



Agenda Statement

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Title: Approval of Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program

Sponsors:

Indexes:

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Attachments: 1. VESP Costs, 2. DRAFT VESP Itinerary, 3. Summer PWSC syllabus, 4. VESP PROGRAM STAFF CHART, 5. DRAFT 2020 Intern Job description

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/21/2020	1	City Council	approved	Pass

ITEM TITLE:

Approval of Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program

SUBMITTED BY: Nicholas Farline, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: \$44,105
Unencumbered Balance: \$93,500
Funding Source: 350-0202-55000 Council Contingency Reserve

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the PRCS Director, Parks & Recreation Commission, Prince William Sound College staff and the Superintendent of Valdez City Schools for City Council to direct staff to move forward with the Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

- This agenda item requests Council approval for the proposed Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program (“VESP”) and related internships, within the Parks and Recreation department.
- This program was originally presented to Council during the 2020 budget work sessions. Per Council request, the program was presented during a joint Council / Parks and Recreation Commission work session, during which time Council requested additional details regarding course syllabus, college credit earnings, and cost analysis.
- The additional requested items were presented to Recreation Commission on 1/14/2020 and the Recreation Commission voted 5 yays 0 nays with 2 absent to recommend City Council to direct PRCS staff to move forward with VESP.
- Staff is requesting funding in the 2020 Budget totaling \$50,057.

- \$5,952 is already embedded in the approved budget (Dual Credit / CSO)
- The remaining \$44,105 represents new funding, and is presented as a separate budget amendment resolution.
 - A detailed breakout of costs is attached to this agenda item VESP Costs.

BACKGROUND

- VESP was modeled after a national award winning 4-H program from Washington State.
<https://extension.wsu.edu/chelan->
 - PRCS Director Nicholas Farline co-authored the 4-H Program of Distinction national award for the above mentioned program.
- VESP is a six (6) week program with one (1) week dedicated to a PWSC college course.
 - Please see attached Summer PWSC syllabus
 - The remaining five (5) weeks are a mix of Parks Maintenance projects, natural resource educational projects and community service projects.
 - Please see attached DRAFT VESP ITINERARY
- VESP will consist of eight (8) high school student participants.
 - Students will be chosen through an application process.
 - Request for applications will go out to Valdez High School, Valdez Homeschool and the Valdez Native Tribe
- Participants leaders will be two (2) college interns
 - See attached VESP PROGRAM STAFF CHART
 - See attached DRAFT 2020 Intern job description
- Participants will receive three (3) college credits upon successful completion of the six (6) night seven (7) day PWSC course
 - The class is a general elective. The credits can be used toward a degree in Associates of Arts in General Studies, or towards the Associates of Applied Science in Outdoor Leadership through University of Alaska system.
- Participants will receive one (1) High school elective credit upon successful completion of the six (6) week program
- Participants will receive a \$2,000 stipend upon successful completion of the six (6) week program

VESP is the first program in Valdez of its design.

Attachments included:

- VESP Costs
- DRAFT VESP Itinerary
- Summer PWSC Syllabus
- VESP PROGRAM STAFF CHART
- DRAFT 2020 Intern Job description