



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
January 13, 2020**

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

IN THE CHAIR: President Reid

PLACE: Point Defiance Aquarium

FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Hanberg

OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Reid and Commissioner Pointer both took the oath of office.

REGULAR MEETING

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Aquarium Update

Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education welcomed attendees to the meeting. Mr. Varsik then showed new video highlighting the Wildlife Champions partnership program between PDZA and the Tacoma School District.

Whole Child Partnership Proclamation

Marina Becker was introduced and spoke about the benefits of the Whole Child movement in Tacoma. She acknowledged the many community partners such as the school district, City of Tacoma, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and Tacoma Creates for stepping up to provide services for children in Tacoma during non-school hours. James Neil representing Tacoma Public Schools commented on the positive outcomes resulting from the Whole Child partnerships in Tacoma.

Commissioner Hanberg read a proclamation into the the record designating January as Whole Child Month.

Parks Champion Award

The Bamford Foundation was awarded with the 2020 Parks Champion Award. Joanne Bamford and Holly Bamford-Hunt were present and were recognized for the foundation's generous contributions to improving the lives of young people in Tacoma through parks and recreation in the community. Holly Bamford-Hunt thanked the Board for the honor of being named this year's award recipient. Board members thanked the Foundation for their generous gifts to the community. Commissioner Hanberg read a proclamation of appreciation of the Bamford Foundation into the record.

2019 Accomplishments and Gold Medal Update

Pete Mayer noted that the District had an exceptional 2019. He listed the following as major accomplishments for the District:

- The district earned reaccreditation through CAPRA
- Took steps to address safety and security in our facilities
- Expanded Whole Child partnership to after-school programming
- Expanded youth programming
- Fort Nisqually earned accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums
- Set new attendance records for PDZA and ZEED overall
- Opened the new bald eagle exhibit, 100% funded by donors
- Opened Dune Peninsula and Wilson Way, and hosted a fun concert
- Lots of planning for future projects
- Received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award
- Expanded emergency management planning
- Launched a new website
- Signed new corporate partners to support our mission
- Negotiated a 3-year collective bargaining agreement
- Provided diversity, equity and inclusion training for 600-plus staff members
- Increased volunteerism: 5,291 people logged 148,000 hours.
- The Legacy Campaign –program for employees to support the five foundations through payroll deductions – hit a significant milestone.
- Won the prestigious National Gold Medal Award.

A full list of accomplishments was handed out to the Board.

Hunter George then spoke about all the opportunities the District is taking in 2020 to share and recognize the honor of winning the NRPA Gold Medal. Mr. George commented that after the initial announcement in the fall, the District received media coverage from the TNT and KIRO. Shon Sylvia and other directors visited various staff meetings to thank staff personally. In addition the District hosted a visit two weeks ago from a delegation from Bellingham, and fielded calls from places like Riverside, CA, Miami, FL, and Fort Wayne, IN. The theme of the Advocacy Summit in October and the employee holiday party in December was gold medal focused. Mr. George continued to note that social media campaigns and gold medal plaque tour are also underway.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Reid thanked Commissioner Pointer for his service as Board President in 2019.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Business and Responsive Agency Council

Commissioner Baines stated that the Council last met on December 10th. The agenda included finalization of the Council's 2020 work plan.

Greater Metro Parks Foundation

Commissioner Smith commented that she attended the January 9th Foundation meeting. At the meeting plans for the Because Parks Matter Lunch were discussed.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Smith commented that JMAC met on January 10th. Agenda items included an equity presentation related to census tract data.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Deputy Executive Director, Pete Mayer commented on the following:

- Commissioners Reid and Hanberg were congratulated on their new term of office.
- Bellingham Parks and Recreation recently visited Metro Parks Tacoma to learn more about our facilities and programs.
- CIC scheduled for January 15th is cancelled.
- The Annual Board retreat is January 24th at 8:30am at the Zoo.
- January 20th is the MLK Day of Caring
- Two new deputy directors for Parks and Recreation are Phedra Redifer and Hollie Rogge.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Curt Mehlhaff commented that although he missed the last Board meeting but he was pleased to see the new policy put into place regarding parental leave. He urged the Board to consider leave with pay for employees that need to take that sort of leave.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed on a vote of 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C1-20: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR DECEMBER 2019

RESOLUTION NO. C2-20: ROCKY SHORES ELEVATOR IMPROVEMENTS, RC ZEILGER FINAL ACCEPTANCE

RESOLUTION NO. C3-20: APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ARTS AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO C.4-20: ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM THE ZOO SOCIETY FOR THE BENEFIT OF POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg and passed on a vote of 5-0.

Ruthann Howell, Executive Director of the Point Defiance Zoo Society provided the Board a year-end report by commenting on the goals met by the society in 2019 and 2020 priorities. She thanked the Board and staff for their continues support of the Foundation.

Commissioner Smith thanked and recognized newly appointed advisory councils member.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P5-20: APPROVAL OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. WASHINGTON CITIES INSURANCE AUTHORITY FOR PROPERTY, LIABILITY AND AUTO INSURANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$827,607
2. PISCES SEAFOOD FOR VARIOUS SEAFOOD (ANIMAL FOOD) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,988.92
3. ATLANTIC SEAFOOD FOR VARIOUS SEAFOOD (ANIMAL FOOD) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,280.47
4. MCROBERTS SEAFOOD FOR VARIOUS SEAFOOD (ANIMAL FOOD) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,222.66
5. LAND O'LAKES FOR ANIMAL FEED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,500.00
6. JOHNSON CONTROLS INC. FOR SOFTWARE UPGRADES, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, USER INTERFACE AND GRAPHICS UPGRADE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$115,000.00

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Erwin Vidallon commented that the WCIA premium has increased from last year due to the addition of facilities including Dune Park and the Eastside Community Center.

Alan Varsik commented that items 2-5 are all annual purchases for animal food.

Marina Becker explained that the Johnson Controls purchase will now allow for remote access of monitoring and manipulating building HVAC systems throughout District.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R6-20: APPROVING THE MASTER OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE POINT DEFIANCE ZOO SOCIETY

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Sandra Eliason reminded the Board of the study recently completely to optimize the Districts foundations. She commented that sensitive conversations are being had with foundations as they work through the recommendations of the study. Ms. Eliason commented that the operating agreement for the Zoo Society is moving forward and is intended to serve as template for the

other Foundations that are planned for March. Alan Varsik commented that the relationship with the Zoo Society is strong and the new operating agreement provides for greater flexibility than in the past.

Ruthanne Howell commented that she hopes the Zoo Society can share their learnings with the other District foundations.

Commissioner Hanberg commented that he likes the approach of using the PDZS as model for the other foundations moving forward.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Pointer thanked the Zoo staff for all their hard work in hosting tonight's meeting.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary