



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
July 22, 2019**

PRESENT: Aaron Pointer, President
Tim Reid, Clerk
Andrea Smith
Erik Hanberg

EXCUSED: Jessie Baines

IN THE CHAIR: Aaron Pointer

PLACE: MPT Headquarters

FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Reid

STUDY SESSION: HOMELESS RESPONSE UPDATE

Linda Stewart representing the City of Tacoma and Shawn Gustafson representing the Tacoma Police Department were present to update the Board on the homelessness response efforts in the city. Ms. Stewart commented that the point in time count of homelessness in the city is 436 and 1,486 in the county. She then reminded the Board on the primary causes of homelessness including lack of affordable housing, inadequate income and employment, eviction, mental health & substance abuse and domestic violence/fleeing domestic violence. Ms. Stewart spoke about the emergency declaration declared by the Council back in May of 2017 which was extended in 2018 and currently is set to expire in December of 2019.

Deputy Chief Shawn Gustafson and Ms. Stewart then spoke about the results of the HOT team, noting that they are seeing success in referrals and continued progress with individuals at the stability site. It was noted that the City and MPT continue to collaborate on this issue including code updates, addressing encampments, storage of property at the Cavanaugh site, community meetings and conversations and joint planning via JMAC.

PARK CODE REVISIONS

Pete Mayer stated that the City and MPT staff have been working over the past few months on addressing changes to the park code which reside in the Tacoma Municipal Code 8.27. Marina Becker then gave an overview of the recommend revisions as follows:

8.27.030 Definitions

Drones/Unmanned aircraft systems

Vapor products

8.27.085 Smoking and Vaping in Parks Prohibited:

E-cigarettes and vaping products

8.27.165 Moorage buoy and float regulations:

Moorage limitations & fees

8.27.180 Use of Certain Equipment:
Drones/Unmanned aircraft systems

8.27.210 Structures in Parks:
Defines structures and exceptions

8.27.220 Opening & Closing Hours
Defines exceptions
Removal of personal property

8.27.251 Authority to Adopt Code of Conduct:
Establishes authority

Staff commented that the recommend revisions are intended as way to continue to provide a safe environment for all park users. Commissioner Hanberg commented that he is concerned about making rash decisions now since the code is not frequently updated. Commissioner Reid commented that some of these recommendations may be impacting how some users enjoy their parks. Mark Roberts commented that even if the code is not updated regularly, the Executive Director has the authority to edit the code of conduct as needed. Staff commented that redline version of the code will be forwarded to the Board so that all languages changes and recommendation can be reviewed.

Pete Mayer the reviewed that key dates for moving forward with the recommend revisions as follows:

MPT Park Board
7/22 Study Session- Overview
8/20 Park Policy Group Meeting
9/9 Regular Meeting- Resolution recommending COT adoption

COT City Council:
8/22 Community Vitality and Safety Committee
10/1 First Reading/Public Hearing
10/8 Second Reading/Adoption

Board members suggested further discussion of this topic at a Committee of the Whole on August 5th.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Pointer at 6:00p.m.

Commissioner Reid moved to excuse Commissioner Baines; seconded by Commissioner Smith.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

CHARLOTTE'S BLUEBERRY PARK TRUST FO PUBLIC LANDS PRESENTATION

Andrew McConnico with the Trust for Public Lands was introduced. Mr. McConnico explained the mission of TPL as creating parks and protecting land for people, and ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. He acknowledged the work TPL is doing around the country including Tacoma. Through outreach with the community TPL created a

children’s play area to serve those who visit Blueberry Park. Photos of the recent ribbon cutting were viewed. Staff and the Board thanked TPL for their continued partnership.

HONORING CITY OF DESTINY AWARE WINNERS

Three City of Destiny Award winners for 2019 who were nominated by the Park District were recognized by staff and the Board. Jacob Fuqua, Mary Hart-Furman and Scott Murdock were recognized by the Park Board for their outstanding volunteer efforts to the community through their work with Metro Parks Tacoma.

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM THROUGH THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS MUSEUM

Jackie Jones- Hook and Chuck Lennox were introduced. Mr. Lennox and Ms. Hook explained the current summer program partnership with Tacoma Public Schools and the Buffalo Soldiers Museum to expose children to local history. The program includes hands on experiences and field trips to broaden the knowledge children have of the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in this region. Board members applauded the efforts of the program and partnership.

EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE PROCLAMATION

Rich Johnson was honored for his 50 years of employment at Point Defiance Zoo. President Pointer read a proclamation in his honor. Mr. Johnson thanked the Board for the recognition.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Pointer commented that the Board retreat was held last Friday at Northwest Trek. Agenda items included MWBE, Heidelberg Sports Village, and a preview of the new eagle exhibit.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Active Living and Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented that the committee attended and participated in the recent Swan Creek Master Plan public meeting. The next meeting will be a tour of the Lister Uplands at Swan Creek.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Reid stated that the committee met on July 12th. The agenda included an update from City staff on the homelessness response in the city.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Pierce County Trails Day, Ethnic Fest and the Doug MacArthur field dedication are all July 27.
- Marina Becker and Shon Sylvia recognized and thanked Dave Lewis who is leaving the District next month and moving to Texas.

CITIZEN COMMENTS None

MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as amended; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C43-19: ACCEPTING \$189,055.57 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION FOR MULTIPLE METRO PARKS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

RESOLUTION NO. C44-19: FINAL ACCEPTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT BY TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS

RESOLUTION NO. C45-19: ACCEPTING DONATION OF VET EQUIPMENT FROM THE NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK

Commissioner Hanberg moved adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Reid.

Being no additional comments the consent agenda passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS P46-19: APPROVAL OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. CONCESSION NATION, INC. FOR A FOOD CONCESSION TRAILER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$99,000

Commissioner Hanberg moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Reid.

Marina Becker stated that this trailer will be used as a mobile teaching kitchen in the community. The purchase is made possible by a sponsorship by Cambia Health Solutions. Ms. Becker noted staff went out for bid twice on the purchase in order to get the best possible price.

Being no additional comments the consent agenda passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION N. PW47-19: POINT DEFIANCE PARK WATERFRONT PHASE 1 GUY F. ATKINSON CONSTRUCTION, LLC CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 28 FOR TRAIL, BRIDGE, AND PENINSULA

Commissioner Hanberg moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Reid.

Debbie Terwilleger commented that the District continues to get positive feedback from the community after the opening of Dune at Point Defiance Park. She stated that this resolution was reviewed by the CIC in July. Ms. Terwilleger commented that this change order will allow for the settlement agreement and change order 28.

Being no additional comments the consent agenda passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Hanberg commented positively on the opening of Dune and the Blues and Blueberries event at Blueberry Park. He also noted he is looking forward to the two events related to the Trek Eagle Exhibit opening in early August.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary