

September 20, 1990  
PRTRANS4.MOT  
SS:pb:bhc

Greg Nickels  
Paul Barden  
Introduced by: Bruce Laing  
Proposed No.: 90-790

MOTION NO. 8056

A MOTION authorizing the Executive to negotiate agreements with cities for the transfer of certain park and recreation facilities.

WHEREAS, King County's multi-year financial plan in the 1990 adopted budget assumes county-owned neighborhood parks, community parks, athletic fields, activity centers, swimming pools, and recreation programs inside city boundaries will be transferred to the cities, and

WHEREAS, recent incorporation and annexations reduced county revenues needed to pay for discretionary services like parks and recreation, and

WHEREAS, cities have greater taxing authority to raise revenues for discretionary services like parks and recreation, and

WHEREAS, with the exception of certain regional facilities that serve a county-wide constituency, park and recreation facilities and programs serve local communities, and

WHEREAS, King County's obligations for new community park facilities in unincorporated King County have expanded and the county desires to ensure that park and recreation facilities are acquired and improved concurrent with other development, and these will require additional resources, and

WHEREAS, King County's obligations for regional services, particularly the major criminal justice services of courts, prosecution, public defense and jail, will require additional resources;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. The executive is hereby authorized to negotiate agreements with cities in King County to transfer in an orderly manner certain county-owned park and recreation facilities and

1 programs to the cities in which they are located. The  
2 agreements should conform, as closely as possible, to the  
3 following policies and priorities:

4           1. King County will retain ownership of and operational  
5 responsibility for regional parks and recreational facilities  
6 it currently owns inside cities except that, under special  
7 conditions in which cities guarantee through an executed  
8 agreement they will operate them as regional facilities,  
9 ownership of such parks or recreation facilities may be  
10 transferred to cities. For purposes of this motion, regional  
11 means the park or facility's service area is county-wide or  
12 greater. A preliminary list of existing and proposed parks,  
13 recreation facilities and trails in King County which have been  
14 determined to meet the definition of regional is provided in  
15 Attachment A.

16           2. King County will transfer to cities ownership of and  
17 operating/financial responsibility for all neighborhood parks,  
18 community parks and athletic field complexes, community  
19 swimming pools, and community centers. Alternatively, on an  
20 interim basis, cities may pay King County the net cost of  
21 operations and maintenance for the county to continue operating  
22 and maintaining the park or facility on behalf of the city.

23           3. Transfer of ownership will be without financial  
24 compensation but instead for mutual public benefit in the form  
25 of the following conditions to transfer as covenants to title:  
26 the property must be developed, maintained, and operated in  
27 perpetuity for park and recreation purposes; the city, its  
28 successors and assigns, may not limit access to the park so as  
29 to restrict usage by non-city residents and may never impose  
30 any fees or charges that are different for non-city residents  
31 than for city residents; and for athletic fields and activity  
32 centers, the city must provide for county organized activities,  
33 time and space as mutually agreed by the county and city. The  
34 transfer covenants for particular parks and recreation  
35 facilities shall reflect applicable policies of any adopted

1 county parks and open space plan. In the event the city  
2 violates any one of these conditions, the title shall, with the  
3 county's consent, revert to the county.

4 4. First priority should be negotiation of agreements  
5 with the new cities of Federal Way and SeaTac, which together  
6 have the greater number of county-owned parks and activity  
7 centers inside city boundaries. The agreement should result in  
8 transfer of financial responsibility for operations and  
9 maintenance by January 1, 1993 and full transfer of title no  
10 later than January 1, 1994.

11 5. Second priority should be initiation of negotiations  
12 with the twelve cities containing county-owned and operated  
13 swimming pools with the objective of transferring full  
14 financial responsibility for the pools to the cities by January  
15 1, 1994 and gradually reducing the county's financial  
16 obligations each year until that date.

17 6. Third priority should be completion of negotiations  
18 of an agreement with the City of Tukwila to transfer Fort Dent  
19 Park as authorized by King County Ordinance Number 8861 but  
20 only if the terms of the agreement ensure the city will  
21 continue to operate the park as a regional facility serving  
22 regional users.

23 7. Fourth priority should be negotiation of agreements  
24 with the cities of Kirkland, Des Moines, and North Bend for the  
25 transfer of the community parks and activity centers inside the  
26 cities boundaries.

27 8. Fifth priority should be the few remaining county-  
28 owned small parks in Bellevue, Redmond, and Kent.

29 B. In the event and to the extent cities are unwilling to  
30 assume responsibility for the county-owned community park and  
31 recreation facilities within their boundaries, the King County  
32 council requests the executive to prepare and present a  
33 contingency plan to reduce the costs of operating and  
34 maintaining those facilities or to close some facilities, if

1 necessary, to help cover the increasing costs of the county's  
2 regional responsibilities.

3 PASSED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1990.

4 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
5 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

6 Lois North  
7 Chair

8 ATTEST:

9 Gerald A. Peterson  
10 Clerk of the Council

**List of Existing and Proposed Regional Parks,  
Recreation Facilities and Trails in King County**

Burke-Gilman/Sammamish River Trail

Proposed Cedar River Trail

Cougar Mountain Wildlife Park

Enumclaw Fairground

Fort Dent Park

Proposed Green River Trail

Interurban Trail (North)

Interurban Trail (South)

King County Aquatics Center

Marymoor Park

Preston-Snoqualmie Trail

Proposed Tolt Pipeline Trail

Snoqualmie Valley Trail

**parks**