



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 12, 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

Spring/ Summer Operations Update

Sarah Oliver, Deputy Director at Point Defiance Zoo began the presentation by sharing updates for the Zoo. She noted that operations will be continuing as they are turning up the dial just slightly. This includes continuation of timed ticketing to maintain capacity control, café and retail being operated in accordance with Washington State Health guidelines, maintaining social distancing requirements, and continuation of household offered experiences such as the Shark Dive. It was noted that Zoo summer camps are planned to occur with reduced capacity and under specific guidelines including consistent cohorts and outdoor activities. Contact Junction goat petting experience is also planned to re-open Memorial Day Weekend if the county moves into Phase 3, however Kids Zone will remain closed.

Rick Dietz, Deputy Director at NW Trek noted that there will be very little adjustment for the summer. Mr. Dietz commented that like the Zoo, Trek will continue with timed ticketing, café and retail will be based on Health Washington Requirements, and focusing on maintaining social distancing of guests. He commented that the trams will not be operating but Wild Drive will continue. Kids Trek outdoor play remains open but indoor spaces at Trek will remain closed.

Joe Brady, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation commented on Meadow Park Golf Course. Mr. Brady stated that Meadow Park continues to do well during COVID and will be offering program and classes over the summer. He also noted that league play is being scheduled for the summer months. In addition, Mr. Brady commented that there will be some capital projects and improvements occurring at the course including driving range net replacement and, irrigation work, and repair to the cart bridge on Hole #13. Board members were informed that staff is working on a compressed tee time schedule to help with increased demand, along with addressing parking lot challenges that come with that increased demand. Mr. Brady reminded the Board that master planning efforts related to the golf course are planned to begin in the fall. There was brief discussion amongst staff and the Board about the new punch card system replacing the annual pass offering.

Mr. Brady announced that Tracy McKendry has been hired as the new Boat House Marina Supervisor. Mr. Brady commented that it looks like live herring sales will be back at the Marina. Staff commented that boat and motor fleet has doubled in size as the boating program

is growing in popularity. In addition, the Marina is experiencing record boat storage levels for spring at a 93% occupancy rate.

It was shared with the Board that a partnership with Tacoma Public Schools and the Puyallup Tribe is planned at Marina with a salmon rearing pen project. Mr. Brady indicated that a proposed fishing season expansion is being discussed which would add 3 additional months of fishing opportunities. Board members were reminded that monthly beach cleanups are occurring every 3rd Saturday around the Marina & waterfront. Mr. Brady concluded the summary of the Boathouse Marina by noting that three upcoming fishing derbies are planned: July 28th, August 7th & 14th.

Mr. Brady continued by summarizing operations at Fort Nisqually. At Fort Nisqually, Phase 3 operations would allow for up to 600 people at one time with building capacity at 50%. Staff noted that the visitor center will plan to reopen in July and that youth day camps are planned in July and August in accordance with state guidance. Staff is also beginning to plan for the brigade encampment event to occur on August 14th and 15th. Virtual programming at the Fort remains popular and will continue with virtual field trips and programs as well as Fort Nisqually 3-D.

Mr. Brady then quickly commented on the City's progress on their micro-mobility program. He noted that the City of Tacoma has contracted with RAZOR Scooters for a one-year program. Mr. Brady noted that the contract includes indemnity agreements with Metro Parks Tacoma. The planned launch for the scooter program is mid may through early June of this year. Mr. Brady also noted that up to 750 scooters will be permitted with at least 50% of the scooters being located outside of downtown and Ruston. Brief discussion ensued between staff and the Park Board regarding safety of the scooter program.

Hollie Rogge, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation was then introduced. Ms. Rogge commented that after closure of a year the District will be reopening community centers. She noted that the District is busy preparing for this including hiring 80 people. Ms. Rogge commented that an all center pass providing individuals with access to all centers will be the model used. As centers being to re-open there will be reduced hours and limited offerings. Staff indicated that to welcome the community back to the centers the District will be offering free access to the public through June of 2021. People's Center and pool will open April 19th and Norpoint will open April 20th. Star Center and Eastside Community Center will open April 26th. Ms. Rogge Commented that finding certified pool staff is becoming a challenge that is being seen nationwide. Staff is planning to open the Norpoint pool on April 27th and open the pool at Eastside on May 3rd provided that the pools can be staff appropriately. Ms. Rogge also commented that Centers will be closed one day a week with a plan to expand hours in July. In addition, People's Center and Star Center will have limited hours through June due to the distance learning camps that are serving Tacoma students. Activities in the centers will including dance, fitness, swimming and fitness equipment will be available for use however all will have capacity restrictions based on current state guidelines. She noted that because of the governor's recent announcement of the return to Phase 2 on April 16th center use will require reservations, capacity of no more than 25% or 200 people, and postponement of group swim lessons.

