

RESOLUTION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SANDPOINT

TITLE: AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR CITY BEACH BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS: The boat launch at City Beach park is a critical component of the City Beach area, serving both recreational users and emergency response needs and providing vital access to Lake Pend Oreille;

WHEREAS: Operational limitations at this boat launch have been identified, particularly during low-water conditions in fall and winter, with recent developments underscoring the need for significant improvements;

WHEREAS: Structural defects in the Albeni Falls Dam spillway gates are expected to result in lower lake levels for the foreseeable future, extending the low-water season and further restricting access to the lake, with repairs to the dam possibly taking over a decade, intensifying the urgency to ensure year-round lake access for both recreational users and emergency responders;

WHEREAS: Upgrades to the City Beach boat launch are essential for both early and off-season recreational users, as well as for emergency and first responder access to incidents on the Pend Oreille River and the three bridges just west of City Beach, where, currently, the nearest alternative low-water access points are in Hope and Laclede, both requiring significant travel for boaters and emergency personnel;

WHEREAS: Bonner County data from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation reflects a 40% increase in watercraft inspections at local checkpoints over the past five years, including over 26,000 inspections in 2024, with many of these boaters traveling from out of state, contributing to local tourism and economic development;

WHEREAS: Enhanced facilities at City Beach, including year-round boat launch access, would solidify Sandpoint as a premier destination for boaters, supporting local businesses and the broader community and modernizing the infrastructure at City Beach to strive to ensure it meets the needs of residents and visitors, while adapting to the environmental challenges posed by the Albeni Falls Dam defects;

WHEREAS: Proposed work would include dredging to improve water depth, extending the concrete apron to ensure functionality during low-water conditions, and the possible addition of a new dock for use by emergency watercraft while the lake is at winter pool level, with this project likely phased over two years, depending on preliminary cost estimates, where design and construction would begin in 2025 using initial awarded grant funds and continuing the following year with another WIF grant, for which the City would apply in January 2026; and

WHEREAS: Acceptance and use of any awarded grant funds will require a 5% local match from the City, which would be budgeted under the Parks Capital Improvement Fund in the next budget year, FY2026, as actual construction work would not be scheduled to begin until on/after October 1, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: City staff is hereby authorized to submit a grant application to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Waterways Improvement Fund, seeking funding for improvements at the City Beach boat launch to enable year-round usability for recreational, as well as emergency and first responder, watercraft and to provide low-water moorage for Sheriff and Fire Department watercraft.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to apply for this funding.

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ward, City Clerk