



**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING #2  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
November 30, 2020**

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

ABSENT: Jessie K. Baines, Jr.

PLACE: Remote Meeting

The hearing was called to order by President Reid at 12:30pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING # 2 2021-22 DISTRICT BUDGET**

CFO, Erwin Vidallon started the presentation by commenting on the agenda for presentation. He noted that today serves as the second public hearing for the 21-22 District Budget Mr. Vidallon then commented on the budget development timeline and process as well as the schedule and opportunities for public comment and review between now and December 14".

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the sections of the District Budget Book that provides all the details and specifics of the 21-22 Budget. The budget book is available on-line for public review.

Mr. Vidallon then commented on the revenue forecast and distribution of funds with a total operating budget of \$115M for 21-22 . Staff then reviewed pie charts that represented the distribution of \$115, 500M of 21/22 operating funds by revenue source- Property tax at 29%, Sales tax at 20%, Earned Revenue at 43 % and other sources at 8%. Staff then reviewed a detailed table that highlighted expenditure assumptions for the 21/22 biennium. Tables detailed expenditures by fund within each department.

Debbie Terwilleger was then introduced to speak about the proposed 2-year capital budget and program. Ms. Terwilleger commented that the 2014 Bond totaled \$198M. To date \$58M has been issues with \$90M remaining to be issued. Staff then reviewed charts that outlined each bond project category and the planned funding distribution within each of them for 2021-22. The biennium total for planned spending ( all funds including grants, donations and bond) total \$49.8M

Staff commented that the 2-year proposed program will include the following:

- Projects Moving into Construction 2020/2021
- Focus Upon Critical Infrastructure
- Neighborhood Parks in SE/SW/C Planning Areas
- Equity Index & 10 Minute Walk Standard are Key Drivers
- Expanded Outreach for Neighborhood/Community Park Projects

- Synchronized Project Implementation with TPS Bond Program

Maps of the City that highlight where projects are planned overlaid with the City's equity index were briefly discussed.

Debbie Terwilleger then spoke about the challenges and opportunities that will be faced in the Business Administrative & Planning Department through the 21-22 biennial budget.

Ms. Terwilleger noted the following challenges:

- COVID 19 Related Impacts to Programs, Operations, Planning & Project Implementation
  - Material and equipment supply chain impacts
  - Supporting departmental initiatives
  - Workforce Impacts
- Long-Term economic stability to sustain the system
  - Uncertain revenue generation
  - M&O Considerations
  - Partnerships & Leveraging
- Social Changes & Community Needs
  - Evolution of community needs and aspirations
  - Changing priorities require constant innovation

Opportunities were highlighted as follows:

- Enhanced Community Engagement
  - Opening new paths for communication/imagination
  - Building a foundation of mutual trust for future collaboration
- Renewed emphasis on Safety/Security & Equitable access
  - Re-Framing the Level of Services (LOS) Study
  - Focused investment in park safety/security
  - IT improvements to support rapid response and expand access
- Conservation & Sustainability
  - Re-imagining park development/operations standards
  - Conservation ethic as common thread in program and facility development
  - Changes to improve financial sustainability—new fund structure, taxing authorities

Marina Becker was introduced and outlined the challenges the department will be facing as the new biennium approaches including

- COVID Restrictions and Impacts
  - Uncertain & Unpredictable Times - The District must be Nimble, Flexible and Constantly Innovative
  - Safety is Highest Priority
  - Economic impacts
  - Serve shifting community needs
  - Increase in numbers of people experiencing homelessness
- Childcare – Critical for Recovery
  - Provide safe, accessible spaces for youth to engage in learning, social & emotional connections and recreation
  - COVID and post-COVID differences

Ms. Becker described opportunities in the following areas:

- Renewed emphasis on safe/secure & green infrastructure and equitable access
  - Level of Services (LOS) study
  - Green School Yards
  - Expanded investment in park and facility safety/security
  - Park Access Enhancements
- Conservation & Sustainability
  - Asset management/preventative maintenance
  - Environmentally responsible maintenance equipment and best practices
  - Expand tree canopy focused on parks in historically underserved areas
- Future of Community Centers and Programs
  - Serve community needs in a safe and responsible manner
  - Offer pertinent and timely programs given restrictions and public comfort, utilize outdoor spaces and virtual platforms
  - Serve shifting needs of community---Youth, Wellness Centers, Virtual Recreation Center, Needs of Membership. Ms. Becker noted the McKinney- Vento program operating out of People’s Center that is currently serving as safe learning space for children experiencing homelessness

Alan Varsik Director of Zoological & Environmental Education was then introduced. Mr. Varsik comment on the historic and new challenges and opportunities being faced by both the Zoo and NW Trek. He stated that challenges always include the weather and its impact on visitorship. He noted that sales tax revenues will continue to be watched as they can fluctuate due to economic circumstances and specially those related to impacts of COVID 19. In addition animal activity at both attractions will be something that will be watched as species plan change. He noted that zoo staff will continue to adapt through COVID 19 to give visitors safe experiences, such as enhanced virtual program and continuation of the Wild Drive and a modified Zoolights experience.

The Board was reminded of the remaining budget meetings.

December 14, 6pm                      Board Meeting                      Second Reading & Adoption for 21/22  
District Budget

**COMMUNITY COMMENT** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, President Reid closed the public hearing at 1:03 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by:  
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary