



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 11, 2021**

PRESENT:

Erik Hanberg, President
Andrea Smith, Clerk
Tim Reid
Aaron Pointer
Jessie Baines Jr.

IN THE CHAIR: Erik Hanberg

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Hanberg at 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PROCLAMATION AND RECOGNITION

Norinda Rosario Yancey, Chief Equity Officer for Metro Parks Tacoma remarked on the this being the first year a US President has officially recognized Indigenous Peoples Day. Ms. Rosario Yancey further commented that along with other states and hundreds of other cities we recognize, honor and reflect on the many contributions of the Native Americans in this country. It was also noted that today should be an occasion to recognize and educate our community about the hardships & challenges endured by Native Americans. The Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes were thanked and recognized for their continued support and partnerships with Metro Parks Tacoma. Staff members with Native American roots were acknowledged by Ms. Rosario Yancey.

President Hanberg read a proclamation into the record in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day. Peter Ansara, Executive Director of the Nisqually Tribe thanked the Board and the Park District for their recognition of the tribal contributions to Tacoma and this community.

GREEN DAY TACOMA WRAP UP

Amy Boucher reminded the Board of the mission of the CHIP-In program stating that the program supports the reciprocal nature of volunteer work, as not only do the volunteers help Metro Parks enhance the parks and restore natural areas, but the District helps volunteers connect to nature and build resilient strong communities.

Ms. Boucher then commented that through CHIP-In there have been 130 volunteer opportunities resulting in 1,2079 total volunteers that provided just over 10,000 hours worked. Several photos of a recent event that was hosted with the Tacoma School of the Arts Day of Caring were shared. Staff commend the event was a huge success not only for the connections made with the students, but the support provided to the District's park maintenance staff. Students worked at Eastside Community Center and Kandle Park.

The Board was also informed of the recent Green Tacoma Day that took place at 11 sites around the District. Ms. Boucher commented that events like this provide opportunities for deepening connections and contributing to care for the community's air, water, and land. Staff indicated that partnering with others in Tacoma and in the Greater Puget Sound region through the Green Tacoma Partnership, is helping instill in our communities an ecologically minded approach when we engage with our spaces and each other. Slides of tree planting at Alling Park and landscape work at Swan Creek Park were shared with the Board. In addition, a video from the Puyallup Tribe highlighting the traditional teachings about the community landscape in our region was viewed. The following groups were recognized by Ms. Boucher for their clean up efforts on the Eastside of Tacoma: including Ireta P'urhépecha , VT Radio Universal, Comúnidad - Latinos Outdoor.

PRESIDENTS REPORT None

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- The District has applied for a \$1.5 million grant from Pierce County's allocation of federal COVID-19 relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The District would apply these funds to our Beyond the Bell after-school program. The request splits the grant into two payments - \$750,000 in January (when the County's new fiscal year starts), and another \$750,000 next summer as the program evolves. The District is asking the County to match the \$750,000 that the City of Tacoma has allocated to the after-school programming. The County is considering how to spend its COVID-relief funds as part of its 2022-23 biennial budget, so staff anticipates a decision on the grant request in November.
- The following new and promoted employees were introduced: Alisa O'Hanlon Regala, Rosemary Ponnekanti, Brianna Charbonnel, Doug Plewnarz, Alex Critchlow, Sam Bets, Josh Byrd & Tracy Craggan
- The Beyond the Bell after school program experienced a successful first field trip to NW Trek with 155 participants. Four more field trips are being planned.

President Hanberg welcomed and thanked new and promoted staff.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Todd Sharon commented that he felt that his comments that were given at the last board meeting were not accurately reflected in the minutes. Mr. Sharon commented that his primary hope is and has been the Metro Parks will restore Never Never Land as expressed through petitions signed by the public, press coverage and those that have directly spoken to the Board. Mr. Sharon commented that if Never Never Land is not restored it his desire that the figures will be placed in a museum or somewhere where the public can have access because of the high degree of sentimentality of the figures. Mr. Sharon also expressed his concerns relative to the procedures and resolution for deaccessioning the figurines. Mr. Sharon commented that at the last Board meeting Board members requested that staff prepare a brief of the outcome of the auctioned figures including where they would be going. Mr. Sharon requested a copy of that communication.

President Hanberg commented that Mr. Sharon’s comments will be captured in the minutes and that the Board has not yet received staff follow up but will make sure Mr. Sharon gets a copy.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C63-21: APPROVAL WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLUTION NO. C64-21: AUTHORIZING SURPLUS AND DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P65-21: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. KOFF & ASSOCIATES FOR CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION STUDY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,000

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Erwin Vidallon commented that this resolution will allow for Koff and Associates to engage in a comprehensive classification and compensation study including represented, non-represented and part-time staff. Mr. Vidallon commented that as a continuing part of implementing the District’s organizational development plan initiated the summer of 2020, leadership sought to pursue a reassessment of the existing classification & compensation program to ensure that the overall structure is in line or competitive with current market conditions. Metro Parks Tacoma’s last classification and compensation study was completed back in 2016 with a focused approach. Staff commented that there were 4 responsive proposals submitted through the RFP process. The review committee felt Koff & Associates presented the best understanding and opportunities to assist Metro Parks in its long-term goals associated with achieving a sustainable classification and compensation program.

Mr. Vidallon commented they area national firm but do have a local office.

Commissioner Pointer asked about the frequency of these assessments. Mr. Vidallon stated that the District does not have a current policy that dictates how frequently compensation studies are to be done. Mr. Vidallon commented that as a result of the most recent organizational development work that a compensation study would be helpful to implement the plan. Mr.

Vidallon Further stated that Koff & Associates will be addressing and making a recommendation on the frequency of these assessments as part of their work with the District .

Mr. Sylvia then spoke about the scope of work that was completed during the 2016 study as compared to what will be accomplished through this proposed study. He noted that only a sampling of positions at certain levels were reviewed in 2016, this study will include total compensation for represented and non-represented positions.

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

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Reid raised the point that perhaps the Board may want to review the District’s purchasing policy to review the delegation to increase staff’s spending threshold. Staff noted that several polies including the purchasing policy are under review and will be updated and presented to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Baines commented that he was appreciative of the Indigenous Peoples Day recognition earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Baines requested addional information on the afterschool Child Care program. Mr. Sylvia commented that the staff could prepare both something in writing and a presentation on the topic.

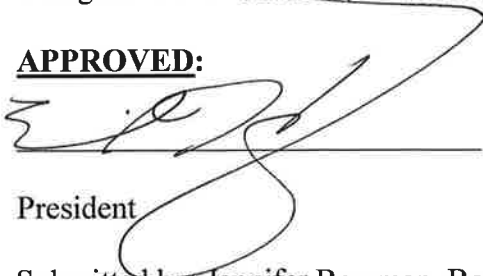
Commissioner Pointer requested getting some addional information on parks security.

Commissioner Hanberg thanked the community for their tree planting during the Green Tacoma Day. He commented that he would like to see the District do more in contributing to the City’s tree canopy goal.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51p.m.

APPROVED:



President



Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary