

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with *SPLASHForward* formalizing a working relationship to support the fundraising for and development of a new Bellevue Aquatics Center.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377

Pam Fehrman, Planning and Development Manager, 452-4326

Ken Kroeger, Project Manager, 452-2624

Parks & Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As directed by Council, staff is returning with a Resolution to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with *SPLASHForward* to formalize a working relationship to support the fundraising for and development of a new Bellevue Aquatics Center.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10081

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Technical evaluations for a new Bellevue Aquatic Center (BAC) began in November 2018 and the findings of the Aquatics Feasibility study were presented at Council on August 3, 2020. Additionally, the Council received a Feasibility Study authored by *SPLASHForward* (SF), a non-profit aquatic advocacy organization. SF's mission is to provide our community with an inclusive year-round aquatic health and wellness facility with affordable access to aquatic programming so that everyone can be safe in the water, drownings are prevented, community connections fostered, and the community can enjoy a lifetime of healthy lifestyle opportunities.

At the October 18, 2021 study session, Council directed staff to develop a MOU to work with *SplashForward* to support fundraising efforts for a regional aquatic center in Bellevue.

Recommended Fundraising Working Relationship

City staff and SF have worked to develop a single preferred concept plan, and have also worked to communicate aquatic needs, concepts, and engage potential funding partners. SF has worked closely with staff providing substantial contributions with their aquatic knowledge, research, and experience.

Staff is recommending a MOU with SF to help assess fundraising potential and support the City's future efforts towards securing public funds for the construction of the new BAC. SF is committed to conducting a fundraising campaign, with the initial efforts to be focused on a fundraising feasibility report, marketing, and fundraising plan.

MOU with *SPLASHForward*

The MOU formalizes the working relationship between the City and SF and lays the foundation for potential private financial opportunities and fundraising for the BAC development. This MOU also sets the groundwork for future formal agreements with potential partners, funding agents, and other

programmatic opportunities. The MOU outlines the initial business points of this proposed working relationship and has been reviewed by legal representatives of both SF and the City.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element

- PA-8. Develop partnerships with other public agencies and the private sector to provide parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the City.
- PA-15. Encourage the development of facilities for special purpose recreation.
- PA-25. Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.

An aquatics facility addresses several strategic target areas of Council's adopted vision: great places where you want to be, economic development, regional leadership, and high quality built and natural environment. The City Council's 3-year Priorities 2021-2023, Priority #10 states: Proceed with site selection and feasibility analysis for a major aquatic center in Bellevue.

Fiscal Impact

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this MOU supporting a fundraising working relationship with SF. Future MOU amendments are anticipated when project fundraising goals are determined. The project costs for the preferred Bellevue Aquatic Facility are estimated at \$125,000,000 in 2021 dollars.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with SPLASHForward formalizing a working relationship to support the fundraising for and development of a new Bellevue Aquatics Center.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10081

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Memorandum of Understanding