



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

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

IN THE CHAIR: Tim Reid

PLACE: Remote call in meeting

PUBLIC HEARING 2021/2022 DISTRICT BUDGET

Commissioner Reid opened the public hearing at 5:00pm.

CFO, Erwin Vidallon started the presentation by commenting on the budget schedule and opportunities for public comment between now and December 14th.

Shon Sylvia then reviewed a District organization chart noting the combining of the Planning and Administrative department. Additionally he highlighted how supporting foundations will now support the District.

Mr. Vidallon then commented on the revenue drivers for 21/22 noting that the District is budgeting at levels lower than 2019 actuals. Sales tax revenues will be reduced by 10%, General fund will see a reduction of 50%, and the ZEED will have revenues budgeted at a 10% reduction. Point Defiance Park & attractions, and Meadow Park Golf Course will have budgeted revenues at 2019 actual level. Staff also stated they are planning for a reduction from the City of Tacoma contract of 1.7%. Mr. Vidallon commented on 2023-26 revenue projections are between 2-4%

Staff then reviewed a detailed table that highlighted expenditure assumptions for the 21/22 biennium. Mr. Vidallon commented on many of the increases associated with personnel such a minimum wage, L&I, and COLA. It was noted that dental and medical benefits will not see an increase until 2022. Operational reserves will be increase by 3&% and fund balance will budgeted at 7%

Staff then reviewed pie charts that represented the distribution of \$115, 300 of 21/22 operating funds by revenue source- Property tax at 29%, Sales tax at 20%, Earned Revenue at 43% and other sources at 8%.

Bar charts detailing the proposed distribution compared to 2019-20 of operating funds per fund discussed. Staff commented that 21-22 operating funds will be \$10M less than 19-20.

Staff then began to review details related to the District's capital budget. The District has issued approximately \$158M through 2018 and has about \$39.5M left to issue. Staff explained that the average cost to homeowners for the 2014 bond measures is approximately \$155.24 per year (\$9.60 per month)

Average Cost to homeowners for all bond measures is approximately \$165.63 per year (\$13.80 per month). Staff then reviewed the project categories and associated funding with the 2014 Bond. Planning staff then made note of the 21-22 capital plan highlights which include:

- Projects Moving into Construction 2020/2021
- Focus Upon Critical Infrastructure
- Neighborhood Parks in SE/SW/C Planning Areas
- Equity Index & 10 Minute Walk Standard are Key Drivers
- Expanded Outreach for Neighborhood/Community Park Projects
- Synchronized Project Implementation with TPS Bond Program

Maps of the City showing 21-22 project distribution were then discussed.

Planning staff also presented a projected look at the a 6 year capital plan noting the challenges and opportunities that exist including changing needs due to COVID, completing 2014 bond spending, transfer of City of Tacoma parks and possible preparation for anew bond.

Staff then commented on the proposed District work plan areas for 20-21 as follows:

Racial Equity:

Implement the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan

City transformation- Heal the Heart

Continued investments in community outreach/engagement

Equity Advisory Council

Increase Outreach to MWBE Contractors

Access & Inclusion:

Expand Outreach to Under-served Populations

Enhance Access and Safety – Ranger program

Expand partnerships to serve youth and adults with special needs

Legislative Change for childcare public agencies

Adjust fees and charges consistent with the community we serve

Health & Wellness:

Active Living & Community Wellness

Community Centers & wellness programs

Work in partnership with community to address individuals experiencing homelessness

Focus on underserved populations and support youth and families

Conservation & Sustainability:

Update the District-wide Sustainability Plan

Electric trams/electric vehicles

Animal collections planning

Conservation Center

Focus capital investments on asset preservation, deferred maintenance, and refreshing park furnishings and amenities

Being no additional staff or community comments the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Reid urged the community to continue wearing masks, practicing social distancing and recreating responsibility in parks. Commissioner Reid also noted the results of the presidential election.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Zoo/ Trek Authority

There was a joint meeting of the Park Board and the ZTA on November 3, 2020. At that meeting the ZTA Board passed the sales tax budget as required for the ZOO and NW Trek to continue to receive state sales tax revenues.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Point Defiance employee, Dr. Kadie Anderson was recognized by the Board for her Accomplishment of passing the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) board exam.
- Glow Golf was re-introduced last weekend at Meadow Park Golf Course with overwhelming success. Friday and Saturday evenings were sold out with more than 100 players.
- The warming shelter operated at ECC this weekend and 21 participants were served, the District does not anticipate a need for the shelter to operate this coming week according to the current 7-day weather forecast.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS None

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C47-20: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR OCTOBER 2020

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. PW48-20: SWAN CREEK PHASE II BID#: J2020-12 CONTRACT AWARD TO CECCANTI INC.

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

Marty Stump commented that 12 bids were received for the project. The Ceccanti bid was reviewed at the last CIC meeting with the recommendation to forward to the entire Board for review and approval. Mr. Stump noted reference checks have been completed. The project is being managed by Kristi Evans and construction should take 300 days.

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

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R49-20: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR TITLOW LAGOON FISH BARRIER CULVERT REPLACEMENT DESIGN AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

Commissioner Pointer moved to adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Marty Stump informed the Board that the Titlow Park Master Plan of 2010 was followed by a feasibility study in 2010 to explore further opportunities for improved fish passage and lagoon enhancement. He explained that the replacement of the existing culvert beneath the BNSF railroad tracks is a critical infrastructure piece necessary for future estuary restorations to be fully effective. Included in the design effort funded by this agreement will be an analysis of the impacts of projected sea level rise and storm surge on the lagoon environment should the trestle bridge be constructed and the constraints of the existing culvert be eliminated.

Staff further comment that this resolution accepts and appropriates \$990,000.00 (\$1M less \$10,000 State Administrative Fees) from the Washington State Department of Transportation, 2019-2021 Transportation Budget, Multimodal Account for Titlow Lagoon Fish Barrier Culvert Replacement Design and authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the State for the funding.

Commissioners Hanberg stressed that he would like to see this project move quickly and not continue to languish.

Commissioner Reid commented on the delays that often result when working with the railroad.

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

RESOLUTION NO. RR50-20: ESTABLISHING A FINDING OF SUBSTANTIAL NEED TO ALLOW FOR 2020 GENERAL TAX LEVY OF REGULAR PROPERTY TAX FOR COLLECTION IN 2021 AT THE AMOUNT ALLOWED UNDER RCW 84.55.0101

Commissioner Pointer moved to adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

CFO, Erwin Vidallon commented that this resolution establishes a finding of substantial need as allowed under RCW 84.55.0101 in order to levy the maximum allowed 2020 property tax levy for collection in 2021. Staff also noted that this is the first year since 2016 that the IPD inflation factor has fallen below the 1% inflation mark. During the past 10 years, the IPD has fallen below 1% two times: in 2015 and 2016 (.251 and .953, respectively). Prior to that, the last time the IPD fell below 1% was during the recession in 2009.

Being no additional comments the resolution was moved to second reading at the November 23rd regular Board Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. RR51-20: AUTHORIZING 2020 GENERAL TAX LEVY OF REGULAR PROPERTY TAX FOR COLLECTION IN 2021

Commissioner Pointer moved to adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

CFO, Erwin Vidallon reminded the Board of the public hearing held on October 26th regarding general and excess property tax. Mr. Vidallon stated that Metro Parks Tacoma levies its property tax on an annual basis even though it has adopted a biennial budget. The preliminary levy amount is \$16,877,899.98 which is an increase of 2.5379 percent over 2020.

Being no additional comments the resolution was moved to second reading at the November 23rd regular Board Meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. RR52-20: AUTHORIZING EXCESS TAX LEVY FOR UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION (UTGO) BOND REDEMPTION

Commissioner Pointer moved to adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Mr. Vidallon commented that this resolution provides for excess property taxes to be levied for debt service payments on voter-approved unlimited tax general obligation (UTGO) bonds issued for the 2012, 2015 and 2019 refunding bond issues, and for the 2014 series bond issue. Collection in 2021 is scheduled to be \$13,003,000; the final levy rate will be determined by the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer's office once the final property values have been established for Metro Parks Tacoma by the end of the year.

Being no additional comments the resolution was moved to second reading at the November 23rd regular Board Meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. RR53-20: ADOPTION OF DISTRICT POLICY

Commissioner Pointer moved to adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Hunter George stated that the Special Leave Policy (514.005) currently authorizes paid leave for circumstances including jury duty, military service, bereavement, and investigations. He explained that the policy update authorizes Special Leave in circumstances deemed in the best interest of the District by the Executive Director. Circumstances include pandemics and other emergencies, as well as the planned holiday closure. The Executive Director also would be required to advise the Park Board of this decision in advance, if feasible, or as soon as possible thereafter. Mr. George noted that the policy amendment is also endorsed by the Executive Cabinet, and it has been reviewed by legal counsel and IUOE Local 302 representative.

Mr. George commented the rationale for these changes was described during New Business at the October 26th Board Meeting and again during the November 2nd Committee of the Whole meeting. During the COW the Board signaled its intent to suspend its rules and adopt this amendment on First Reading.

Being no additional comment Commissioner Hanberg moved to suspend the Rules and call for second reading of the resolution to occur at this meeting; seconded by Commissioner Pointer. The motion passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION NO. RR54-20: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR FOSS WATERWAY PARKS

Commissioner Pointer moved to adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Debbie Terwilleger reminded Board Members about the background of the FWDA. She noted that the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) was established by the City of Tacoma in 1996 to assist in redeveloping certain real property in and along the Foss Waterway, by acquiring, managing and disposing of real property, securing financing, undertaking or providing for redevelopment and entering into agreements with developers proposing to develop projects along the Waterway. Ms. Terwilleger continued by commenting that in 1997, the City and FWDA executed a series of Operating Agreements to guide the FWDA's work, the final extension of which expires December 31, 2020. Staff explained that FWDA currently owns the Melanie Jan LaPlant Dressel Park, Waterway Park, and the southerly portion of George H. Weyerhaeuser Jr. Park. For over fifteen years, FWDA, Metro Parks, and the City have worked together to plan a system of parks and open space along the Thea Foss Waterway. These efforts assumed that Metro Parks would be the ultimate owner of the park properties along the Foss, as long as the properties had been properly remediated and supported by sustainable long-term maintenance and operations funding. At this the FWDA and the City concur that the time is right to conclude the work of the FWDA and transition the park properties to Metro Parks.

Mark Roberts, MPT General Counsel commented that transfer agreement acknowledges that Metro Parks' acceptance of the FWDA Parks will result in an increase in Metro Parks' operations and maintenance costs, and states that the additional costs will be funded by the City through the 2016 Interlocal Agreement Relating to Parks and Facility Operations and Maintenance. The Board was informed that additionally, FWDA has transferred \$500,000 to the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation for future operations and maintenance in the transferred parks.

Staff commented that this is a three-way agreement; the FWDA will take action on the transfer on November 18th and the City on December 1st.

Being no additional comments the resolution was moved to second reading at the November 23rd regular Board Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary