

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-32

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TEMPORARILY REDUCING FEES FOR SAFE START PARK SPECIAL REQUESTS USING CITY COMMUNITY PARKS, NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND SPECIAL USE FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Governor of the State of Washington proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Whatcom County Executive, in coordination with the Whatcom County Health Board, declared a Whatcom County public health emergency to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the City's Mayor issued a Proclamation of Local emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham (City) has implemented measures with City operations, services and facilities to follow the recommendations of the Whatcom County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations and requirements are appropriate for public health reasons but have a significant adverse impact on local business and nonprofit organizations, including loss of income, layoffs and reduced work hours; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2020 the City issued Executive Order 2020-03.1 accepting permit applications for small scale outdoor childcare programs, day camps, youth development programs, expanded learning programs for grades K-12, and other similar child-oriented activities; and

WHEREAS, current commercial open space rental fees are \$30 per hour and are usually for large group gatherings and events; and

WHEREAS, the limitation on group size due to the COVID-19 health restrictions makes this hourly rental fee cost prohibitive for small scale childcare and youth programs; and

WHEREAS, supporting affordable and equitable access to small scale childcare and youth-oriented activities supports families and community economic recovery; and

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270


WHEREAS, the City owns and operates various park and recreation facilities administered through the City's Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2019, Council adopted Resolution 2019-01 that established fees for the use of City parks and recreation facilities;

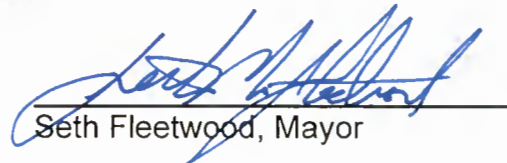
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BELLINGHAM:


The park open space and facility use fees for Safe Start Parks Special Requests for small group outdoor youth activities at Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Special Use Facilities (Woodstock Farm, Maritime Heritage Park, Depot Market Square, Fairhaven Village Green) are temporarily reduced to a \$50 fee, with no additional hourly rental rate. This fee is the current administrative charge and will ensure submittal of complete program and reservation details, insurance and health and safety plans. The reduction in fees will remain in effect through December 31, 2020.

PASSED by the Council this 24th day of August, 2020.


Gene Knutson, Council President

APPROVED this 31 day of August, 2020.



Seth Fleetwood, Mayor


Nicole Oliver, Director of Parks and Recreation

ATTEST:


Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270