



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

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

IN THE CHAIR: Tim Reid

PLACE: Remote call in meeting

**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**

**PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Marina Becker introduced the resolution noting that July is National Park and Recreation Month. President Reid read a proclamation designating July as Parks and Recreation Month in the City of Tacoma.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Reid urged the community to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Nature & Environment Advisory Council**

Commissioner Hanberg noted that the Nature & Environment Advisory Council met last week. The council discussed the state of natural areas in the District as well as the status of some of the District's capital planning efforts.

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Commissioner Smith commented that the JMAC met last Friday with agency CEOs in attendance. Each agency reported on the actions they have taken since last month's meeting. Metro Parks reported that they have prepared an anti-racism resolution for board consideration. Pierce County reported on distribution of CARES funds they have received. Tacoma Pierce County Health Department reported out on contact tracing efforts and PPE distribution. Representatives from the City of Tacoma reported out on the status of their budget process. Tacoma Public schools commented on the hybrid learning approach proposed to take place this fall, which was influenced by community survey feedback and outreach. The Port of Tacoma reported out on the economic impact being felt at the port along with how community input is being gathered for their strategic plan. Commissioner Smith reported the next meeting is

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Shon Sylvia introduced Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education. Mr. Varsik commented on the steady attendance at the Zoo and NW Trek, as it is currently open for 25% occupancy. Mr. Varsik commented that the zipline at Trek is not operating and will likely be closed for the season. He noted that operations at both facilities are going well and for the most part guests are complying with the mask order as given by the governor.

Marina Becker, Director of Parks & Recreation was then introduced. Ms. Becker reported that the golf course and marina are continuing to see really great attendance. She commented that a number of camps started last week as well as the opening of most parking lots, a number of restrooms, and park amenities like playgrounds. In addition, Ms. Becker commented that the summer lunch program is operational although numbers are lower than past years; staff will continue to increase outreach and marketing of that free program to the community. Staff noted that volunteers are coming back in small groups and a park ambassador program is being stood up to assist with educating and reminding visitors about recreating responsibilities during this time of a pandemic. Ms. Becker also commented that drive in movies are being planned for August.

Board members inquired about restroom cleaning schedules and water fountains. Ms. Becker commented that open restrooms are cleaned and serviced three times per day. She also noted that drinking fountains are not operational but bottle filling station can be used.

Joe Brady, Chief Strategy Officer commented on the status of COVID aid funding. He commented that District will receive \$675,000 from the County CARES allocation for COVID related expenses including reimbursement first responder’s day camp and unemployment taxes. He commented that FEMA funding is continuing to be monitored.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Curt Anderson submitted a written comment addressing his concerns with the current exclusion of vehicles in areas of Point Defiance Park as it excludes community members who might be unable to walk, hike or bike. *(Full written comment kept in meeting file).*

Gregg Gagliardi submitted written comments addressing his support for keeping Point Defiance Park free of vehicles for the purpose of non-motorized recreation and to encourage social distancing. *(Full written comment kept in meeting file).*

Dillon Wiggins inquired as to why there are currently no camps or lunch programs being made available in the Hilltop neighborhood at this time.

Trevor Kagochi read a statement on behalf of the Hilltop Equity Access Committee in support of Resolution No. R32-20. Mr. Kagochi commented that the committee is available to help the District with the work to achieve the goals and objectives in the resolution related to equitable practices for youth in the Hilltop. *(Full written comment in meeting file).*

Sally Perkins commented in support of Resolution No. R32-20 noting that it provides hope to

Jennifer Wiggins commented in support of Resolution No. R32-20. Mrs. Wiggins expressed her passion for serving children in the community and noted her commitment to the partner with the District to meet the goals of the resolution.

### **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

One correction was made to the minutes related to the seconding of the the June 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as corrected presented; seconded by Commissioner Pointer and passed on a vote of 5-0.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. P31-20: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FO JUNE 2020**

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

### **PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. P31-20: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA**

1. MERLINO MEDIA GROUP FOR CREATIVE SERVICES/ADVERTISING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000 FOR 2020

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

Alan Varsik commented that media coverage has been very good but there is a need to use advertising and paid marketing to continue to promote the Zoo and Trek. Mr. Varsik commented that in light of current uncertainties surrounding the governor's safe start plan in the county, staff will proceed cautiously and only be purchasing media one month at a time and will delay Zoolights media purchase until late fall.

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

### **PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

### **SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R32-20: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF METRO PARKS TACOMA, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, ACKNOWLEDGING RACISM WITHIN PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION AND DIRECTING THE AGENCY TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTIONS**

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

Commissioner Smith commented that through discussion at the JMAC, agencies in the county are taking action to address the systematic racism present in the community including parks and recreation. Commissioner Smith noted the resolution outlines strategies highlighting the District's commitment to reform these inequities and seek opportunities buy working with the community and partners.

Commissioner Baines commented that this adopting this resolution is a great first step and encouraged the District to reflect this work in the budget.

Commissioner Hanberg commented that in addition to the budget there are many things the District can do to support this work.

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 Hanberg stated that in light of all the comments being received about vehicle access in Point Defiance Park, he requested that staff develop a plan for moving forward.

Commissioner Baines commented about his concern about the safety issues related to high park usage during COVID. Board discussion ensued regarding the continued encouragement of social distancing in parks. Commissioner Hanberg encouraged staff to put in place a plan for moving openings backwards if COVID numbers continue to rise.

Commissioner Pointer commented on the current action by agencies and organizations including the NFL to change team names. He noted that there is interest in Tacoma for the School District to consider renaming Wilson High School. He suggested that the District may want to consider renaming Franklin Park to honor Senator Rosa Franklin who was from Tacoma rather than Benjamin Franklin.

**ADJOURN:**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary