

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office:	Agenda date	Assigned to:
Originator: Warner/Council		6/11		6/23/92	Council/Intro
Division Head:				7/14/92	
Dept. Head:				9/1/92	Council Hearing
Prosecutor:				9/22/92	Council
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

SUBJECT:

Ordinance creating a Parks & Recreation Department.

RECEIVED

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed ordinance.

JUN 17 1992

**WHATCOM COUNTY
COUNCIL**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Please complete sections of box as appropriate & explain the item below.

Related County contract #: N/A	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? NO / / YES / X / Requested date:
Amount budgeted for this item/project: \$ N/A	Is it (or will it be) within budget? YES / / NO / / (Please explain below)
Budget line item number(s): N/A	

The ordinance will repeal WCC Section 2.28 that set up the Park Board and replace it with a new Section 2.29 that establishes a Parks & Recreation Department, similar in form to all other County departments. The public input process performed by the Park Board will continue in a new Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

ORIGINATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adoption.

COMMITTEE ACTION TAKEN:

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:

6/23/92: Introduced

7/14/92: Council discussion. Hearing to be scheduled later.

9/1/92: Council adopted the ordinance with amendments. 4-2 with Vander Yacht and Brenner against.

9/22/92: The ordinance failed 4-2-1 DVY & BB/ML abs)

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only): 092-55

SPONSORED BY: CONSENT

PROPOSED BY: WARNER

INTRODUCTION DATE: 6/23/92

ORDINANCE NO. 92-55

ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.29 CREATING
THE PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT,
ELIMINATING COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.28

WHEREAS, the people of Whatcom County have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to maintain parks, recreational and senior activities within the County, and;

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Code Section 2.28 was constituted prior to enactment of the current charter for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, efficient administration and optimal public participation in any large organization requires a consistent treatment of operational entities within the organization; and

WHEREAS, state law provides that counties may utilize different approaches in administering park operations and Whatcom County can provide a direct link of responsibility to elected officials by adopting a different approach;

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Parks & Recreation Department will continue the ability of the County to successfully operate a wide variety of parks, recreational and senior activities with the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.28, Park Board, is repealed in its entirety effective December 31, 1992, and Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.29 is created as follows:

Chapter 2.29

Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Department

Sections

- 2.29.010 Department established.
- 2.29.020 Director appointment.
- 2.29.030 Duties.
- 2.29.040 Small change funds.
- 2.29.050 Parks & Recreation Commission.
- 2.29.080 Continuity.
- 2.29.090 Severability.

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2
3 2.29.010 Department established. There is hereby established an executive
4 department called the Parks, Recreation and Senior Services department, effective
5 January 1, 1993; provided, that the county executive may take any preliminary or
6 transitional steps necessary for the formation of the department and the implementation
7 of this chapter.
8
9

10 2.29.020 Director appointment. A. There shall be appointed a director of the
11 Parks, Recreation and Senior Services department whose duties shall include
12 management oversight and administration of all department activities. The director shall
13 be appointed by the County Executive and subject to confirmation by a majority of the
14 county council. The director will be appointed for an indefinite period and shall serve at
15 the will of the county executive.
16

17 B. It is the responsibility of the director to hire department staff in accordance
18 with the personnel policies and procedures of the county, and any other applicable laws
19 and regulations.
20

21
22 2.29.030 Duties. The department shall be responsible for the administration
23 of all parks, along with the operation of recreational programs, senior centers, historical
24 preservation, and other duties as may be assigned.
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27 2.29.040 Small change funds. The department is authorized, in conjunction
28 with appropriate controls as established by financial policies, to maintain small change
29 funds for the purpose of making change in the course of operations of the department.
30 The appropriate county authority is directed to provide up to eighteen hundred dollars
31 for the establishment or maintenance of such small change funds.
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34 2.29.050 Parks & Recreation Commission. A. The Parks & Recreation
35 Commission is created and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Parks, Recreation
36 and Senior Services department.
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38 B. The Parks & Recreation Commission shall consist of two members appointed
39 from each county council district and one member appointed at large. All terms of office
40 shall be for four years. All appointments for the purpose of filling vacancies shall be for
41 the remaining portion of the unexpired term. No member shall serve more than two
42 consecutive full terms.
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44

1 C. Commission members shall be nominated by the County Executive and
2 confirmed by a majority of the County Council.
3

4 D. The Parks & Recreation Commission shall adopt such rules and procedures
5 necessary to conduct their business. On an annual basis, the members of the commission
6 shall meet and elect a chairman and other officers as may be necessary.
7

8 E. The Parks & Recreation Commission shall be subject to the requirements of
9 the state Open Meetings Act.
10

11
12 2.29.080 Continuity. A. All employees, contracts, and operations existing
13 under the former Park Board shall be transferred to the Parks, Recreation and Senior
14 Services department and be continued without interruption.
15

16 B. Monies contained in, and appropriated to, the Park Fund shall be transferred
17 from the former Park Board to the Parks, Recreation and Senior Services department in
18 the same amounts and categories. Control of monies and projects in the Parks
19 Improvement Fund shall be transferred from the former Park Board to the Parks,
20 Recreation and Senior Services department.
21

22 C. All members of the former Park Board shall continue in their terms and offices
23 as members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, until such time as their terms of
24 office would have ordinarily expired. The two consecutive term maximum rule as applied
25 to members of the new Parks & Recreation Commission shall include their service on
26 the former Park Board.
27

28 D. Policy and budget matters brought before the County Council relating to the
29 Parks Department shall have received the review of the Parks and Recreation
30 Commission and bear the signature of the commission chair or designated commission
31 member representative.
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34 2.29.090 Severability. If any portion of this ordinance should be found unlawful,
35 all remaining portions shall remain in effect.
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38 ADOPTED this 1st day of September, 1992.
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44 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Ramona Reeves
Ramona Reeves, Council Clerk

Daniel M. Warner
Daniel M. Warner, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved (x) ~~Denied~~ ^{Vetoed}

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Shirley Van Zanten
Shirley Van Zanten, Executive
Date: 9-14-92

CLERK'S NOTE: As explained in her memo to the Whatcom County Council dated 9/14/92, the Executive vetoed Ordinance 92-55. In her explanation the Executive indicates that she is supportive of the concept of bringing the Parks Department under the authority of the Executive branch. However, she felt compelled to veto the ordinance because she disagrees with the language in one section, 2.29.080 (D): "Policy and budget matters brought before the County Council relating to the Parks Department shall have received the review of the Parks and Recreation Commission and bear the signature of the commission chair or designated commission member representative." The Executive suggests that other language would be more appropriate, to allow the Parks and Recreation Commission an opportunity to review policy and budget matters without allowing for the potential veto power of the commission. Please see her memo for further details (also on file in AB92-250).

Ramona Reeves
Ramona Reeves, Clerk of the Council, 9/16/92