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February 25, 2015

Council Member Sally Bagshaw, Chair, Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods
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Honorable Council Members,

The Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA) is writing to express concern about an issue related to the Neighborhood Park and Street Fund (NPSF) and request that you take action to change the current policy.

As you know, in past years the NPSF has been limited to \$90,000 per Neighborhood District for up to three projects, but this year the funding has been doubled to \$180,000. Nevertheless, we have been told by the Department of Neighborhoods that each District will still be limited to three projects to be prioritized and advanced for review and cost estimates from SDOT or Parks. Lake City is one of the neighborhoods represented by the North District Council (NDC). We are aware that in the North District alone, there are at least two projects for which applications were made that will come in well below \$90,000. Further, we also know that some projects are disallowed after submission. Thus, monies would remain unspent. The tradeoff of SDOT and Parks staff having to complete more cost estimates seems outweighed by the City being able to complete at least a portion of the backlog of needed work using funds that are in addition to the regular department budgets. It seems eminently reasonable to us that each Neighborhood District be allowed to prioritize up to six projects, proportional to the doubling of funding, so that no funding is left on the table and more work is completed.

The NPSF presents a unique opportunity for not just organizations, but individuals, to submit ideas for street or park improvements, making it particularly empowering and conducive to community spirit. It also affords a good opportunity to get improvements that are very important at the neighborhood level but possibly not destined to land on an SDOT or Parks priority list. Unfortunately, good projects must compete with each other, and sometimes this competition means that a project had to be brought to the District Council repeatedly before it receives prioritization. Arbitrarily limiting the number of projects to three, even though funding is doubled, undermines the potential for more good to be done on the ground.

LCNA respectfully requests that you urge the Department of Neighborhoods to change this policy, effective immediately, as projects will be reviewed at the District Councils very soon. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information regarding this request.

Very sincerely,

Sandra Adams Motzer

Chair

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cc: Mayor Ed Murray; Council Chair Burgess; Council Members Clark, Harrell, Licata, O'Brien, Sawant; CNC Co-Chair Catherine Weatbrook; NDC Co-Chairs Dan Keefe and Dass Adams; Director, Department of Neighborhoods Bernie Matsuno; North Neighborhood District Coordinator Christa Dumpys; SDOT Director Scott Kubly; Parks Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams