

**CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION 2019 – 347 [C]**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BALLOT PROPOSITION
FOR CREATION OF A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT**

WHEREAS the City acknowledges the need for recreational, health and educational benefits for residents of Skamania County; and

WHEREAS Skamania County and the Stevenson Carson School District have had a long-term partnership in building, operating and maintaining the Steven Carson School District's Pool in Stevenson; and

WHEREAS the reduction in funding from the Federal Government from management of the national forest and/or secure rural schools has resulted in budget cuts to both School and County whereby funding the pool is no longer feasible for either the school or the County; and

WHEREAS the pool is a valuable resource primarily for the residents of Stevenson and surrounding community, and there is considerable interest in ensuring that this resource is financed and not dependent on the inconsistent and variable budgets of the School district or the county; and

WHEREAS RCW 35.61 provides a method by which a community may fund local recreational facilities including parks, pools, community centers, etc., by creating a district specifically dedicated to that purpose; and

WHEREAS RCW 35.61.020 allows the City or County proposing such a district to limit the purpose of that district and also to limit the taxing power of that district so that the district cannot expand beyond the limited purpose it was created for, nor raise taxes beyond the maximum rate proposed by the city and/or county without a vote of the people; and

WHEREAS the County and City are aware of many concerns from community members that creating such a metropolitan park district will create an entity that would have the power to expand its purpose beyond the maintenance, improvement, and operation of the current pool owned by the Stevenson-Carson School District, and also expand its taxing authority beyond the limits proposed for the district without a vote of the people of the district; and

WHEREAS the City of Stevenson wants to address these concerns by explicitly limiting both the purpose of any proposed Metropolitan Park District and its taxing power and any effort to expand the purpose of the district through eminent domain; and

WHEREAS part of that limitation will be accomplished by carefully naming the district to align with those limitations; and

WHEREAS another important consideration in creating such a district is its boundaries; and

WHEREAS any proposal will need to be reviewed and approved by the Boundary Review Board; and

WHEREAS the City of Stevenson believes that articulating the reasons for the proposed boundaries of the district will help the Boundary Review Board, proponents and opponents of the district, alike, to articulate reasons for or against the proposal so the residents of the proposed district and the Boundary Review Board can make informed and thoughtful decisions about whether the district should be created; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stevenson proposes that any discussion of the boundaries of the district ought to start with the boundaries of the Stevenson-Carson School District, as the district is the current owner and operator of the pool; some consideration regarding the relative benefits of a local pool district should consider the communities relative distance from the pool and the likelihood that those communities will benefit from the continued existence of the pool, either through use of the pool itself or through general improved economic vitality and viability because of the continued operation of the pool; and

WHEREAS the City of North Bonneville, through their elected leaders, has officially declined an invitation to participate in the district; and

WHEREAS a very significant portion of the Stabler/Hemlock community has expressed, through a petition, a desire not to participate in the district; and

WHEREAS the community of Stabler/Hemlock, is arguably more remote from this district than the closer and more integrated communities of Stevenson and Carson; and

WHEREAS the act of drawing boundaries for any district, city, etc. can be controversial and will be subject to some debate; and

WHEREAS there are specific considerations that the Boundary Review Board is asked to take into account when reviewing such boundaries; and

WHEREAS the City has considered those considerations listed in RCW 36.93.170 and .180; and

WHEREAS after such considerations, and taking into account the pre-existing sentiment and considerations of the Stabler/Hemlock community, the City believes that a Pool District that is smaller than the entire boundaries of the Stevenson Carson School District will better serve the Pool District's residents by providing the community amenity to those communities most likely to benefit from its existence; and

WHEREAS such a smaller district will be reviewed by the Boundary Review Board and ultimately decided by a vote of the residents of this proposed district: all of the Stevenson Carson School District, less the City of North Bonneville and also less that portion of land located north of High Bridge on the Wind River Highway; and

WHEREAS such a district will best be described as the Stevenson-Carson Community Pool District; and

WHEREAS after considering the current operations costs of the pool, plus the additional cost of the pool operating on its own without the administrative and financial support of the Stevenson-Carson School District, the rate of \$.35/\$1,000 of assessed value will be sufficient to ensure the financial stability of the district; and

WHEREAS the commissioners of the district will be elected by the registered voters of that district as described in RCW 35.61.050(4).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Stevenson hereby authorizes a ballot proposition for creation of a Metropolitan Park District under RCW 35.61, to be known as the Stevenson Community Pool District, following the boundaries of the Stevenson-Carson School District excluding the City of North Bonneville and land north of High Bridge on Wind River Highway, subject to any review and approval of these boundaries by the Boundary Review Board, with the limited purpose of operating, maintaining, and improving what is currently known as the Stevenson-Carson Community Pool with the limited power to tax up to, but not exceeding \$0.35/\$1000 of assessed value unless approved by voters, and with the further limitation that no exercise of eminent domain that would expand the current footprint of the pool shall be permitted by the district without the specific approval of any private citizen whose property would be taken by such an act or the specific approval of the Stevenson Carson School District, subject to any review and approval of these boundaries by the Boundary Review Board, be submitted to the voters of the area proposed to be included.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Stevenson this 21st day of November, 2019.

Scott Anderson, Mayor of the City of Stevenson

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leana Kinley, City Clerk

Kenneth B Woodrich, PC
City Attorney