



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 8, 2021**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN THE CHAIR:** Erik Hanberg

**PLACE:** Remote call in meeting

**STUDY SESSION PARK IMPACT FEE UPDATE**

Pete Mayer began the presentation by highlighting that Park Impact Fees are one-time charges assessed to new developments to pay a portion of the costs of new infrastructure capacity necessary to accommodate new growth.

Mr. Mayer commented that the purpose of impact fees is that growth should pay for growth, they are authorized under the Growth Management Act (GMA), the impact fees fund increased capacity in the form of capital projects: including transportation, Fire/Ems, Schools & Parks. The Board was reminded that impact fees cannot be used for the following: maintenance, on-going operations costs, existing deficiencies, project needs caused by growth outside of a jurisdiction, 100% of project costs.

Mr. Mayer then described how future impact fees could be projected by the level of service work that the District is planning to do. He then outlined the process for PIF authorization which includes an official recommendation from the Park Board to the City Council who then would authorize the PIF. He continued by stating that fees are then collected within the municipal boundary of the City of Tacoma. It was noted that impact fees are charged during the permitting process, so residential units are used as a “proxy” for the growth.

Mr. Mayer remind the Commissioners that The Board adopted 2018 Strategic Master Plan which specifically calls out “Enhancing existing revenue streams whenever possible and new revenue whenever feasible”, including a specific tactic that calls for us to “pursue alternative revenue streams such as a Food & Beverage Tax or a Park Facility Impact Fee...”

Mr. Mayer then reviewed a schedule noting that the City is doing a study on impact fees between now and June 2021. Staff commented that next steps include conducting MPT Parks Level of Service (LOS) & Park Impact Fee Study, as well as continued participation with the City of their review and analysis of potential impact fees.

Board members commented that they look forward to additional information on the impact fee study

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS****GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT**

Teri Moore, Executive Director and Morris Aldridge, Board President were introduced. Mr. Aldridge reminded the Park Board of the Foundation staff that recently transitioned from the District. Mr. Aldridge recognized the efforts and thanked former Executive Director of the Foundation, Julie Dugan. In addition, Mr. Aldridge commented on the contributions from the Foundation being accepted by the Park Board tonight: \$403,246 from GMPF and \$18,997 from the Conservatory Foundation.

Ms. Moore commented on the following funding priorities for 2021: McKinney-Vento Day Camps, Active Kids Fund, Covid-19 Relief and Supplies, First Tee, Distance Learning Camps, Adaptive Recreation, Summer Playgrounds, Youth Services Summer Camps, Whole Child Summer Camps, Whole Child TPS Programs, Memorials, Green Schoolyard Projects, Site furnishings, Arbor Replacement Project (Pt. Defiance).

Mr. Aldridge and Ms. Moore highlighted that GMPF is now partnering with the Conservatory Foundation to better support Metro Parks Tacoma.

The presentation concluded with a slide identifying the current Board of Directors of GMPF.

Commissioners acknowledged and thanked members of the GMPF and the Conservatory Foundation for their continued effort in support of the programs and services of the District.

**POINT DEFIANCE ZOO SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT**

Alan Varsik opened the presentation by commenting on the tremendous support of the Zoo Society in 2020. Heather Parkinson-Firestine, Zoo Society Board President commented on the 2020 highlights including employing 27 zoo employees for 6 months, retaining their own motivated staff, transitioning to a successful on-line fundraising event, significant growth in contributions to spring COVID Campaign, return on investment to Zoo at 3.5 to 1-Far exceeding 2020 Operating Agreement.

Ms. Parkinson-Firestine also noted that the Society is continuing to work with the NW Trek Foundation to reach agreement on how they can best work together to support the District.

Ruthanne Howell, Executive Director of the Zoo Society spoke about how the society made a choice early on in COVID to step away from fundraising requests so that others in the community could reach their fundraising goals for vital services in Tacoma like food and child care. Ms. Howell then spoke about the successful transition to the on-line Zoobilee fundraiser. A slide showing the breaking down of funds raised totaling \$1,011,530 was then reviewed.

Ms. Howell then commented on the following 2021 goals of the Society: retention of donors, retaining staff, satisfy 2021 operating agreement, events, achieve 2021 strategic plan goals, continue building board strength supporting integrated DEIA work, continued collaborative process with NWTF, active participation in Zoo/ZEED Strategic plan, plans for moving out of the pandemic, continue building relationships.

Commissioners recognized and thanked the Zoo Society and their leadership for their contributions to the District.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Hanberg commented positively on successful Board retreat held last Friday.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS****Zoo Liaison Committee**

Commissioner Smith noted that she attended the quarterly liaison committee meeting. The meeting agenda included a sales tax report, a report on social media success of Zoo & Trek and plans for the strategic planning effort that will soon be underway.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Marina Becker noted that Meadow Park Golf Course was the victim of vandalism last week as wiring was stolen from the driving range lights; staff is currently working on repairs.
- Marina Becker commented on the collaboration with Pierce County Parks to provide specialized recreation programs. She noted the partnership will allow for even more participants and helps to address barriers such as limited locations of offerings and transportation. It was noted that virtual programming is still occurring, and staff is also training to hold Special Olympics once that event is reinstated.
- Joe Brady spoke about the virtual event the Fort is hosting on Thursday evening about effects of the Puget Sound Treaty Wars. Panelists include tribal members from four local tribes.
- Pete Mayer was thanked and recognized as this is his last meeting as he has been hired as the new Director of Washington State Parks.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Written comments were received by Elizabeth Burris regarding the specialized recreation program.

Elizabeth Burris commented that she is concerned about the changes to the specialized recreation program. She noted that as a parent of child in the program she has not received communications on the changes.

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 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. C20-21:** APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR FEBRUARY 2021

**RESOLUTION NO. C21-21:** ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM THE ZOO SOCIETY FOR THE BENEFIT OF POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

**RESOLUTION NO. C22-21:** ACCEPTING \$403,246.57 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION FOR MULTIPLE METRO PARKS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

**RESOLUTION NO. C23-21:** ACCEPTING & APPROPRIATING \$18,977.50 IN FUNDS FROM THE W.W. SEYMOUR BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION

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** None

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. R24-21:** AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THEIR REMEDIATION PROJECT ON THE DUNE PENINSULA SHORELINE

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

Debbie Terwilleger commented that item was discussed at the CIC on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Terwilleger reviewed a map highlighting the area of the remediation project that the EPA will be conducting. She commented that the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers and will be repairing a portion of the armoring around the peninsula that was damaged by the 2001 Nisqually earthquake as well as and the habitat basin. Staff noted there are no costs to MPT for the EPA's work being conducted on the peninsula.

Staff requested that the Board substitute the title of the resolution to enter into a MOU rather than an ILA as requested by the EPA.

Commissioner Reid moved to substitute the title of resolution to read as follows: Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter A Memorandum of Understanding with The Environmental Protection Agency for Their Remediation Project on The Dune Peninsula Shoreline.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pointer. Being no additional comment, the motion passed unanimously.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R25-21:** PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND UPDATING THE 2021 COMPENSATION LEVEL FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

President Pointer commented that the Board held an executive session on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for the purpose of conducting the performance evaluation for the executive director. He noted this reflects the work of the last two years. The resolution reflects a salary increase

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 Smith commented on her enjoyable trip to the Zoo on Saturday.

President Hanberg commented positively on his Wild Drive experience at NW Trek last weekend.

**ADJOURN:**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary