



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
November 23, 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

2021/2022 DISTRICT BUDGET- ZOO & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Alan Varsik Commented that the Board has seen most of the Zoological & Environment Environmental education budget at the ZTA meeting held in November. Erwin Vidallon commented that ZEED makes up 45% of the total District budget equating to \$51M. Mr. Vidallon then reviewed a table and commented on the sources and uses of the funds in the department noting that \$1.5 million is set aside for operating reserves.

Mr. Varsik then reviewed a Department organizational chart, he noted that the Department is made up of several divisions including Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, business and customer relations, planning and asset management, and business support (made up of marketing and communications). Staff then commented on the specific allocation and funds in each division as follows: Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium \$30.4M, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park \$9.4 million dollars, and ZEED business support \$9.9M

Mr. Varsik commented that there are several historic and current operating variables effecting the budget including weather, sales tax, animal activity, new programs and COVID. Sarah Oliver then commented on the unpredictable challenges of animal collections such as TB treatment for Suki and changes at the walrus exhibit. Rick Dietz noted similar challenges at Trek with the moose population. Staff also commented on new opportunities that have developed due to COVID such as enhanced virtual programming and Wild Drive. Work plan initiatives within the department were then highlighted by Deputy Directors, Rick Dietz and Sara Oliver as follows:

- Advance Process for Projects and Major Maintenance
 - Update ZEED Strategic, Business, and Master Plan
- Conservation Center
 - Explore and develop a potential new division of ZEED that focuses on in-situ, and ex-situ conservation as well as direct conservation research
- Support Organization Evolution
 - Develop a vision of what and how a single support organization for ZEED may function
- Enhance Safety and Security
 - Identify and implement enhancements to safety and security

- Refine Animal Operations and Planning
 - Refine zoological organizational structure and associated changes in the animal collection
- Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and anti-racism internally and externally
- Tram Replacement at Northwest Trek
 - Implement the transition to a new free roaming area/tram vehicle, along with necessary infrastructure adjustments.
- Explore and Implement Learning Opportunities with Local School Districts
 - Increase and explore additional virtual programs and refinement of existing educational programming

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

Board members and staff recognized and thanked Vickie Cowan as she is retiring from Metro Parks Tacoma. Ms. Cowan has worked 24 years at Point Defiance Zoo.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Reid urged the community to continue wearing masks, practice social distancing and recreate responsibly.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Joint Municipal Action Committee

President Reid commented that JMAC met on November 13th. CEOs were present at the meeting to report on each agency's budget. The committee was also updated on the status of the RFP for the Rainforest Strategy work. Commissioner Smith commented that the Rainforest Strategy approach will allow for the joint agencies to prioritize common issues and needs related to COVID and beyond to best serve the citizens of Tacoma

Zoo Liaison Committee

Commissioner Smith noted that the committee met earlier today. The committee learned that the NW Trek Foundation has recently received a \$150,000 anonyms donation. Members were informed that the Zoo Society recently raised about \$150,000 at its first virtual Zoobilee Gala.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia reported on the following:

- DISTRICT DEI UPDATE
Pat Coleman and Annie Jones-Barnes of Coleman and Associates were introduced. Ms. Coleman commented on the work being done in relationship to the development of a District equity council. She noted that the community will help design and build this committee. Ms. Coleman informed the Board that during the week of December 14th an orientation of 25 community members will take place who will help design this council. The process is expected to take four to six months. Commissioner Hanberg expressed his frustration about the pace of the project and had hoped it might be happening sooner. Commissioner Hamburg also voiced concerned over possible conflicts related to the relationship of the committee's work and the Park Board's governance.

Commissioner Baines expressed support for the model that was introduced by Coleman and Associates.

