

RESOLUTION NO. 1200

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A CONSERVATION FUTURES GRANT APPLICATION TO PIERCE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor has identified an 11.5-acre parcel (parcel number 0221061108) located directly north of the Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant as a parcel of uniquely undeveloped and healthy streamside forest through which North Creek (aka Donkey Creek) passes; and

WHEREAS, this property has been surveyed by the Wild Fish Conservancy and has been identified as having critical Salmon habitat. Juvenile coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) and coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarkia*) were documented in abundance within the stream reach during the 2018 survey, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has also documented both Chum salmon (*O. keta*) and ESA-listed Puget Sound steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*) within this reach of North Creek; and

WHEREAS, this property is also within the *txʷaalqəl* (“place where game exists”) area once inhabited by the *sǰʷəbabš* (“swift water people”) band of the Puyallup Tribe and has great historical and cultural importance to the community; and

WHEREAS, properties along Burnham Drive and within the North Creek watershed have experienced substantial development over the last 10 years. This parcel is at significant risk of development (one previous pre-application showed a development plan for 34 housing units). A housing development would almost certainly mean the further degradation of this uniquely healthy salmon habitat, the loss of a great number of trees and a dramatic change in the look of this corner of our downtown view basin; and

WHEREAS, Forterra, a non-profit land conservation organization, believes it to be a strong candidate for a Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant which would provide funds to purchase the property. Forterra has offered to sponsor and write the grant; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the parcel are interested in selling this parcel. The estimated fair market value of the parcel is \$500,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County Conservation Futures Grants require a minimum 10% matching funds of the estimated purchase price. The Puyallup Tribe has agreed to provide \$50,000 to meet the minimum 10% matching funds. Applications for a Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant may be strengthened by exceeding the minimum 10% matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor is an eligible agency to receive properties acquired with a Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant. The acquired parcel would be included in the City's parks open space inventory and maintained in its natural state as a conservation, historical, and cultural preserve with low impact trail access; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor has the ability to receive, own, and maintain this property as in conservation due to the anticipated low level of required maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Mayor is authorized to work in cooperation with Forterra and the Puyallup Tribe to submit a Conservation Futures Grant application to Pierce County before the March 15, 2021, deadline. The Mayor is authorized to sign an affidavit on behalf of the City as the Receiving Agency, acknowledging that the City will accept the property interest acquired and protect and steward the conservation features of the parcel in perpetuity.

Section 2. The City hereby certifies that it shall provide a matching share of project funding in the amount of \$20,000.00, which will be provided by a city budget appropriation.

Section 3. If the grant is awarded and the sale of the parcel is executed, the City hereby accepts Parcel 0221061108 into its parks inventory. Any development of the property will be authorized and budgeted by future Council action.

RESOLVED this 22nd day of February, 2021.

APPROVED:



KIT KUHN, MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



CITY CLERK, MOLLY TOWSLEE

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 02/12/21
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 02/12/21
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