



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
June 22, 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 MPT RETIREE RECOGNITION**

Marina Becker recognized the following Metro Parks Tacoma Employees on the occasion of their retirement:

Bonnie Elliser -Bonnie first joined the staff in 1991 as a grounds crew member at Wapato and South Park. At the time, she was in the process of becoming a Master Gardener. She was assigned to work full-time at South Park not too long after she started. It wasn't much later that she was asked if she would like to work inside the center, assisting with custodial duties and shortly after that she started working weekend rentals and customer service.

Bonnie shifted from weekends to weekdays and supervised the South Park Community Center for about a year and a half after a pair of supervisors who had time-shared the position moved on. When the Specialized Recreation program moved from Manitou Center to South Park she transitioned back to customer service and assisted with reconciling operations at our other centers. Bonnie became the lead customer service representative for about 7-years until the staff all transitioned to the newly built STAR Center. At that time she made another career shift and began working with senior programs as a member of the FAB (Fifty and Better) staff. Bonnie has spent the past 8 years of her career hosting travel adventures for seniors who participated in the FAB program.

Sheree Trefry- For many years Sheree Trefry has been the District's one-stop shop for Park and Recreation information. She helped launch and maintain thousands of pages on the District's first website, produced the monthly staff newsletter the Park Bench and has worked endlessly designing- and often painstakingly handcrafting - unforgettable invitations, posters, graphics and more. She has been a creative force producing designs that beckon 10s of thousands of visitors to our parks each year. Her ideas and designs are sprinkled throughout our parks on interpretive signage and no doubt most of us have saved memorabilia.

Sheree's passion for Metro Parks runs deep, she got her first summer job as a concessionaire at Point Defiance Park when she was in high school. Years later she interviewed for a public relations position at Northwest Trek. Although that job went to another candidate, the hiring manager called her counterpart at headquarters and urged her to bring Sheree in for an interview for a new position in the Communications office. Sheree has significantly contributed to MPT success for 19 years, always willing to help with projects and programs using her creativity and innovative ideas.

Jeff Pudists – Jeff will retire with 41.5 years as a career employee. But in reality his years of service began when he was just 11 years old. Jeff grew up across the street from Jefferson Park. At age of 11, Jeff began volunteering at the park. When he turned fifteen-and-a-half, he got a work permit and started his first official job with the District. He spent the next three-and-a-half years as a seasonal staff member at Jefferson, before being hired as a career staff member and assigned to work at Wright Park. Except for a one-year pilot when he was part of a horticultural landscape crew at Wapato, Jeff has been based at Wright Park for his whole career.

Jeff was thanked for all his years of service, for the countless hours spent beautifying our parks, making special events successful, and performing and guiding maintenance and operations and on behalf of the staff and community members who you have helped through the years as a teacher, counselor, leader and friend.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

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

### **STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Joint Municipal Action Committee Report Out and Follow-up

Commissioner Smith commented that the JMAC met last Friday. At that meeting members discussed the importance on working on recovery together. Dr. Farmer from Pierce County gave a COVID relief report. Metro Parks presented initial data from a recent community survey addressing community needs at this time. Members of the committee also discussed the need to reform and restructure with anti-racism and equity policies.

Next Steps outlined by the committee include a resolutions for agencies to develop and anti-racism policy, and establish a sub-team of JMAC policy makers and staff to establish 2021-22 budget priorities. Commissioner Smith stated that at the July meeting CEOs will be present.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** None

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Lynnette Claire-Wold submitted written comment via email to the Board. Ms. Wold's email expressed her request for the Board to reopen parking and vehicle access in Point Defiance Park. She noted that keeping the park closed creates access barriers to those in the community (*full written comment kept in meeting file*).

Romey Haberle submitted written comment via email to the Board. Dr. Haberle's requested that the Board to keep Pointe Defiance Park closed to vehicle traffic as it is currently providing a safe way for visitors to walk and bike in the park. (*full written comment kept in meeting file*).

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA** NONE

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS** None

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Discussion ensued around the Phase 3 regulations, which will effect openings of District’s indoor spaces. Staff commented that they continue to keep the website updated to keep community members informed.

Commissioner Hanberg commented he recently walked Five Mile Drive and would like to see a car –free experience most of the time in Point Defiance Park.

Commissioner Pointer commented that the Gold Fish Tavern property is for sale again.

**ADJOURN:**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary