



Seattle Park District Board

November 15, 2021

Dear Park District Board Members:

We are pleased to submit our support and approval for the Cycle-End Report, which details the accomplishments of the first six-year cycle of the Seattle Park District.

As you will recall, in 2021, the Park District Oversight Committee merged with the Board of Park Commissioners into the new Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners providing more transparency and access to the public and creating an oversight committee that is more informed about the context and opportunities for Park District funding.

First of all, we'd like to express our appreciation and support for Seattle Parks and Recreation's (SPR's) decision to lead with equity and actively work to become an anti-racist organization, serving as a model for other City of Seattle departments and parks and recreation systems nationwide.

We are proud of the many accomplishments during the Park District's first cycle. SPR addressed a significant major maintenance backlog and created community-driven/informed programming. Our kudos, too, for how SPR pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic and responded quickly to meet emerging community needs while keeping staff and community members safe.

SPR also addressed challenges noted in the Mid-Cycle Report, including improving metrics, standards, tracking systems and reporting processes; developing a line-of-business approach to budgeting to improve internal and public understanding of the many initiatives that are supported by a mix of funding sources including the Park District; and revising funding opportunities for community projects through the Major Projects Challenge Fund to be more equitable and accessible. However, one challenge that remains is the current fixed revenue for the Park District (and the lack of flexibility to change it) as construction and land costs continue to rise.

Finally, we appreciate SPR's attention to updating the strategic planning process, taking into account the challenges presented by the last two years, which have exacerbated stresses on the system. This work will inform our planning for the next six-year Park District cycle.

We look forward to opportunities of the next cycle with a continued emphasis on equity and with priority on climate resilience and climate justice.

Sincerely,

Seattle Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

[Andrea Akita \(Dec 10, 2021 15:49 PST\)](#)

Andréa Akita, Co-Chair

Jessica Farmer, Co-Chair

[Kelly \(Dec 11, 2021 08:31 EST\)](#)

Kelly McCaffrey, Co-Chair