



**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
(VIRTUAL MEETING)**

**July 29, 2020  
5:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Commissioner Pointer, Commissioner Baines

**Staff Support:** **Debbie Terwilleger**, Planning Director; **Marty Stump**, Planning Deputy Director - Planning & Development Department; **Kristi Evans**, Capital Program Manager – Community & Neighborhood Parks; **Claire Keller-Scholz**, Art, Culture, & Heritage Administrator; **Mary Kay Henley**, Planning Administration

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes from the July 15, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

**Project Status**

- It was reported artwork at Point Defiance’s waterfront was vandalized. Conversations are taking place to have them recreated by the artist. Marty added we are seeing more vandalism as we open more locations, noting it is hard to keep up with a reduced maintenance staff.
- Commissioner Pointer asked if we know when the micro-housing project located at 8<sup>th</sup> & MLK in Tacoma will be moved to its new location at 60<sup>th</sup> & Portland. It was reported we don’t know the exact schedule.
- Commissioner Pointer asked the status of Eastside Community Center’s reopening, noting numerous children were recently hanging out by the front door.
  - The center remains closed, with its opening tied to the Governor’s orders.
  - The center’s new outdoor community space (sponsored by TPL) will be completed by fall, but not occupied immediately because of the Governor’s orders. Both commissioners agreed this is a nice addition to the center.
  - Commissioner Pointer added there were a lot of children hanging out by the Pipeline Trail located by the center. It was noted the City of Tacoma just completed work on the trail, including paving and signage.

**Public Art Reaching Community (PARC) Discussion (PARC)**

- Kristi led a discussion of Metro Park’s PARC program, explaining it is an artist in training program being run in conjunction with the City of Tacoma (COT). This program will give local artists the opportunity to learn the application process. Debbie explained Metro Park’s hired COT to assist because they ran a similar program that was very successful. Numerous artists selected for Metro Parks projects have graduated from COT’s training program.
- The artist cohort consists of 12 students, with training carried out online. First they will create a temporary art piece (1-2 week display time). Next they will be given the opportunity to compete for five actual Metro Park’s art contracts.

- Kristi shared with the commissioners a sampling of the students/artist ideas for the temporary art pieces. .Four will start work the end of August, with the others soon after. Each piece will be on display for 1 to 2 weeks. She explained not all art pieces will be located on our property.
  - Commissioner Pointer asked who has final approval, Metro Parks or COT? Metro Parks will, with COT assisting as our contractor. Formal approval will be vetted through CPG and our Safety Officer.
  - Pieces will have a connection to what’s happening in the world today. Metro Parks is assisting with choosing the best locations for these pieces. Projects mentioned included: art class to make flower or vegetable packets (bombs), sculpture with outstretched hand saying “I’m here for you”, multi-prayer flags and kits, flag parade, paper mache mega phone saying “I miss all of you”, 30 minute film of 2020; wood column with LED lights, letters inserted into fence with “We will heal Tacoma” and 500 multi-media magazines.
  - Debbie added that we should start seeing the pieces over the next couple months. Metro Park’s will be promoting the pieces.
- Both commissioners were complimentary of the program, noting it will build on the creative culture in Tacoma.

**Dawson Park Right-of-Way and Real Property Matters**

- Debbie explained that Pierce County Parks was working on a grant-funded project at Dawson Park and realized the park is actually owned by Metro Parks. For their project to continue, this land issue must be cleared up. Metro Parks is considering a possible land swap that would require an inter-governmental property transfer. Conversations are continuing and should be wrapped up by the end of this year.
- In the meantime, two site specific actions need to take place since we are the property owners.
  - Pierce County waste water project
    - To enable a residential sewer line extension, Metro Parks will need to “quick claim deed” a strip of property.
    - Metro Park’s policy dictates this be presented to the Board as land surplus and be approved by a 5-0 vote.
    - Both commissioners agreed to move forward with this, noting it doesn’t hurt the park and helps the neighborhood.
  - Pierce County Parks Right-of Way transfer to Metro Parks
    - Pierce County Parks owns a small right-away within the park that needs to be vacated, or transferred back to Metro Parks. This will make the property whole and will reduce our liability.
  - Debbie explained we hope to present to the Board one transfer agreement that authorizes both items, however it might have to be two separate actions because we are dealing with two agencies. She added this an urgent request and it could be presented as early as the next Board meeting.
- Both Commissioners approved of moving this forward to the Board recommending that the most appropriate action be taken to expedite transfers.

### **Additional Questions**

- Commissioner Pointer noted he was approached by a Tacoma group regarding Metro Park's property near Cheney Stadium. They want to lease the land for a sports museum. Debbie agreed to respond to their request.

**Meeting Adjourned**