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Letters to the Editor

Don't abandon project just because it gets hot in the kitchen

NWPARKS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The NW Parks Foundation will continue to enthusiastically support the City of Woodinville Field Renovation and Carol Edwards Loop Project.

As our Executive Director Kristen Bush has said, "We are dedicated to park projects throughout the state of Washington and the Woodinville park project is no exception. Parks and recreational facilities are vital to the health of the folks who live in Woodinville and to the community as a whole."

It's true there have been delays in the project over the last four years and continued disagreement within the city leadership. The city has been reluctant to confirm its 2006 commitment to private donor recognition although recently the city council voted to continue the project and a request for bids has officially been made.

We are not in a position to sway city decisions and we only seek help to support a viable community park project which is the crux of our charter.

We are disappointed that the Woodinville Rotary has withdrawn its support for the city project and its \$75,0000 pledge to the Woodinville Fields Capital Campaign which NW Parks has headed up and supplied all administrative support for thus far.

To date the campaign has raised over half of its \$450,000 goal.

By withdrawing their support, the Woodinville Rotary has severely impacted our fundraising efforts and disregarded the matching contributions other donors have already made.

As posted on the club's Web site, the Woodinville Rotary Newsletter stated: "At a joint meeting of outgoing and incoming boards of directors June 16, the officers and directors voted to withdraw club financial support of the City of Woodinville Sports Fields project. The board cited uncertainty over the scope, cost and oft-delayed timing of the program. The board also expressed concern over the private fund-raising outcome, questions over future maintenance and replacement costs, contention within the city council over the priority given the public project, as well as the lack of response from the city relative to the club's condition for on-site recognition of Rotary and our two community service partners."

We understand the frustration the Woodinville Rotary has had with the City of Woodinville as the city has been very difficult to deal with and we have asked our

staff to problem solve these issues with all parties involved, but thus far the Rotary Club has been unwilling to meet with our staff.

Nevertheless, we are certain that the city government will work with us to resolve the issue of donor recognition and are still moving forward with our fundraising plans for this project.

We will continue to work with the City in order to make it possible for us to hand them a check once we are assured of the completion of the project.

We are a community service organization that has successfully worked with several other municipalities on donor recognition issues and we are optimistic that we will resolve this one with the city as well.

Hopefully once we are successful, Woodinville Rotary will reconsider their decision. Just because it gets a little hot in the kitchen doesn't mean you abandon a critical project for the future of the Woodinville community.

The NW Parks Foundation Board of Directors will issue a formal response to the Woodinville Rotary pledge withdrawal this week.