polling conducted on two occasions has indicated strong public support for the measure. SB 203 required a 2/3 vote of the Board to place this measure on the ballot, therefore a 4/5 vote was required. If the measure is passed by the electorate, collection of the sales tax will begin in October 2008.

The San Mateo County Parks & Recreation Foundation Executive Director, Julia Bott, made a presentation on the “Parks for the Future” ballot measure at the March 5, 2008 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. After discussion, the Parks & Recreation Commission unanimously approved the motion to make a recommendation to the City Council for endorsement.

General Plan/Vision Statement

The endorsement of the “Parks for the Future” ballot measure should be weighed in light of the following 2003 Vision Statement objectives:

Vision Statement – Natural Beauty

“Our actions today preserve and enhance Belmont’s beauty to make it even lovelier for our grandchildren”.

Vision Statement – Thriving Culture

Our playgrounds and athletic fields are of high quality and in high gear”

Fiscal Impact

The City of Belmont would be scheduled to receive approximately \$268,000 annually, for a period of 25 years.

Public Contact

This matter was placed on the agenda and posted as required by the California Government Code. The Parks and Recreation Commission had the “Parks for the Future” endorsement on

their agenda for discussion at the March 5, 2008 meeting.

Recommendation

The Parks & Recreation Commission is requesting City Council endorsement of the “Parks for the Future” June 3, 2008 ballot measure.

Alternatives

1. Approve the request to endorse the “Parks for the Future” ballot measure.
2. Deny the request to endorse the “Parks for the Future” ballot measure.

Attachments

1. San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Ordinance.
2. San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

George D. Brunson
Interim Co-Director Parks and Recreation

Jack Crist
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT
ENDORING THE PARKS FOR THE FUTURE BALLOT MEASURE

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, on February 26, 2008, adopted an ordinance proposing a 1/8 cent retail transactions and use tax for park and recreation purposes in San Mateo County pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2.995 (consisting of section 7286.90) of Art 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and adopted a resolution calling an election for the purpose of submitting to the electors a proposition for the adoption of a retail and use tax to finance park acquisition, improvements, maintenance, programs and operations; and,

WHEREAS, the Parks & Recreation Commission, on March 5, 2008 approved a recommendation for City Council endorsement for the “Parks for the Future” June 3, 2008 ballot measure; and

WHEREAS, the current level of funding for parks and recreation programs, services and operations are insufficient to adequately provide appropriate service levels to the community; and

WHEREAS, the “Parks for the Future” measure would provide the City of Belmont with \$268,000 annually for a 25 year period to support parks and recreation services including; maintaining and improving park bathrooms, picnic areas and athletic facilities, repairing and upgrading playgrounds and play structures, improving access to parks and playgrounds for the disabled, preserving open spaces and maintaining hiking and biking trails; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont endorse the “Parks for the Future” June 3, 2008 ballot measure.

* * * * *

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 25, 2008 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