- Green Tacoma School Yards: Last Tuesday, partners at the Trust for Public Land officially launched their philanthropic campaign to assist in implementing the Tacoma Green Schoolyards Program. \$50,000 dollars were raised, which will support the first of two projects, located at Stafford and Jennie Reed Elementary schools.
- Mckinney- Vento Grant: The District has recently been awarded \$110,000 through Greater Metro Parks Foundation to support our McKinney-Vento Day Camps; A \$50,000 grant from Pierce County Connected; A \$50,000 gift from The Bamford Foundation; And a \$10,000 grant from Windows of Hope Foundation
- Art Banners Highlighting People of Color - Adika Bell, one of the trainee artists from MPT's PARC (Public Art Reaching Community) art training program installed his temporary art project this past weekend. The project consists of banners attached to light poles at five parks, including McKinley Park, Wright Park, People's Park, Sheridan Park, and Wapato Park. The banners highlight people of color who have contributed to Tacoma, with a brief written description on a sign below. They will be up through the middle of December, with the remaining temporary public art projects will debut in

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Roxanne Miles, Executive Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation spoke in support of the partnership between Metro Parks Tacoma and Pierce County as it relates to the Specialized Recreation program as proposed in the 21-22 proposed budget.

Antonio McLemore, representing the Tacoma Urban League spoke in support of the work that was described by Coleman and Associates earlier in the meeting. He also recognized the work of Metro Parks in reaching out to underserved communities during budget development.

Taj Jensen representing Tacoma Public Schools commented on the successful McKinney-Vento partnership with Metro Parks. He stated that though the partnership homeless youth are able to attend virtual school and get access to basic needs like showers and food at the STAR Center and People’s Community Center.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 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. C55-20: REVISING DECEMBER 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg. Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR50-20: ESTABLISHING A FINDING OF SUBSTANTIAL NEED TO ALLOW FOR 2020 GENERAL TAX LEVY OF REGULAR PROPERTY TAX OR COLLECTION IN 2021 AT THE AMOUNT ALLOWED UNDER RCW 84.55.0101

This resolution was moved and seconded at the November 9th regular board meeting. Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO. RR51-20: AUTHORIZING 2020 GENERAL TAX LEVY OF REGULAR PROPERTY TAX FOR COLLECTION IN 2021

This resolution was moved and seconded at the November 9th regular board meeting. Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO. RR52-20: AUTHORIZING ACCESS TAX LEVY FOR UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION (UTGO) BOND REDEMPTION

This resolution was moved and seconded at the November 9th regular board meeting. Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO. RR53-20: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR FOSS WATERWAY PARKS

Debbie Terwilleger commented that the FWDA Board voted to authorize the transfer agreements at their November 18th meeting.

This resolution was moved and seconded at the November 9th regular board meeting. Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR56-20: ADOPTING THE 2021-22 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia opened the presentation by noting that first reading serves as a second public hearing through the 2021 - 2022 District budget. Chief financial officer Erwin Vidallon then reviewed the District's budget engagement and development critical path that began in July and will conclude with a second reading of the budget on December 14th. Shon Sylvia then noted that the elements of the District budget book include a District overview, a section on budget development and a section on the agency budget and departmental highlights. Staff then reviewed several pie charts and graphs that outlined and highlighted the total preliminary biennium operating budget of 115.5 million dollars as well as the sources and uses of those dollars.

Debbie Terwilleger was introduced and reminded the Board that \$40M still remains from the \$198M 2014 Bond. Ms. Terwilleger then commented on the two-year plan highlights as follows: projects moving into construction for 2021; focus on critical infrastructure; neighborhood parks in southeast, southwest and central planning areas; equity index and 10-

minute walk standard; expanded outreach for neighborhood; and community park projects and synchronized project implementation with TPS bond program. A table highlighting the two-year capital funds distribution was reviewed by staff

Mr. Vidallon then reviewed the timeline of formal budget proceeding that began on November 9th and will conclude on December 14th.

Being no additional comments the resolution was moved to second reading on December 14th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Pointer indicated that he was displeased in the manner in which the City of Tacoma gave notice of the public hearings or future use of the Heidelberg Sports Complex land designation. He noted he has since followed up with Metro parks Tacoma legal counsel and has had his questions answered and clarified

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary