

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

AN ACTION, RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE

In accordance with Chapter 3, Section 1, of the City Charter, there is herewith submitted to you, the Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, an action, resolution or ordinance adopted by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board which you may approve by affixing your signature herein below or if you disapprove of same to return to the Board, with your objection thereto, by depositing the same with the Secretary of the Board to be presented to the Board at their next meeting where the question of its passage will be put again before the Board.

8.1 THAT THE BOARD ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-152, CAPTIONED AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-152

REQUESTING THE MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION TO REJECT COUNCILMEMBER PAUL OSTROW'S PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION FROM A MEMBERSHIP CONSISTING OF THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, PARK BOARD AND INDEPENDENT BOARD MEMBERS TO A BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION COMPRISED ENTIRELY OF THIRTEEN MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

"If any ordinance, resolution, or other action of the Board shall not be returned by the Mayor within five (5) days, Sundays excepted, after it shall be presented to the Mayor, the same shall have the same force and effect as if approved by the Mayor".

Approved by Default

PASSED June 17, 2009


Secretary of the Board

APPROVED _____

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-152

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WHEREAS, the Board of Estimate and Taxation is the body that has the authority to set the tax levy for the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park Board and the authority to issue net debt bonds for the City of Minneapolis and performs certain other governmental functions;

WHEREAS: the Board of Estimate and Taxation consist of the Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, the President and the Chair of the Ways & Means Committee City Council, President or designee of the Minneapolis Park Board and two independently elected citizens.

WHEREAS, the Board of Estimate and Taxation in the past has acted as the forum in which property tax levies are established and the authority to issue debt and make capital infrastructure decisions is determined and disputes are mediated;

WHEREAS, the view points of the Mayor's office, City Council, the Park Board and in the past, the Library Board and the views of independently elected citizens has allowed for a discussion about the appropriate allocation of property tax and bonding resources the City has occurred;

WHEREAS, Councilmember Ostrow, prior to the last meeting of the Charter Commission, proposed a radical restructuring of the Board of Estimate and Taxation by eliminating the Mayor's position on the Board of Estimate and Taxation, eliminating the Park Board's representation on the Board of Estimate and Taxation and eliminating the two independently elected members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation;

WHEREAS, the Ostrow Amendment would replace the composition of six member Board of Estimate and Taxation which currently represents four different perspectives with a thirteen member Board of Estimate and Taxation consisting solely of the Minneapolis City Council;

WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board does not believe that a body comprised solely of Minneapolis City Council members to the exclusion of the Mayor, the Park Board and independent citizens is in the best interest of the citizens of Minneapolis;

WHEREAS, the Mayor under the City Charter does not have the authority to veto acts of the Board Estimate and Taxation and is limited to vetoing acts of the City Council and the Park Board and, if the Ostrow Amendment is approved by the voters, only seven members of Minneapolis City Council would be able to determine the tax levy for the City of Minneapolis Without regard to the opinion of the Mayor or the Park Board;

WHEREAS, the two independently elected members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation are given each a total of \$420.00 a year for attending a one monthly meeting for Board of Estimate and Taxation and the cost of retaining independent Board of Estimate and Taxation members is less than the cost of hiring a trained professional mediator for less than one day and there are no other identified cost savings by Council Member Ostrow of his proposal; and

WHEREAS, \$820.00 annual cost of having two elected members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation is hardly worth the loss of citizen representation and the ability to be a means by which to mediate the differences in the City between various governmental perspectives on the tax levy and bonding decisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD respectively requests the Charter Commission to withdraw its approval of the Ostrow amendment before the Charter Commission at its July 1, 2009 meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Charter Commission does remove the Ostrow amendment from the Charter Commission that it support Board of Estimate and Taxation member Carol Becker's proposal to replace the Library Board seat on the Board of Estimate and Taxation with a second Park Board Commissioner;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force Commission by a proposal from City Council President Barb Johnson, Council Members Lisa Goodman and Scott Benson and Park Board President Tom Nordyke add to a list of interim study matters the issue how to properly structure a Board of Estimate and Taxation to the list of issues to deal with over the coming year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Charter Commission continues to advance the Ostrow Board of Estimate proposal for a vote in the fall election that the Charter Commission require that the City Council acting as the Board of Estimate and Taxation shall set the maximum property tax levy for both the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board at the same percentage on an annual basis;

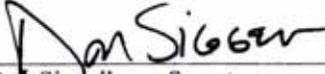
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the net debt bonding for capital projects be directly proportional to the property tax supported operating budgets of the two jurisdictions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the secretary of the Board provide to the Charter Commission members with a copy this resolution.

IN ACTED THIS DAY JUNE 17, 2009:

Tom Nordyke, President

APPROVED:



Don Siggelkow, Secretary

R. T. Rybak, Mayor

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