



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
September 14, 2020**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Tim Reid

PLACE: Remote call in meeting

**STUDY SESSION TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES UPDATE**

Metro Parks Staff introduced Clark Mather representing Tacoma Public Utilities. Mr. Mather reminded the Board that TPU is public, cost of service agency led by a five-member board and Director, Jackie Flowers. Mr. Mather commented that the agency remains committed to achieving equity in service delivery, work force and community engagement. Mr. Mather then briefly commented on the service portfolio of the utility noting that Tacoma Power is one of the cleanest in the world and how they are able to sustainably manage water and power supplies to meet customer needs for decades to come. The Board was then informed of the 21/22 operating and capital expenses for TPU as being: technology projects, enhanced cyber security and regulatory compliance to manage fish and the environment.

Mr. Mather then stated the proposed rate adjustments for 21/22 are 2% annual increase for all rate classes for power and water, with a phased out fixed charged for irrigation by the end of 2022. TPU staff commented that will be navigating through a number of challenges including record low rainfall in 2019 resulting in less excess hydropower, inflationary costs, and a decline in revenue due to COVID-19. To meet these challenges TPU will be reducing spending by \$8M in 2020 and will reduce spending by \$20M in 21/22. Tables and graphs outlining the proposed rate projections for water were discussed.

Commissioner Pointer requested additional information from MPT staff related to conservation efforts.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the Cushman station out reach. TPU staff commented that the project and related outreach has been put on hold for now due to COVID.

**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.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioners Smith and Reid noted that JMAC met on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed the idea of supporting a joint work plan to address the following issues: community safety, affordable childcare, ensuring safer routes & trail connectivity, and improving waterfront access. It was determined that a sub-committee will be formed to begin address this work. The committee also agreed to craft a joint letter to the Governor to ask for assistance related to school transportation funding.

Greater Metro Parks Foundation

Commissioner Smith commented the Greater Metro Parks Foundation met on August 13<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting it was determined that a fundraising campaign will be launched to support the Active Kids Scholarship Fund. Foundation Board members also discussed moving forward in finding an acting Executive Director.

Business and Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Baines reported that the council met on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The council received a presentation about 2021/22 revenue projections.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the follow:

- Staff continues to monitor air quality and adjust operations as necessary.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS** None

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 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. C39-20: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR AUGUST 2020**

**RESOLUTION NO. C40-20: ACCEPTING \$213,048.25 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION FOR MULTIPLE METRO PARKS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

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** None

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. R41-20: FUNDING A JOINT STAFF POSITION AT THE TACOMA/PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, FOCUSED ON JOINT MATTERS RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION**

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg. Joe Brady reminded the Board that the District’s strategic plan points out a need for greater collaboration and connection between public health and parks & recreation. Mr. Brady noted that MPT and TPCHD will be funding a joint position to address policy and collaboration that directly impacts healthy and safe opportunities for Tacoma. MPT will fund 25% of this position and the health department will take on the remaining 75% for this 2-year contract.

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** FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT POLICY

Hunter George stated that the draft policy is being presented to the Board tonight is necessary to align with current federal law.

Mr. George stated that the policy expands existing Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) coverage to provide up to 12 weeks of partially-paid Public Health Emergency Leave (PHEL/FMLA) for eligible employees who are forced to miss work due to closure of their child’s school or the unavailability of the childcare provider for reasons related to COVID-19. Employees may elect to supplement the mandated partial benefit (paid by Metro Parks Tacoma) with their accrued leave to make them whole.

The policy also provides up to 10 days of Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) for reasons related to COVID-19, including if the employee is experiencing symptoms, to care for eligible individuals who is in isolation or quarantine, and to care for a child. EPSL is also paid by Metro Parks Tacoma.

President Reid requested this policy be brought to the September 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for its first reading.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Baines thanked Tacoma Fire Department for their hard work in battling the fire at Wapato Hills Park.

Commissioner Pointer commented on his concern over un-sanctioned events being held in Wright Park. He noted COVID health concerns and staff safety concerns.

**ADJOURN:**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary