

RESOLUTION 2020-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR CREATION OF A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS Skamania County acknowledges the need for recreational, health and educational benefits for residents of Skamania County; and

WHEREAS Skamania County and the Stevenson Carson School District have had a long-term partnership in building, operating and maintaining the Stevenson-Carson School District's Pool in Stevenson; and

WHEREAS the reduction in funding from the Federal Government from management of the National Forest and/or Secure Rural Schools has resulted in budget cuts to both School and County whereby funding the pool is no longer feasible for either the school or the County; and

WHEREAS the pool is a valuable resource primarily for the residents of Stevenson and surrounding community, and there is considerable interest in ensuring that this resource is financed and not dependent on the inconsistent and variable budgets of the School District or the County; and

WHEREAS RCW 35.61 provides a method by which a community may fund local recreational facilities including parks, pools, community centers, etc., by creating a district specifically dedicated to that purpose; and

WHEREAS RCW 35.61.020 allows the City or County proposing such a district to limit the purpose of that district and also to limit the taxing power of that district so that the district cannot expand beyond the limited purpose it was created for, nor raise taxes beyond the maximum rate proposed by the city and/or county without a vote of the people; and

WHEREAS the County and City are aware of many concerns from community members that creating such a metropolitan park district will create an entity that would have the power to expand its purpose beyond the maintenance, improvement, and operation of the current pool owned by the Stevenson Carson School District, and also expand its taxing authority beyond the limits proposed for the district without a vote of the people of the district; and

WHEREAS the County wants to address these concerns by explicitly limiting both the purpose of any proposed Metropolitan Park District and its taxing power and any effort to expand the purpose of the district through eminent domain; and

WHEREAS part of that limitation will be accomplished by carefully naming the district to align with those limitations; and

WHEREAS another important consideration in creating such a district is its boundaries; and

WHEREAS any proposal will need to be reviewed and approved by the Boundary Review Board; and

WHEREAS the County believes that articulating the reasons for the proposed boundaries of the district will help the Boundary Review Board, proponents and opponents of the district, alike, to articulate reasons for or against the proposal so the residents of the proposed district and the Boundary Review Board can make informed and thoughtful decisions about whether the district should be created; and

WHEREAS, the County proposes that any discussion of the boundaries of the district ought to start with the boundaries of the City of Stevenson and its Urban Growth Area; some consideration regarding the relative benefits of a local pool district should consider the communities relative distance from the pool and the likelihood that those communities will benefit from the continued existence of the pool, either through use of the pool itself or through general improved economic vitality and viability because of the continued operation of the pool; and

WHEREAS the act of drawing boundaries for any district, city, etc. can be controversial and will be subject to some debate; and

WHEREAS there are specific considerations that the Boundary Review Board is asked to consider when reviewing such boundaries; and

WHEREAS the County has considered those considerations listed in RCW 36.93.170 and .180; and

WHEREAS such a smaller district will be reviewed by the Boundary Review Board and ultimately decided by a vote of the residents of this proposed district: those residing within the City of Stevenson and the Stevenson Urban Growth Area, more specifically the five voting precincts of Rock Creek, Nelson Creek, Maple View, North Stevenson and South Stevenson; and

WHEREAS such a district will best be described as the Stevenson Community Pool District; and

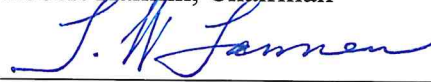
WHEREAS the commissioners of the district will be elected by the registered voters of that district as described in RCW 35.61.050(4).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Skamania hereby authorizes a ballot proposition for creation of a Metropolitan Park District, to be known as the Stevenson Community Pool District, following the boundaries of the five voting precincts of Rock Creek, Nelson Creek, Maple View, North Stevenson and South Stevenson, with the limited purpose of operating, maintaining, and improving what is currently known as the Stevenson Community Pool with the limited power to tax up to, but not exceeding \$0.50/\$1000 of assessed value unless approved by voters, and with the further limitation that no exercise of eminent domain that would expand the current footprint of the pool shall be permitted by the district without the specific approval of any private citizen whose property would be taken by such an act or the specific approval of the Stevenson-Carson School District, subject to any review and approval of these boundaries by the Boundary Review Board, be submitted to the voters of the area proposed to be included.

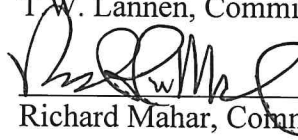
PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Skamania this 10th day of March 2020.



Robert Hamlin, Chairman



T.W. Lannen, Commissioner



Richard Mahar, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Debbie Slack
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Adam Kick
Prosecuting Attorney for Skamania County