



TRI COUNTY PARK DIRECTORS
Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, April 16th
Time: 12PM
Location: Conference Call
Meeting ID: 168 918 878
<https://zoom.us/j/168918878>

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1) Update - Large Summer Events

- a. What people are thinking about when they will make the decision to cancel or move forward.
- The City of Mercer Island has cancelled all summer events through the end of August, due to the need to eliminate expenditures. They don't anticipate bringing on any seasonal staff except for the possibility of day camp staff.
- The City of Burien has cancelled all events and programs through the end of July due to budget issues, staffing issues, and to practice social distancing guidelines. They also considered the heavy investment required in the planning and contracting of these events relative to their likelihood of proceeding.
- The City of University Place has cancelled all events and programs through August and have made service cuts to assist in revenue recovery. They also considered the messaging they want to project in their communities and understand it may not be well received to spend money on events.
- The City of Renton has cancelled all major summer events due largely to lack of sponsors, safety concerns, and crowd concerns as it relates to social distancing guidelines.
- The City of Sammamish has canceled all summer events through the end August.
- The City of Redmond is leaning strongly towards cancelling all events hosted in house and by third party partnerships. They will be making this decision early next week.
- The City of Maple Valley will be making summer event and program determinations next week and are leaning towards cancellation of all events through July/August for city and non-city events.

- Snohomish County Parks and Recreation have cancelled events and programs through May 20th. Large considerations are in place for the Evergreen State Fairgrounds which hosts several events and is a 5 million dollars enterprise. They will be making that determination in early May. The Evergreen State Fair is set to begin August 27th and they are working to determine what that will look like based on public health safety, restrictions, and other factors. They are working alongside the sports commission with the possibility of late season modified leagues.
- The City of Federal Way is leaning heavily towards cancelling events for the 4th of July and will be making that announcement soon. Discussion questions regarding 3rd party rental options for large tournaments like softball and soccer and how to potentially manage these types of recreation as we begin to prepare to reopen in the future.
- Pierce County Parks and Recreation started these types of conversations regarding sport leagues and are working on protocols which would make them possible. Sport tournament events are unique as there is increased ability to manage these by modifying dugout layout and mitigating crowds. Tournament participants are interested in proceeding with limitations. They will be reaching out to see if teams would still have interest in late summer tournaments with limited registration and lessened spectator capacities. Other considerations are limiting the amount of teams per tournament, limiting the amount of spectators allowed for each team, suggesting pool play type schedules to bring teams in and out of the complexes in waves, designating specific areas for team warm up, and asking TD's to look at their umpire placement (plate ump behind the pitcher vs behind the catcher is a possibility).
- The City of Lynnwood is in discussions regarding modified guidelines for softball. Their largest event is in October and they have chosen to cancel it due to projected large gathering restrictions and the amount of time and planning that would need to go into this event now and in the coming months.

2) Anticipating Limited/Modified Facility Use

- a. How do people anticipate modifying or limiting facility use? What will that look like?
 - b. After facilities reopen what plans for any COVID procedures?
 - i. If we need to do health screenings or ask people to self-monitor, how are these documented and how long would these documents need to be kept?
 - ii. Should any language be added to program manuals (particularly for camp parent manuals) about illnesses, and required quarantine periods related to COVID?
- The City of Bellevue is in conversations with facilities staff and will determine restrictions based on current guidelines, childcare, staff returning into workplace, sanitation requirements, and program restart dates. Some programs require up to nine months of planning so it already in progress to some extent.
 - The City of Olympia is focused on and hoping for the possibility of summer day camps. The economic development director is hoping to open day camps to lessen the effect on the crippled economy by allowing parents to return to work given childcare options. They are awaiting a determination from school districts because this will determine the utilization of school sites for camps. They are also looking at ways to break up day camps

across more space in order to social distance. If restrictions lift, they could possibly begin to hold camps in May.

- Normandy Park has cancelled all events in the parks, recreation center, and fields until the school district opens in September. All summer camps and classes have been cancelled until Fall.
- Discussion point raised which recognized that childcare is an important service to provide to help reestablish normalcy in communities.
- Discussion point regarding comparative municipalities and their current practices such as the City of Minneapolis which has made the determination to cancel all programs and events through the whole summer. The City of Los Angeles has cancelled all sporting, concerts i.e. large events into 2021.
- Discussion point regarding camping procedures and plans based on new determinations of group size and timing of reopening.
- The City of Auburn isn't planning for camping in their 40 campsites until the State makes a new determination. They are sold out for 200 straight days during the camping season and by not hosting camping the revenue lose is huge.
- Mt. Rainier ORV Parks are waiting to hear directly from the Governor on reopening date and guidelines considering that even if there is a lift in the stay at home order in May, a realistic opening of campgrounds would be in June.
- Consensus reached that a realistic opening of campgrounds won't be until the 4th of July holiday at this point.
- Pierce County is waiting to make a final determination on summer cancellations until the end of the month. They are considering doing pre-registered events with increased ability to control parking and number of participants.
- Discussion point regarding pushback from contractors or vendors about payment agreements. One solution was noted that by adding a Force Majeure clause in contracts it can protect the department if cancellation is necessary because of the social distancing.
- The City of Bothell is leaning heavily towards the cancellation of all programs and events including the 4th of July parade, Music in the Park series, day camps, and recreation classes. These cancellations are due to considerations of the budget, staffing resources, planning, safety, social distancing, and sponsorships.
- The City of Puyallup is leaning toward cancellation of all large city events for the summer, but they haven't made a final determination yet. They plan to make a final decision in the next couple of weeks.
- The City of Tukwila has cancelled all community events planned for May and June as well as the July "Touch a Truck event". Tukwila's See You in the Park event series is being redeveloped to serve less people per event, however, staff are proposing to double the number of events offered. Events will be offered in late July/August instead of throughout the entire summer. Past events attracted an average of 225 people per event, staff are brainstorming and researching creative options that will limit the number of in-person attendees to 25, 50, or 75 people depending on social distancing requirements. Food, entertainment, and hired artist activities will not be offered. A branded music playlist, staff led art activities, and small treats will be offered alongside games/activities to encourage social distancing.
- The City of Mountlake Terrace is still considering summer events but will make decisions by the end of April. National Night Out has been cancelled for August

- Clark County's parks and trails remain open as per their county council. Their playgrounds and restrooms are closed, and reservations are canceled until June. They are hosting no events until June and their volunteer program is on hold until July. Their lifeguard program might not reopen this summer.
- The City of Lakewood is considering cancelling waterfront lifeguards since they can't monitor the waterfront while practicing "social distancing" with enforcement. This program is also an expensive service for only two months.
- The Bonney Lake Senior Center is currently closed but is still providing both drive up pick up for meals as well as some delivered meals.
- The City of Pullman is also providing meals for Seniors by drive-up or delivery option.
- The City of Maple Valley Community Center is a non-profit service center. They are providing drive thru lunch pick up and delivering Meals on Wheels.
- Discussion regarding allowing/expanding disabled parking sites currently. Determination that this would be, to some extent, encouraging use of the facilities which is not the message we want to portray.

3) Update From our Oregon Neighbors

a. Aisha Panas, Tualatin Hills P&R District, Director of P&R Services

The City of Tualatin - COVID 19 Recovery Plan - PowerPoint Presentation

The City of Tualatin began, like most of us, by cancelling large events and then closed parks to large gatherings and they continue to make such adjustments on a moving target. Their services are cancelled until at least mid-June. They are focused determining what they can provide now as well as what they will be able to provide when summer hits. They are not planning to open all at once and are preparing for more of a staggered opening of services. They have developed plans for possible June, July, and August opening dates based on how many facilities they are able to open and which programs within those facilities are possible. They understand and have planned for the realistic idea that inherent contact programs like sports are less possible than non-contact programs such as arts camp. They are also planning for the economic impacts of less demand for services since people have less income to pay for services. They are brainstorming to determine how these programs can be provided in accost effective way. They are using social media to quickly and effectively contact to community. Their staff is filming exercise videos and educational clips that can be rolled out as an innovative programming approach. They are weighing decisions such as the possibility of scaling up programming if demand is high as well as considering the best pathways to deliver programs. They are rethinking delivery strategies of services in order to provide contactless engagement even though it may not be in the ideal outdoor setting which parks and recreation is based in. They are also using social media to clearly define expectations within park settings given that it is not physically possible to close parks as there is not enough fencing in the world. Currently, they are working on several timelines with different possible opening dates and working backwards to determine all the steps necessary to bring each reopening date to reality. They are considering adjusting pay ahead requirements of some services such as camps so that they can be paid at the time of the camp. All programming is currently dependent on remaining fulltime staff, but they will consider expedited rehiring for programming given a lift in the order. Considerations for the future are min/max participant levels, the possibility of hiring/training/orientation online, and replacing first aid supplies in facilities which have been depleted. They are proceeding on a rolling 6-week event determination process for the remainder of the summer.

4) **A Call to Action: Parks & Recreation Virtual Huddle Webinar**

- a. Jen Burbidge – Recap
- Discussion of aligning plans together with possibly competing agencies now and into the future.
 - Reference to Maslow’s hierarchy of needs in terms of assisting in community recovery processes through the services provided by parks and recreation departments.
 - Discussion of Jen Burbidge’s firm opinion that it is necessary to stop new construction and focus on existing investments and assets.
 - Recommendation that the group join her future presentations if able.

5) **Parks & Recreation Position Statement/Recovery Framework**

- a. Exploring a “universal” recovery framework or adaptable template for parks and recreation intended to align our respective efforts

Discussion of intended letter to the Governor outlining that Parks and Recreation departments understand the responsibility we have in this matter and that we are prepared to offer our services in a socially responsible way. The intent of this letter is to build up the States confidence in our departments and portray our readiness to manage the public safely in our spaces. By bringing this forward it can show that we are prepared to do things differently in our areas and perhaps this could help in the determination of allowing us to be one of the first organizations/businesses that are opened back up to the community. A draft of this letter will be available for Monday’s meeting. The timing of this letter is good, and we have support in this effort to articulate interest in helping shape recovery.

RCO Match Reduction

For this Pandemic Response Match Relief for 2020 policy, the following shall apply:

The maximum reduced match dollar amounts, from the previous 50% to the 2020 grant round 25% minimum match, shall not exceed \$500,000 per project.

April 21st virtual meeting is coming up and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting Adjourned

1:06pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Young

Administrative Coordinator

City of Everett Parks and Community Services