



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
June 8, 2020**

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

EXCUSED: Aaron Pointer

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.

Commissioner Hanberg moved to excuse Commissioner Pointer; seconded and passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

DISTRICT SUMMER RECOVERY PLAN

Joe Brady began the presentation by commenting on the results of the recent community survey. He indicated that there were 4,345 responses. Some highlights of the survey included the following:

- Respondents value the parks and recreation system, and trust that MPT will make good decisions about reopening the system
- People are more comfortable returning sooner to outdoor spaces, while there is more hesitancy to return to indoor spaces. Overall respondents are more comfortable returning now or in phase II to open air venues such as the golf course, NW Trek, Point Defiance Marina, and the Tacoma Nature Center
- Regardless of activity or venue, policies that enforce social distancing will be important to bolster visitor comfort. Wearing masks and PPE is popular. For private events limiting group size is also a priority.
- Fitness programming, either virtually or in person, is appealing.
- Respondents ranked pools, spraygrounds and community center as spaces they felt less comfortable returning to at this time

Mr. Brady then informed the Board on the process that the District is using to develop cases for support for opening of the District's programs and facilities. The process involves three stages, each with its own set of criteria.

Marina Becker was introduced and commented on the facilities and activities that are now open and functioning through the end of June as directed by the Governors phase I & II opening guidance. Those include the following:

- Parks & Trails—Level 1 LOS (no parking lots, restrooms, etc.)
- First Responder Childcare Camps
- Point Defiance Marina & Boat Launch
- NW Trek Wild Drive
- Meadow Park Golf Course
- Green House Plant Sales
- Portland Avenue Community Center - Emergency Food Bank
- People’s Center - Shower/hygiene facility for homeless youth
- NW Trek Wildlife Park – Outdoor Exhibits
- Point Defiance Zoo – Outdoor Exhibits
- Portable restrooms at select parks
- MPT Advisory Councils activation

Ms. Becker commented that the District is developing plans for Phase II & III as directed by the Governor for July through September. The plan includes the following opening of parks and facilities:

- Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks
- Trails
- Picnic shelters with restrooms
- Parking lots
- Outdoor skate parks, tennis & sport courts
- Headquarters & Administrative activities

Ms. Becker stated that this summer there will be a reduced level of service including:

- No park beautification (i.e. Manicured gardens, hanging baskets, pruning)
- Less frequent landscape management
- Reduced irrigation

Shon Sylvia then commented that the staff is planning on modified operations and adaptive programming for Phases II & III, including:

- Point Defiance Park- Outer loop remains closed, exploring free shuttle between attractions & outside parking lots & parking fee for interior parking lots
- Increased presence and compliance efforts by park ambassadors
- Summer “Chip-in” volunteer work parties
- Youth “Grab & Go” summer lunch partnership
- Outdoor Specialty Camps limited in size

Board members engaged in conversation about the possible fee for parking in the interior lots of Point Defiance Park. Staff was directed to explore the opportunities of paid parking as a pilot program and communicate back with the Board.

Mr. Sylvia also commented that staff is planning for some indoor access (Phase III only). Current plans include:

- Point Defiance Aquarium
- Seymour Conservatory
- Tacoma Nature Center
- Fort Nisqually
- Rentals within open facilities

Staff commented that Summer 2020 will look much different than any other summer, as there will be facilities that will not open or have delayed openings including:

- Outdoor pools & spraygrounds to remain closed
- No summer events with mass public contact
- Community centers and aquatics programming targeted to open in September/October with a different business model aligned with school openings
- Organized youth sports & after school clubs restart in fall with new format

Shon Sylvia commented that more activity is planned to resume phases III & IV including:

- 2021/2022 Budget development: Aligning core services with the City of Tacoma
- Activating program delivery for vulnerable populations; launch new youth programming with TPS and enrichment and extended learning
- Coordinating Adult sports leagues and specialized recreation with Pierce County

Pete Mayer was then introduced to speak about the return to work plan and strategy. Mr. Mayer stated that a work group is convening to explore expanding District-wide remote/flexible working opportunities and develop a phased return to work strategy. He noted that the plan needs to address the following:

- Ensure business continuity
- Provide for the safety and well-being of staff and visitors
- Leverage technology and refine work processes
- Increase employee job satisfaction, energy, creativity and ability to handle stress;
- Improve/upgrade work spaces and office environment to address safety guidelines & preserve assets

There was brief Board conversation about some of these adaptations could becoming the new normal moving forward.

Debbie Terwilleger was then introduced to update the Board on the District's Capital Plan. Ms. Terwilleger commented that as a result of COVID the planning team has been re-sequencing capital projects. It was noted that there are 20 projects scheduled for 2020 for active construction. Of those, one project will be postponed with an anticipated capital expenditure of \$2.4M. A table detailing the status and location of these projects was shown to the Board.

Of the 18 projects planned to go to bid in 2020, 8 have been postponed. Staff is planning to bid 5 of those in Q3 and 5 in Q4. A detailed table with the project list was reviewed by staff.

Staff reported that there are 39 projects scheduled for planning and design in 2020. Of those 39, 25 will be put on hold with an anticipated capital expenditure of \$500,000.

Commissioner Hanberg requested staff place an emphasis on making an effort to equally disperse projects throughout the city.

Joe Brady was introduced to update the Board on the COVID relief funds effort. He reported that on the Federal front staff is continuing to track the possibility of revenue replacement through the HEROS Act. The HEROS ACT has passed House but there is currently strong partisan opposition in the Senate. Staff expects late June negotiations

In the area of COVID-19 Expense Reimbursement funding comes from the US Treasury through the CARES Act and is distributed to states to reimburse local governments. Mr. Brady noted that Pierce County has received a direct allocation from the CARES Act of \$158M; MPT made a request on 6/3/20 to Executive Dammeier for \$2.95M. Staff is continuing to monitor that request. In addition the State of Washington was directly awarded \$2.1 billion from CARES; Metro Parks staff is continuing to work OFM at the state relative to funding distribution.

Commissioner Hanberg commented that he is supportive of continuing vehicle free hours for Five-mile Drive in Point Defiance Park.

Shon Sylvia noted that on Monday June 15th at 5:30pm staff has planned and information session with the District's advisory councils.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

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

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Zoo Liaison Committee

Commissioner Hanberg stated the committee met earlier today. Discussion items included an update on Wild Drive at NW Trek as well as a review of fundraisers being planned. Committee members also learned details about plans for the Zoo's limited opening including timed ticketing and social distancing strategies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia reported on the following:

- The June 10th CIC meeting is canceled

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

No community comments received.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Pointer being excused).

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C29-20: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR MAY 2020

Commissioner Hanberg moved adoption of the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Pointer being excused).

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS:

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary