



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
August 5, 2019**

PRESENT: Aaron Pointer, President
Tim Reid, Clerk
Andrea Smith
Erik Hanberg
Jessie K. Baines, Jr.

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

The meeting was called to order by President Pointer at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

May 20, 2019

It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes as presented; approved unanimously.

FREEDOM FAIR

Commissioner Pointer commented that he requested this topic be added to the agenda in light of the recent RFP process for the event and associated coverage in New Tribune last week. Shon Sylvia commented that over the past biennium Metro Parks and City staff have been discussing how the two agencies might work together on community events. Kim Bedier from the City of Tacoma was present and commented that the contract for the Freedom Fair event with the Tacoma Events Commissioner ended this year. She noted that an RFP for the event was issued due to the end of the contract. Through the process the City would like the event to be refined and reflect the changing demographics and focus on community inclusion in Tacoma. Ms. Bedier commented that the City was clear with the Tacoma Events Commission last year that their contract would expire and that an RFP process would occur for the July 2020 event. She commented that the foot print of the event will shift a bit to include Dune Park and Point Ruston. It was further noted the event will still be free, the City will still contribute \$30,000 and it does not preclude those applying to include an airshow in their proposal. The Board was informed that anyone one can submit an RFP. Commissioner Hanberg inquired if the event promoter must be a non-profit. Ms. Bedier stated that the ordinance stating that qualification is being repealed. Board members discussed the location of fireworks, staff commented that the promoter of the event will work with the City to determine the location of the fireworks. There was some discussion about the boundary line between Ruston and Tacoma. Mr. Sylvia commented that the over the next year the District will continue to work with the City in the areas of events.

PARK CODE REVISIONS

Pete Mayer reminded the Board that this issue was last discussed at the last Board Meeting. Briefing objectives were highlighted for the Board by Mr. Mayer. Staff commented on the goals of park code as being: to preserve parks and recreation assets for the health, enjoyment, safety, comfort & convenience of the community and to provide for the orderly administration of the park system. The purpose of this Chapter is not to punish any person for prior conduct, but, rather, to provide civil and non-punitive regulations to the extent needed that MPT and the City finds necessary to prevent nuisances and to protect the health, welfare and safety of the public using the parks and recreation system. Staff noted the code was last updated on June of 2009. Mr. Mayer made reference to the park code compliance philosophy as it is rooted within District's mission and values including excellence, safety & inclusiveness. Staff then addressed park code compliance philosophy including emphasizing education and voluntary compliance, focus on positive messaging and healthy behaviors and realizing not all violations have the same degree of severity. Strategies for compliance would include things like visible signage, maps, brochures and collateral materials and presence of uniformed staff including rangers, lifeguards, private security, police, and MPT staff. Marina Becker was then introduced. Ms. Becker then summarized the substantive changes including the following:

8.27.030 Definitions

Adds a new definition addressing “drones”/”unmanned aircraft systems”

Adds a new definition addressing “micro-mobility devices” to be inclusive of bicycles, electric scooters, mono-wheel devices, bikes and other electric powered devices;

Adds a new definition for “rafting”- the berthing of multiple boats;

There was Board discussion about including bicycles in the definition of micro-mobility devices. Commissioner Hanberg suggested bikes have their own definition rather than fall under micro-mobility.

8.27.050 Permits- Generally

Adds language to clarify maximum sound levels at the park boundary;

8.27.080 Intoxicating Liquors

Revises the penalty for violation to align with State law;

8.27.085 Smoking and vaping in parks prohibited

Adds language prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes, vapor products and other nicotine containing substances;

8.27.165 Moorage buoy and float regulations

Clarifies continuous moorage as three non-consecutive or consecutive overnight periods within a 10 day period;

Adds language to include parking and launching fees that are also subject to payment;
Revises the penalty for violation to align with State law;

8.27.180 Use of certain equipment

Adds sky lanterns, drones, unmanned aircraft systems and motorized models as prohibited equipment except as specifically designated or as authorized;

8.27.200 Vehicular standards

Adds new micromobility devices definition to be inclusive of bicycles- prohibiting them except on designated roads, sidewalks, paths or trails;

8.27.205 Entrance Fees

Revises the penalty for violation to align with State law

8.27.210 No Structures in parks; exceptions

Clarifies prohibited activities associated with the setting of structures to include erecting, installing or placing;

Defines structure to be inclusive of any temporary makeshift dwelling unit, lean-to, shack and trailer whether comprised of artificial or natural materials;

Provides exceptions to structures placed by the owner of the park or as authorized by the Director and temporary structures that have only a roof and no walls;

Board discussion ensued about structures, including tents in parks. Commissioner Reid commented that this would give police a tool to assist with the current homelessness situation that is occurring in parks. Deputy Chief Gustafson commented that allowing structures with only a roof and no walls will greatly help officers enforce code and improve public safety. Commissioner Hanberg stated that he is concerned that this may be detrimental to some in the fall and winter months. The Deputy Chief stated that he is confident that the nightly shelters in the city do have capacity to handle these individuals at night should they choose to use these resources.

8.27.215 Parking fees

Aligns discretionary authority language enabling the Director to establish fees;
Revises the penalty for violation to align with State law;

8.27.220 Opening and Closing hours, no use of parks when closed, exceptions

Enables exceptions to park closure hours as determined by the Director;

Clarifies all equipment, personal property or structure that remains in a park after closure will be removed;

8.27.250 Penalty for Violations

Revises the penalty for violation to align with State law

8.27.251 Authority to adopt a code of conduct

Enables the Director to adopt a code of conduct regulating the activity and behavior in parks in order to protect the public's health and safety and preserve park property

Enables the creation of criteria to determine the length of any exclusion notice

Commissioner Hanberg requested any exclusionary data that is available from the past few years.

8.27.255 Violators may be required to leave park

Aligns violation of any code of conduct adopted by the Director with all other park rule violations

Pete Mayer the outlined key dates within the park code update as:

MPT Park Board:

7/22 Study Session- Overview

8/5 Committee of the Whole

8/7-8/21 Formal Public Outreach

8/20 Park Policy Group Meeting- Recommended

9/9 Regular Meeting- Resolution recommending COT adoption

COT City Council:

8/20 Park Policy Group Meeting- Recommended Revisions

8/22 Community Vitality and Safety Committee

10/1 First Reading/Public Hearing

10/8 Second Reading/Adoption

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President Pointer adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:

Jennifer Bowman, Secretary