



TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2013-3-27 (3)

DATE: March 12, 2013
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Michael Mirra, Executive Director
RE: Eastside Community Center Feasibility Study

Background

This resolution would state THA's support for a joint planning effort among THA, City of Tacoma, Tacoma School District and Metro Parks to study how to develop and finance a community center for East Tacoma near Salishan. Metro Parks would manage the study. It would cost \$60,000 to \$80,000. Each partner's share would be \$15,000 - \$20,000. This resolution also would authorize THA to contribute that share. The money would come from the executive director's contingency fund.

In 2011, THA engaged in a six-month community input process and community survey to find out what community facilities, services, activities and uses Eastside residents would like to see in the area located along East 44th Street between East Q and East R Streets at Salishan. This area is intended for non-residential uses and is called the Salishan core. The survey was distributed through Lister, Roosevelt and Blix elementary schools and First Creek Middle School. It was also available electronically via Survey Monkey and was mailed to all Salishan households, with additional copies available at the Salishan Association Office and the Family Investment Center. The most frequently requested uses identified in the survey were:

- Library
- Music/art activities for children
- Organized/structured activities for children
- Job training
- Daycare
- Early childhood education
- Gym/exercise equipment
- Coffee/sandwich shop

THA incorporated many of these requested uses in its proposed plan for the Salishan core facilities. We considered including a gym in the Salishan core plans but determined that the space available was not large enough for the type of recreational facility that would best serve the community.

In 2012, representatives from THA, Metro Parks Tacoma, the City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Schools began discussions about a possible recreational facility and community center to be co-located on the First Creek Middle School campus near Salishan. Representatives from Team BillyRay also participated in these discussions. (Team BillyRay is a group of young people, led by a Salishan resident, advocating for a new center on the Eastside.)

Staff leaders from Metro Parks, THA, TPS and the city agreed on the need for a feasibility study to identify costs to build the center, costs to operate the center once it is built, and potential funding sources. The feasibility study would identify long-term, non-profit rental and food vendor opportunities to help subsidize center operations; create a sustainable business model; and include a capital replacement fund and capital funding strategy. Anticipated cost of the study is \$60,000 - \$80,000. Each of the organization representatives expressed intent to contribute funding for the feasibility study. Metro Parks Tacoma will coordinate the study and anticipates the following timeline:

Statement of Qualifications	April 2013
Interviews and Selection of Firm	May 2013
Inventory and Programming	May – June 2013
Analyze Costs and Develop Design Concepts	June – Aug. 2013
Draft Plan and Final Report	Aug. – Oct. 2013

Metro Parks Tacoma will provide project updates to the funding partners throughout the feasibility study process and anticipates completing the feasibility study by October of 2013.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution 2013-3-27 (3) expressing support for the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma (“Metro Parks Tacoma”) Eastside Community Center Feasibility study; and dedicating up to \$20,000 in funds to match investments by the Metro Parks Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and the City of Tacoma.



TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2013-3-27 (3)

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Tacoma

Whereas, THA's 2011 Salishan core community input process and survey identified a community recreational facility as a high priority for Tacoma's Eastside;

Whereas, Tacoma Public Schools, Metro Parks Tacoma, the City of Tacoma and THA desire to study the feasibility of a community recreational facility to be co-located on the First Creek Middle School campus near Salishan;

Whereas, Tacoma Public Schools, Metro Parks Tacoma, the City of Tacoma and THA jointly believe that a feasibility study will identify opportunities to consolidate and replace existing facilities; prioritize program, service and facility needs; identify opportunities to leverage existing public resources, including existing community facilities; identify strategies and funding needs to allow sustainable operations; and identify strategies to raise necessary capital funding, and

Whereas, Metro Parks Tacoma has committed to complete a feasibility study with the funding assistance from the other partner agencies;

Whereas, cost of the proposed feasibility study is \$60,000 - \$80,000;

Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Tacoma, Washington, as follows:

1. Tacoma Housing Authority supports the Metro Parks Tacoma Eastside Community Center feasibility study.
2. The executive director is authorized to enter into a funding agreement to provide up to \$20,000 in funds to match investments by Metro Parks Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and the City of Tacoma for the feasibility study.

Approved: March 27, 2013



Janis Flauding, Chair