



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
March 9, 2020**

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

IN THE CHAIR: President Reid

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma District Headquarters

FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Pointer

STUDY SESSION PARTNERSHIP WITH TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Pete Mayer began the presentation by introducing Nancy Sutton from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. Mr. Mayer stated that the two agencies are partnering and focused on health policy. Ms. Sutton and Mr. Mayer commented that to that end MPT and TPCHD have created a shared position to focus on strengthening health polices in Tacoma and Pierce County. The two agencies have developed as list of shared initiatives and work plan priorities including Health in All Policies (HIAP) Park RX, Health Equity on Parks and Recreation Level of Service and resident participation in planning and budgeting.

COVID 19 UPDATE

Ms. Sutton stated that the Coronavirus is commonly spread from an infected person to others through coughing and sneezing, close personal contact, touching exposed objects. She then stated that symptoms include cough, fevers, and shortness of breath and that most people have mild symptoms but deaths have occurred. The Board was reminded this is an evolving situation on our state and around the world, with some increasing risk to the public. Ms. Sutton commented that due to the risk, strategy is shifting from containment to mitigation to slow the spread.

It was noted that Lab testing is increasing to commercial labs as well as the University of Washington. Ms. Sutton stated that public health's role is to investigate positive cases and close contact, implement control measures, coordinated with healthcare & health agencies and to keep the public informed. She then spoke about the non-pharmaceutical interventions including isolation, quarantine, social distancing and frequent cleaning of surfaces. The health department is also encouraging employers and business to update and make plans for continuity of operations and social distancing strategies.

Pete Mayer commented that Metro Parks has activated its COOP and activated preparedness planning. Commissioner Hanberg inquired as to whether the District might take proactive steps prior to any mandates by the Governor. Staff commented that the District is currently following guidelines as laid out by the health department but of course things are evolving rapidly.

REGULAR MEETING

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

President Reid amended the meeting agenda to hear all public comments including those related to R18-20 during community comments rather than under single readings.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None**PRESIDENTS REPORT** None**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS****Zoo Liaison Committee**

Commissioner Smith reported that at the most recent meeting the committee heard a report on attendance numbers and plans for the new trams and tram stations at NW Trek.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT None**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Curt Mehlhaff commented that he had not seen minutes from the Boards February 4th COW and inquired as to whether the meeting was noticed to the public.

Stephanie Smith addressed the Board about the future of Portland Avenue Community Center. Ms. Smith requested that now the KWA has moved out of the building that the neighborhood be allowed to run the center.

Paul Van Pul urged the Board to allow neighbors of Portland Avenue to program the center and meet basic community needs. She noted that kids in that community need a place to go.

Sharleen Davis commented that she runs a nonprofit organization that helps families on the Eastside of Tacoma. She commented that her organization is willing to offer more at Portland Avenue Community Center should they be given access to the building.

David Thompson commented that there are no community spaces on the eastside to hold community meetings. He urged the Board to reopen Portland Avenue Community as it was built with HUD funds and needs to remain open.

Wolf Patton encouraged the Board to reopen Portland Avenue Community Center,

Luetta Patton requested the District reopen Portland Avenue Community Center.

Cynthia Grenke commented that she has five children and is a regular user of Portland Avenue Community Center and Park. She urged the Board to reopen this center as transportation is an issue for her to get to the new Eastside Community Center.

Lua Pritchard spoke in favor of the proposed soccer stadium, because of the community benefits it will bring.

Mark Martinez commented in support of the proposed stadium noting the union jobs it will bring to the region.

Maya Mendoza encouraged the board to support R18-20 LOI as this project will support equity in women's sports. She further noted the community benefit from this investment.

Wade Webber commented in favor of the proposed soccer stadium project noting the revitalization it will bring to Tacoma.

Jim Murphy urged the Board to support the LOI related to the proposed soccer stadium project as it is a unique opportunity for the city.

Bobby Hughes spoke about his experience in youth sports and the opportunities it provided to him. He requested the Board invest in the soccer stadium for Tacoma.

Ashley Forsbu representing the RAVE Foundation commented on her foundation's work in the community to provide small field clinics and other resources in the Tacoma community.

Jess Fishlock, current player for the Reign spoke in favor of a future soccer stadium in Tacoma. She commented on the lack of opportunities for her as a woman through her professional athletic career.

Aaron Artman, representing the Tacoma Rainiers commented that a new stadium would create an intersection of sports, family & community. He noted that the community has spoken and are in support of the proposal for a stadium in Tacoma.

Garth Lagerwey President of the Seattle Sounders commented that his organization is proud to partner with the city of Tacoma. He commented that a stadium is needed to compete with the other cities. He commented the Defiance are here for the long haul and committed to Tacoma.

Brenda Weiss spoke in support of R18-20 LOI. She commented she represents Teamsters 117 and feels this project will allow for union jobs here in the community.

Dan Vaughn commented that a new soccer stadium will provide many opportunities for soccer players in Tacoma. He noted that this proposal brings a component of social inclusiveness for the city of Tacoma.

Tom Riley, Vice President of the Seattle Sounders spoke in support of the stadium proposals. He recognized and thanked Metro Parks Team for their work on the proposal thus far.

Bill Predmore, owner of the Reign FC commented on the future of women's soccer noting that he continues to invest to ensure the teams will continue to be playing in Tacoma.

Steve Wilson commented in support of the proposed soccer stadium. He stated that this project will provide opportunities to players to become world class athletes.

Anthony McKinney commented that he grew up playing soccer and thinks this stadium would provide opportunities in the community to be involved in soccer.

Guillermo Mogollan representing Teamsters 117 stated that this project would provide valuable union jobs locally. He commented on the positive impact soccer has had on his life growing up.

Brad Evans former Sounders player commented that an investment in a stadium is a big step forward to bring world class opportunities to Tacoma.

Tim Thompson spoke in support of R18-20. He thanked Debbie Terwilleger for her work on behalf of Metro Parks Tacoma. He commented that TSCOT wants to continue to work through replacement field solutions. He commented on the community benefit of 100 free days, along with camps and clinics for the community.

Stan Emert director of the sports management program at UWT spoke in support of the proposed soccer stadium. He spoke of the economic benefits to the community as outlined in the feasibility study.

Heidi White spoke in opposition of the proposed stadium as she does not support a private stadium be built on public park property. She voiced concerns about traffic and other impacts to the neighborhood.

Venus Durgan representing the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council commented that although she supports soccer, she has concerns about the cost as well as using public park space to build a private stadium. She also urged the Board not to support rezoning of the proposed site.

Diane Walker spoke in opposition of location any replacement ball fields that result from the proposed project at the wetlands across from Tacoma Community College.

Ben Furgerson commented he is concerned about open land and feels it shouldn't be touched.

Lily Dembre commented that she loves soccer and feels like the stadium would be a place for her and her friends and family to come together.

Shelby Walthers commented in support of the proposed soccer stadium. She commented on the positive experience she has had with the Rainiers organization as they have been community supporters of the Cal Ripken Baseball program in Puyallup.

Rabia Akins commented she is a UWT student in the sports management program and is in support of the proposed soccer stadium as will provide community benefit and support women's athletics.

Tyrone Simkins stated he is a veteran and now has chosen to make Tacoma his home. He stated he attends UWT and feels the stadium will provide many economic benefits to the city.

Marilyn Kimmerling stated the LOI doesn't not address the next phase of baseball field replacement. She suggests retro-fitting existing fields with light and drainage improvements as a larger complex located in once space will present equity issues in the city. She also urged the Board to make funding available for Portland Avenue community Center.

Justin Leighton spoke in opposition of the proposed stadium project noting that he does not support private sports fields on public park property. He further stated there are too many unknowns in the current LOI. He urged to vote no on R18-20.

Oriana Winkoff stated she is a student at TCC and is concerned about the possibility of building replacement ball fields on the wetlands near TCC.

Gina Winkoff comment that she likes the animal and wetlands near TCC.

Nathe Lawver representing Labor 252 stated that building this stadium would be a legacy project for laborers, creating a sense of pride in the community. He urged the Board to vote in favor of the LOI.

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R18-20: HEIDELBERG SPORTS VILLAGE LETTER OF INTENT

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

Commissioner Smith stated that at its meeting last week, the City Council made changes to the Letter of Intent at Section 2(g) regarding its possible contribution of funding to the stadium. She commented that she believes the provision regarding Metro Parks' possible contribution of funding to the stadium should be substantially similar.

Commissioner Smith moved to amend the LOI, Exhibit "A" to Resolution No. R18-20, at Section 2(h) to read as follows: MPT will undertake authorization to fund a maximum capped investment of \$7.5 million over a period of up to six (6) years for Stadium capital project costs or related offsite public park and infrastructure improvements.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Debbie Terwilleger commented that a field study was conducted by MPT in 2016 that identified the filed needs in the District. A feasibility study around proposed stadium was conducted which provided data around three phases: a stadium, mixed us and a multi- field complex. Ms. Terwilleger did note that the feasibility study was not a public process. Since July 2019, staff has been working on development of an LOI. Ms. Terwilleger stated the LOI is non-binding but is intended bring guidance around policy and costs. Staff indicated that there are still some outstanding issues that need to be addressed including a \$19M funding gap and property ownership.

Ms. Terwilleger commented that should this resolution pass this would mark the beginning of a public process around this proposed project.

Commissioner Baines commented that he plans to vote yes to mover forward on the LOI but has major concerns about the cost to the public and does not support the current funding plan. Commissioner Smith comments she will vote to move the LOI forward but is not in favor of the current funding plan.

Commissioner Hanberg commented that he does not feel that the Metro Parks needs a stadium but is willing to explore and get answers to many of the questions that were raised tonight.

Commissioner Pointer stressed that he will support Commissioner Smith's amendment but will be voting no on R18-20. He commented he is not supportive of professional athletic teams being supported by public dollars or selling park property. Commissioner Pointer asked for additional information related to the cost of relocation the current fields at Heidelberg that could get displaced due to this proposal. He expressed the need for MPT to be paid up front to relocate any fields.

President Reid commented that if the LOI is approved by the Board this will be the beginning public process.

Being no additional comments the amendment passed on a vote of 5-0.

President Reid then called for the question and the resolution as amended passed on a vote of 4-1 (Commissioner Pointer voting no).

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C14-20: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR FEBRUARY 2020

RESOLUTION NO. C15-20: WATERFRONT PHASE 1 WAVE WALL & MARKER PILES PROJECT FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
CONTRACT#: 2019172J / BID#: 2019-11

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg. Being no comments the consent agenda passed on a vote of 5-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P16-20: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC. (ESRI) FOR LICENSED SOFTWARE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$104,690.00
2. RYAN SCHROEDER FOR EVENT AND VENUE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND CONSULTING EVENT SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000

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

Paul Weed indicated that the ESRI software is a 3-year contract for GIS services to staff.

Marina Becker commented that the Schroeder contract is for event services for the remainder of 2020 including event management at Dune and the production of Ethnic Fest. Commissioner Hanberg and staff engaged in discussion about the sole sourcing of this contract.

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. R17-20: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE W.W. SEYMOUR CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION

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

Sandra Eliason commented that this resolution accepts \$28,988.55 from the conservatory foundation. Ms. Eliason highlighted that with these dollars conservatory staff was able to do more community outreach last year.

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 Baines commented on the positive influence pro athletes have had on his life.

Commissioner Hanberg urges staff to address health conditions sooner and possibly get ahead of the recommendations of the TPCHD.

Commissioner Reid thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Smith commented positively on the mobile teaching kitchen grand opening held last weekend.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary