



Resolution 2016-112

Mayoral Veto of Park Board Resolution 2016-112. Reconsideration of the Action by Which the Park Board Passed Resolution 2016-112 Resolution Approving Proposed Ballot Language for a November 2016 Referendum and Elements for an Agreement with the Minneapolis City Council Pursuant to Minneapolis City Charter Article VI, Section 6.2 (J). The Question Before the Park Board Is: Shall the Action of the Park Board in Passing Resolution 2016-112 Resolution Approving Proposed Ballot Language for a November 2016 Referendum and Elements for an Agreement with the Minneapolis City Council at Its Regular Meeting of January 20, 2016 be Repassed, Notwithstanding the Objections of the Mayor? That the Board Adopt Resolution 2016-112 Captioned as Follows: Resolution 2016-112 Resolution Approving Proposed Ballot Language for a November 2016 Referendum and Elements for an Agreement with the Minneapolis City Council to Address Sustained Current Funding to Provide a Long Term Strategy to Address the Funding Gap for Annual Maintenance, Repairs and Capital Investments for Minneapolis Neighborhood Parks

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) was created by the Minnesota Legislature with an affirmative vote by Minneapolis voters of the Park Act on April 3, 1883 establishing what has become a primary contributor to the quality of life in all parts of the city;

Whereas, Minneapolis parks encompass the city's defining lakes and the river banks at the core of the city's development;

Whereas, Acquired by purchase and donation, the parks include features of astonishing beauty, historical significance and ecological wonder, all within a thriving urban setting;

Whereas, Historical accounts indicate Minneapolis residents believe the park system is a unique and valuable asset, plays an important role in serving the public, and contributes to the economy;

Whereas, More than this, the parks are imbued with personal meaning—the playgrounds that live in the memories of generations of people, are the soul of our communities;

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is an independently elected, semi-autonomous body responsible for governing, maintaining and developing the Minneapolis Park System;

Whereas, The 6,801-acre system consists of neighborhood and regional parks, playgrounds, wading pools, recreation centers, sports fields and courts, golf courses, gardens, biking and walking paths, nature sanctuaries, lakes and a 55-mile parkway system;



Whereas, Minneapolis' neighborhood parks have the greatest number of physical assets that require greater resources to operate, maintain and replace;

Whereas, To sustain the current level of physical assets in the neighborhood park system, based on 2015 costs, the MPRB needs \$14.3 million plus inflation each year to meet capital investment needs and the current annual capital gap is \$9.3 million plus inflation;

Whereas, The neighborhood parks also require annual investments to operate them to industry standards and the current operational gap, based on 2015 costs, is a minimum of \$3 million plus inflation per year;

Whereas, The Superintendent and Commissioners initiated *Closing the Gap: Investing in Neighborhood Parks (Closing the Gap)* in 2015 to share information with Minneapolis residents and partners about the current condition and service level of neighborhood parks;

Whereas, *Closing the Gap* looked at the impacts of the age of the system and deferred maintenance – or delayed regular upkeep past the point of repair – have had on the 160 neighborhood parks in Minneapolis;

Whereas, *Closing the Gap* gathered information from Minneapolis residents and partners about investment priorities for replacement, operating and maintenance of existing neighborhood park assets;

Whereas, Based on the public input gathered, the Superintendent is recommending the following specific actions to address the funding challenges facing Minneapolis neighborhood parks; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan values of sustainability, responsiveness and innovation and independence and focus;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners recommend the following ballot language for placement on the November 2016 general election –

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Shall the City of Minneapolis be given the authority to levy additional property taxes equivalent to .0388 percent of the estimated market value of the city per year for twenty years for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to maintain, repair, and improve neighborhood parks, including repairing and improving recreational facilities to provide increased opportunities for children to recreate and experience nature outdoors, provide at-risk youth with recreational opportunities, improve access to parks and recreational facilities for people with disabilities,



increase park safety, improve neighborhood parks in under-served areas of the city, and enhance natural areas.

BY VOTING 'YES' ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The maximum annual amount of the increased tax levy is limited to .0388 percent of the estimated market value of the City. If this had been in place in 2016, it would have resulted in an estimated \$15 million levy. The first year of the levy authority will be 2018. These funds shall not replace existing funding sources for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. These funds shall supplement and be in addition to all existing sources of park funding. All expenditures shall be subject to full public disclosure.;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners direct the Superintendent and legal counsel to work with the City of Minneapolis to develop an agreement that protects current and future funding for the MPRB and covers the following –

1. Hold harmless protections from losing current fund streams
 - a. Property Tax Revenue: Retain authority, as provided in the City Charter and State law, to request annual maximum tax levy for the MPRB to the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) with final annual maximum tax levy authority set by the BET and MPRB adoption of annual levy within maximum set by the BET
 - b. LGA – Local Government Aid: Retain receipt of 11.79% that comes to Minneapolis
2. Hold harmless protections from rising administrative fees and charges
 - a. Administrative Fee charged by City: Retain 2016 fee charged for future, until cost allocation method can be established and agreed to by both parties and implemented by City
 - b. Benefit Administration Fee charged by City: Use current methodology whereby the MPRB and City pay the same per employee amount, with total fee based on the number of benefitted employees
3. Hold harmless protections in Capital Project Approval Processes
 - a. Project Reviews through CLIC process: Retain CLIC Project Review Process with Net Debt Bonding for MPRB projects at a minimum of \$2.5M annually that cannot be reduced by CLIC
4. Protect the MPRB's Ability to Address Future Funding Needs for Unanticipated Critical Needs
 - a. Incorporate language that protects the MPRB and allows for the MPRB to address future unanticipated critical needs (i.e. natural disasters, diseases, Acts of God); and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take



all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.