

Written Public Comment for City of Portland Budget Hearing, June 9, 2026

Elizabeth Luthy – submitted 6/8/26

I am deeply concerned that the rushed budget process was undemocratic and did not allow sufficient time for the public to comment. Since Councilor Green has said he doesn't like it when District 4 neighbors testify against his initiatives, I am worried that he is pushing an fast agenda against the will of voters. Councilor Green says he is for public safety but refuses to fund the police, which the voters want. So misleading and ironic that he is a "Democratic" Socialist.

Ben Seigel – submitted 6/8/26

Dear Commissioners:

The amendment process was too rushed - you didn't provide enough time between releasing them and the public testimony session. Additionally, the Mayor needs to be able to break tie votes so the Council isn't wasting so much time.

Sincerely,
Ben Seigel, District 2

Dan Vizzini – submitted 6/9/26

TSCC Commissioners....

Please excuse this last minute testimony regarding the City of Portland budget for FY 2026-2027. I encourage you to review the following message from Mary Ruble, Portland Parks Advisory Board, regarding the inappropriate raid on Golf Fund reserves for a purpose not authorized by the enterprise fund. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Dan Vizzini
Portland Parks Association and Concerned Citizens
Former TSCC Budget Analyst - 1979-1985
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On Jun 7, 2026, at 4:57 PM, Mary Ruble <[REDACTED](#)> wrote:

Dear Friends of Portland's Parks,

I am writing to see if the Parks Foundation, the Parks Alliance and you as individuals might be interested in advocating that the city stop using the Parks Golf Enterprise Reserve Fund for purposes not within the intended scope and purpose of the fund. I was stunned to learn recently that City Council, for the second year in a row, has dipped into that fund to put money into election campaigns. In my view, this is a grossly inappropriate action on their part.

As you may be aware, there are several Enterprise Funds in the city including Sewer and Water, Spectator Facilities and PIR. None of these has been raided by City Council in this manner.

The Golf Advisory Fund was created some time ago as a way to support ongoing maintenance and improvements at our public golf courses. The golf courses are self sustaining through

greens and other fees and do not get general fund or PP&R dollars for operations and maintenance. Money goes to this fund through those fees, which are currently rising. Golf is the only part of Parks that I am aware of that is actively planning ahead for maintenance and capital expenses.

Golf sounds like an elite sport, but in truth our public courses support many golfers who may not be able to play any other way. And, they do tremendous youth programming at reasonable prices. In addition, golf courses are natural areas supporting the environment and wildlife, and the tree canopy provides shade and water retention, positively impacting their neighborhoods and our city.

Zari and I have been discussing this and she has helped me to understand an unfortunate pattern that seems to be occurring related to the Golf Reserve Fund. According to information from PP&R's financial manager, last year City Council moved \$3+ million from the Golf Reserve Fund to the General Fund, of which a little over \$2 million went to shore up other parts of PPR, and \$825K went to the city's Small Donor Election Program. This happened with no consultation/input from Golf program staff nor the Golf Advisory Committee, and with little time for the public, especially golfers who pay these fees, to have an opportunity to express their concerns. The amendments were proposed by Green and Morrillo.

Once again, this year, the City Council, passed an amendment to the Mayor's budget to transfer \$450K from this fund to the Small Donor Election program. The amendment was introduced by Kanal and passed on the same day without any opportunity for public testimony, unless you were present at the Council Chamber on that day. This action was taken despite the fact that the bureau's recommended budget included a 5-year financial plan for golf, forecasting that the golf fund will be more than \$1M in the red due to the increased future costs and the transfer of \$3+M to the General Fund last year.

There is nothing we can do about this for this year, but I would like to see us begin advocacy now to ensure this does not happen again. It is inappropriate to use fees paid by golfers for a totally unrelated purpose- the Small Donor Election fund. This is incredibly self serving for those council members and not in keeping with the intent of the golf fund.

Attached is a link to the financial report for the Public Works Departments and you can find the Golf report on pages 8 and 9.

I'm sorry about this long note, but I wanted to paint a picture for you all. I am traveling for the next month, but thought that if you have an interest in this issue, perhaps you could talk with your constituents to see if they are willing to advocate that this not happen again. This Golf Reserve Fund is not a slush fund. The city did the right thing by creating reserves for maintenance. Let's work to ensure this is not undermined any more than it already has been.

Zari and I think this could be of interest to the media - perhaps Willamette Week, the Oregon Journalism Project and the Oregonian sports reporters. In addition, getting the attention of the Mayor's staff as well as City Council members would be important. If nothing is said and light is not shed on issues like this, nothing will change. To me, this is the perfect advocacy issue for our groups to take on.

Thanks for your consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Feel free to pass this on.

