



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 11, 2020**

PRESENT:

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

IN THE CHAIR: Erik Hanberg

PLACE: Remote call in meeting

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 WHOLE CHILD PROCLAMATION

Mary Tuttle was introduced and spoke about the local partnership in Tacoma that contribute to the Whole Child initiative. Ms. Tuttle recognized Tacoma Public Schools, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, City of Tacoma, the Children's Museum of Tacoma and other community service-delivery partners that have collaboratively joined forces to provide youth development opportunities that assures more students from all socio-economic backgrounds can access programs and the range of developmental benefits they provide. Commissioner Reid read a proclamation declaring January as Whole Child Month.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Commissioner Reid commented on the many challenges in 2020 that occurred during his term as Park Board President; he noted that despite these challenges it has positioned the District to reimagine how it delivers park and recreation services in the future. Commissioner Reid also commented that even though the COVID vaccine is starting to be administered, he urged the community to continue wearing masks, practice social distancing and recreate responsibly.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS None

NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 BOARD OFFICERS

At the December 14th Board meeting Commissioner Smith was nominated for the position of Board Clerk. Being no additional nominations, the question was called and Commissioner Smith was elected unanimously as Board Clerk for 2021.

At the December 14th Board meeting Commissioner Hanberg was nominated for the position of Board President. Being no additional nominations, the question was called and Commissioner Hanberg was elected unanimously as Board President for 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia reported on the following:

- Due to updated COVID guidelines by the Governor the District could expand some outdoor programming for grades K-12. Staff is working on methods to deliver such programs. Community Centers and Aquariums remain closed during Phase 1. Staff is looking closer to the possible reopening of these facilities as the region gets closer to Phase 2, which could be around April.
- The City has made a request to Metro Parks for use of the Norpoint Community Center for a temporary warming shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. The District is awaiting a final decision by the City on this topic. The City Council's monthly public forum is scheduled for Tuesday evening and will give community members an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan. Commissioner Pointer commented that this shelter is temporary and could save lives.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The following comments related to the Norpoint Center being used as a possible warming shelter were submitted by the following individuals in writing prior to the Board Meeting. (*copies in official file*):

Jim Carey, Dana Peregrine, Linda Sinkula, Megan Capes, Julie Prestis, Adrienne Stuart, Sarah Rumbaugh, Emily Mattran, Sarah Bliesath, Jason Gauthier, Joanne Rixon, Shelby Isham, Nathan Schumer, John Malone, Kristin Taylor, Brian Drinkwine, Beth Baggaley Betsy Jones, Jeanne Levy, David Nieburg, David Sepic, Caitlin Nieburg, Stefano Sblendorio, Tonita Wallace, Sherry Jennings, Dennis Opacki, Pat Richmond, Faye Clerget, Karen Pischel, Dilsha Vaki, Carmen Dunlap, Phil Matonti, Andy Macs, Julie Cracker, Nicholas Spika, Kyra Vakil, Kersi Vakil.

Lois Cooper submitted a comment via voice mail related to the Norpoint Center being used as future warming shelter.

JAH commented that he is concerned about tax dollars being used for a warming shelter at the Norpoint Community Center.

Sandy Hust commented that she is opposed to Norpoint Center being used as a warming shelter as it is located in a residential area with schools and children and she is concerned about safety.

Kathy Dudley comment she is opposed to Norpoint Center being used as a warming shelter as it will delay it opening for members and will be ruined by the homeless individuals.

Jim Carey commented that he has visited the current Eastside Community Center warming shelter. He noted that smoking is occurring on the grounds and individuals are sleeping in cars outside the Center. He stated he interviewed the services provider managing the shelter activities at the center who reported that the center has put strain on the neighborhood, and that the Tacoma Police Department have been called at least 25 times to respond to issues at the center since the warming shelter opened.

Kersi Vakil commented that he was surprised to learn the Norpoint Center is not intending to open for member use since other fitness area in the area have been reopening. He inquired why the Norpoint Center is not being opened for regular patrons.

Trevor Kagochi commented that he supports the idea of Norpoint Community Center serving as warming shelter. He commented that many of the individuals experiencing homelessness are veterans, students, and families. Mr. Kagochi noted the other Metro Parks Centers including Eastside Community Center, STAR Center, and the People's Center all currently being used to support homeless individuals.

Sally Perkins spoke in support of using Norpoint Community Center for a temporary warming shelter to provide individuals refuge from the cold and wet weather. Ms. Perkins noted the other Metro Parks Centers including Eastside Community Center, STAR Center, and the People's Center all currently being used to support homeless individuals.

She noted the City Council has committed to systemic change related to equity for the entire community.

Rev. Kathie Klosterman of Browns Point United Method Church spoke in support of the proposed warming shelter at Norpoint Community Center thanked Metro Parks for their compassion at this time. She noted that although the community is fearful at this time that they can love their neighbors that are in need of help.

Joel Zylstra expressed support for Metro Parks Tacoma to open Norpoint Community Center as temporary warming shelter during a global pandemic to members of the community experiencing homelessness. He spoke of the creative ways schools and other agencies have adapted to meet the needs of citizens during these uncertain times.

Heid Smith spoke in support of the proposed warming shelter noting a moral obligation to support the unsheltered. She noted that opposers of the plan are making assumptions and judgments rather than seeking understanding and clarity of the proposed plan.

Lori Miller inquired as to why Norpoint is not reopening for its intended use as other facilities like it in the area are beginning to open next week. She commented that although she is empathetic to those who are homeless, the Center should be opened for workout facilities and for the pool use as intended.

Ken Miller Spoke in opposition to a warming shelter at the Norpoint Center noting the neighborhood lacks services. He noted safety concerns as there are two schools in the area.

Katie Mattran noted she and her family are frequent users of MPT parks and facilities. Ms. Mattran commented that by not using the center for its intended use the parks in that area will turn into ghost towns as individual are worried about children's safety. Ms. Mattran requested details on the closing plan for the warming shelter. She requested that the Center be opened for its intended use.

Drew Amdahl commented that he has had a Norpoint membership for many years. Mr. Amdahl stated that homeless individuals should be housed in an area of town that has services and a greater police presence, and suggested the City look for alternative venues. He commented he is opposed to the proposal of using Norpoint for a warming shelter.

Matt Penrose spoke in opposition of bussing individuals into a residential neighborhood that has no services nearby to support them. He voiced concern that when the shelter closes that homeless individuals may set up tents within green spaces in the area.

AMC noted a poll was taken in the neighborhood and a letter was sent noting the land designation of the proposed site for the warming shelter at the Norpoint community Center. She noted concerns about lack of a plan and how individuals will be monitored and bussed. She noted her experience in Seattle with homeless individuals.

David Dittmore noted he serves on a homeless veterans committee at Veterans for Peace. He noted that Norpoint seems like a good site for a warming shelter. Mr. Diddemore suggested adding a bus line that could take people staying in the shelter to both the nearby QFC and Walgreens as well as the transfer station in Federal Way. He noted that many people need help right now and this is the time to be helpful.

Crystal Coralles stated that she is not opposed to helping people right now but does have some fear. Ms. Coralles requested more details about the plan from the City. She stressed that due to the kids and elderly in the area that it's not the right neighborhood for this service. Ms. Coralles inquired as to the rules of the proposed shelter and stressed that a warming shelter in this area should be used for families.

Tamra Sharp commented that she has many questions about the plan for the proposed warming shelter at Norpoint Community Center. Ms. Sharp commented that she is concerned about the safety of her students that will be returning to school in that neighborhood next week.

John Cormier commented that he is opposed to the proposal to open a temporary warming shelter at the Norpoint Community Center. Mr. Cormier noted that he is concerned that the proper services and infrastructure are not in place in this area of town to support the homeless community. He suggested using the unused tower of the jail to house homeless individuals.

Hany Sidhom spoke in opposition of the proposed plan to use Norpoint Community Center as a homeless shelter. Mr. Sidhom noted this area of town is too remote for a shelter and is hoping the City will share the plans for this proposal with the community.

Brenda Taubenheim commented that there are better options in the City of Tacoma for housing homeless individuals rather than the Norpoint Center. Ms. Taubenheim commented that she is worried about the neighborhood's safety based on the example of the Eastside Community Center. She inquired about the cost, funding and plans for clean up of the Center if it is used to house homeless individuals.

John Higley, a Norpoint member commented that residents in the neighborhood are not in favor of the proposal because of the way it was thrown upon them. Mr. Higley inquired as to whether the Park Board has received the survey conducted by NE Tacoma resident, James West. Mr. Higley noted that services are too far away from the Center to serve homeless individuals. He urged that other options be considered.

Yvonne McCarty chair of the NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council commented that she first heard about the idea of using Norpoint as a warming shelter from the City of Tacoma neighborhood services department. She noted she has been receiving hundreds of questions that are not addressed in the City's current FAQ. Ms. McCarty noted her disappointment with the City and MPT on the roll out of this proposal.

Travis Sans commented that he is concerned about theft in the neighborhood if the homeless shelter does move forward. Mr. San suggested using the jail to house homeless individuals.

Kris Johansen is concerned with the Norpoint Center proposal stating that the Metro Parks' mission does not align with housing the homeless. Mr. Johansen suggested using the jail as an alternative. He continued noting his concerns about security in the neighborhood and that future open spaces may become future encampments.

Nathan Blackmer noted he works with homeless individuals and understands the fears and misconceptions neighbors are feeling right now regarding the proposal to have Norpoint Center serve as warming shelter. Mr. Blackman stated that the City of Tacoma has failed to meet the needs of its homeless and beds are currently full.

Kurt Walters commented that the community has been provided with no information on the details of the plan for using Norpoint as a homeless shelter. Mr. Walters voiced concern about safety issues.

Jay Severson commented that there are no available services near the Norpoint Community Center to assist homeless individuals. Mr. Severson also stated that the City of Tacoma needs to communicate better with residents in the neighborhood.

Paul Burton commented that he resents those who have commented thus far who have been shaming those not in favor of the proposal to use the Norpoint Community Center as a warming shelter. Mr. Burton commented that he is concerned about crime as there is limited policing in NE Tacoma. Mr. Burton further noted that he would like to see details of the City's plan for the shelter.

Deborah Tone commented on her experience as a substance abuse professional and the wait times for getting homeless individuals treatment. Ms. Tone noted that she has compassion for individuals experiencing homelessness but Norpoint Center is not the right place to house them, as there will be safety and crime issues.

Rebecca Vitsmun noted that she has worked with homeless individuals. She commented that the fear expressed by others is unfounded and knows she will have to adapt her trips to the skate park with her children for a very short period of time in order to help these homeless individuals.

Ronald Hall commented that the planning for the Norpoint proposal has not been done well. Mr. Hall commented that providing shelter for homeless individuals does not align with the Park District's mission or with the Park Board's responsibility.

Stephanie Seher-Cantoni commented that there has been a clear lack of planning and communication around plans to provide a warming shelter at the Norpoint Community Center. Ms. Cantoni noted that there is a lack of police presence in that neighborhood and that those planning for this shelter do not understand the culture of the community in NE Tacoma.

Gerard Gray commented that he does not understand why those who do not live in the neighborhood get to make comments regarding the Norpoint Center since they do not live in the area and it does not impact them. Mr. Gray commented that he has concerns about safety and urged the City to come up with an alternative location and plan for the warming shelter.

V. Williams commented that she lives across the street from the Norpoint Community Center and is opposed to the proposed warming shelter at that site. Ms. Williams noted impacts this shelter will have on children in the area. She also stated that there are a lack of services in the

neighborhood and that the City needs a better plan that address long-term solutions to house homeless individuals.

Candace Morrow commented that she has participated with a coalition to help kids that need food assistance and has provided healthcare for homeless individuals. Ms. Morrow commented that putting a temporary homeless shelter at Norpoint is not a good idea since as it is far from services including police and fire. She also commented that if there are individuals at the Center that kids will not be able to use the park.

Greg Debbie voiced his frustration with the City and Metro Parks' lack of transparency and lack of plan regarding the proposed warming shelter at the Norpoint Community Center.

Angie Eichholtz commented root of the problem with homeless is drug abuse and there is lack of leadership at the City to deal with the homelessness issues. She urged people to watch *Fight for the Soul of Seattle* and the idea of using Home Haven for drug recovery.

Rachel Grant spoke in support of the proposal to use the Norpoint Community Center as a temporary warming shelter.

Sophia commented that the warming shelter plan is short sided. She commented that the jail may be a better spot to consider. Sophia commented that there are numerous schools, parks and neighborhoods in the Norpoint area that will be impacted if shelter is established at Norpoint. Sophia commented that resources and right organization are needed to help with these individuals.

Sean Whalen thanked the Board for the being open to hear this conversation and making sure people feel welcome in this City. Mr. Whalen noted that he appreciates Metro Parks Board in playing a role in finding solutions to the community-wide problem of homelessness.

Joey commented that she is scared of the proposal to bring a warming shelter to the Norpoint Community Center. She encouraged the Board to look at other alternatives including the STAR Center and other facilities that may allow for improved social distancing.

Marcel commented that she is concerned about the safety of the park behind the center if a warming center opens at Norpoint. She noted she and her family use the park daily since centers and schools are closed.

Anne commented that she is not in support of the proposed warming shelter at the Norpoint Center due to poor planning and lack of transparency.

Renee thanked MPT for the chance to dialogue and learn from others even if there is disagreement. She noted that poor legislation has led to homelessness. She stated that bussing individuals up the Norpoint Center that has no services near by makes no sense. She stated there are other areas in Tacoma with better support services to serve these homeless individuals.

Brooke Marvin commented that she would like information on how citizens can participate in the City's community form being held on Tuesday.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2020 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.C1-21: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR DECEMBER 2020**

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of consents agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Smith.

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. P2-21: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA**

1. MACDONALD MILLER FACILITY SOLUTIONS INC. FOR INSPECTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE ON BOILERS AND HVAC UNITS, DISTRICT-WIDE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$360,000
2. PISCES SEAFOOD FOR VARIOUS SEAFOOD (ANIMAL FOOD) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,082.33

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

Marina Becker commented that the MacDonald Miller was the only bid submitted for the HVA/boiler contract. She commented this contract will take care of the routine maintenance, inspections and repair of the District's boilers and HVAC systems.

Alan Varsik commented that seafood purchase is for the fish eating animals at the Zoo and Aquarium.

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. PW3-21: HEADQUARTERS FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS PIONEER HUMAN SERVICES CHANGE ORDER NO. 4**

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

Debbie Terwilleger commented that this change order is to account for some unforeseen work under the original contract including minor electrical modifications, and building entry

modifications including security controls and door hardware. She no noted the changes will be paid out of the project contingency.

Project Manger, Roger Stanton commented on the good work by the contractor on the project.

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

RESOLUTION NO. PW4-21: OWEN BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS
BID# J2020-15 CONTRACT AWARD TO COLVOS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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

Debbie Terwilliger commented that this item was reviewed by the CIC on January 5th .

Staff commented that the overall project scope includes a new pavilion building, new restrooms, renovated bath house of kayak rentals, outdoor plaza space, ADA complaint connecting walks, renovated picnic shelter, small children’s play area parking and landscaping improvements and new utilities. Staff commented that there were 7 bids submitted with Colvos Construction submitting the low bid.

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

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R5-21: APPROVING CONVERSION FOR STREET RIGHT OF WAY INTO REAL PROPERTY AT SWAN CREEK PARK, NO. 124.1412

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

Debbie Terwilliger commented that this resolution seeks Board approval to enable the Executive Director enter into the necessary agreement for the conversion of street right of way into real property within the boundaries of Swan Creek Park. She noted that vacation includes 54 linear feet.

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 None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Pointer commented that he condemns the domestic terrorist attack on the Nation’s Capitol last week.

Commissioner Baines commented that he is disappointed with the outcome of the Board’s election of officer earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Reid commented that he condemns the domestic terrorist attack on the Nation’s Capitol last week.

Commissioner Smith commented that over 240 community members attend tonight’s meeting.

Commissioner Hanberg thanked staff for working wit the City on the homelessness issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTER

This matter was tabled to a future Board Meeting.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary