

RESOLUTION NO. 1864

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION THAT COMBINES A SCHOOL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGE WITH THE PARKS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGE AND SETS AN ARBITRARY CAP ON THE SDC RATE

THE TROUTDALE CITY COUNCIL FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. A sufficient supply of park and open space land is critical to maintaining and improving the high quality of life, livability, and standard of living enjoyed by the citizens of Troutdale.
2. Park and open spaces provide crucial opportunities for health-enhancing recreation for all ages, interaction with nature, and natural buffers between differing urban uses.
3. A well planned system of parks and open space not only has been proven to increase property values, but also are important factors in attracting new businesses and jobs to our community.
4. As Troutdale grows in population, it is essential to increase the amount of park and open space land to maintain levels of service for both existing and new residents.
5. Troutdale has used a parks system development charge (SDC) since 1992 as the most significant revenue source in acquiring new parkland and constructing new park and recreation facilities.
6. Troutdale's park SDC is based upon its Parks Master Plan that was adopted by the city council after extensive public involvement after public hearings to receive input from community residents.
7. The park SDC is further based upon a level of service standard established by the adopted Parks Master Plan and analyses of projected population growth, increases in the number of households, and localized costs for parkland acquisition and facility construction.
8. Opportunities have been provided local citizens to challenge not only the analysis upon which any SDC is based, but also any expenditure made from SDC revenues.
9. Statutory changes are being discussed by the 2007 Legislature which would place an arbitrary cap on the amount that could be charged by any local government for existing park SDCs and new school SDCs.

10. Such a cap would seriously frustrate the ability of park providers, including the City of Troutdale, to achieve the objectives of their adopted park master plans and capital improvement plans and to maintain service levels as population growth occurs.

11. A cap on park SDCs would force park providers to seek additional general obligation bond measures as the main alternative to maintaining service levels, and in so doing, causing existing property owners to disproportionately pay for the costs of new services demanded by population growth.

12. A combined cap on park and school SDCs will not only create significant problems in collection and distribution of funds when multiple districts overlap, but will also likely cause potential conflicts between park providers and school districts in the allocation of such funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TROUTDALE

Section 1. The City of Troutdale hereby opposes any legislation that would arbitrarily limit the ability of local elected officials to adopt a park system development charge based on a park master plan that establishes a level of service standard and capital improvement plan unique to their own particular area and which is tied to estimates of population growth, along with the estimated costs of parkland acquisition and facility construction.


Section 2. The City of Troutdale wishes to communicate its opposition to such legislation to its elected Representatives and Senators, and urges them to vote against any bill that would arbitrarily limit the ability of local elected officials to adopt a park system development charge based on a park master plan unique to their own particular area and which is tied to estimates of population growth, along with the estimated costs of parkland acquisition and facility construction.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

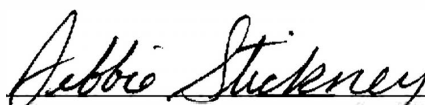
YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 0


Paul Thalhofer, Mayor
March 14, 2007

Date


Debbie Stickney, City Recorder
Adopted: March 13, 2007