Ms. Rogge continued the presentation commenting that the programming team has been operating throughout this pandemic, from standing up First Responder Camps, to summer meals, outdoor programming and camps, distance learning camps and current offerings. This team has proven their ability to safely provide opportunities for fun, engagement and exercise through the different phases of WA Safe Start and WA Healthy Start. They are prepared to dial

up as allowed and also, dial back operations and capacity as required for safe, healthy and fun operations.

Staff indicated that this spring and summer, this District will be offering virtual and in person options for various programs including the following:

- Arts - dance (jazz, ballet and hip hop), performing arts camps and other camps like Shakespeare in the Park
- Fitness - outdoor fitness, martial arts, yoga
- Outdoor Adventures – urban biking club, outdoor leadership club, adult hiking club, kayaking and introduction to kayaking
- Camps – Spring break and summer break camps
- Sports – Youth (Elementary soccer and after school fun baseball, Skyhawks, tennis, volleyball, soccer and skateboarding camp), for adults we are offering field rentals and are booking up quickly

In addition, the District will offer a variety of camps this year in parks both in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools (Fern Hill and Jason Lee) as well as summer camps at Titlow, Center at Norpoint and Wapato. Staff also announced that summer meals program will be back.

Ms. Rogge comment that MPT is collaborating with Pierce County to provide an expanded Specialized Recreation program in Tacoma and across the County. Due to current phasing, programs are more limited. However, Pierce County is offering virtual programs, as well as in person opportunities like art classes, functional fitness, bowling, social connection opportunities and a walking club. District staff is looking forward to expanded programs, including Special Olympics as the phasing allows.

In the area of adaptive programs, the District is planning approximately 5 weeks of in person camps for youth who have disabilities and are Tacoma Public School students. The District will be following COVID guidelines/ restrictions according to current phasing. MPT will also be providing limited adaptive recreational sports programming as phasing allows. Staff is in the planning phases and will likely be offering adaptive cycling and a few adaptive fitness related classes in outdoor spaces. Ms. Rogge comment that overall, staff is anticipating a cautious start, and will ensure safety and comfort for participants.

Staff also announced they intend to open outdoor pools and spraygrounds on July 1st, all subject to phasing restrictions and requirements. Staff did note that this may not be feasible to open spraygrounds if the phasing requires the District to manage capacity with monitors.

Lastly, it was noted that the Cruise in Cinema series was a big hit last year and will be back each weekend in August, providing a great night out for fun family time.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Hanberg at 6:04 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Parks Equity Emphasis Team

Mary Anderson was introduced and commented that in the fall of 2020 a team of parks staff was assembled to focus on giving attention to some of the under served parks in the District. She commented that the team focused on making parks more inviting by planting trees,

spreading fresh wood chips, pressure washing play structures and general clean up. Projects occurred at Lots for Tots, Lincoln Heights, Oakland Madrona, Wapato, McKinley, Ryan's, and Eastside Community Center grounds. Park Leads, Bryan Vaughn and Nick Andren and their team were recognized for their great work on these projects. It was stated that the team will continue this work this coming fall and be focusing on prioritizing new projects, upgrading site furnishings and planting new trees.

Employee Retirement

Point Defiance Zoo Employee, Mark Nayer was recognized and thanked by the Board and staff on the occasion of his upcoming retirement from MPT. A diver at the zoo, Mr. Nayer has been an employee of the District since 2015 and has volunteered at the Zoo since 2003.

Earth Day Proclamation

Richard Madison was introduced and spoke about the 20th Parks Appreciation Day on April 24th. Mr. Madison noted that this year's sites include: Charlotte's Blueberry Park, Dickman Mill Park, Point Defiance Park, Ryan's Park, Titlow Park, & Wapato Park. It was noted that because April is considered earth month there are events planned in the area during the entire month via Earth Day South Sound.

President Hanberg then read a proclamation thereby proclaiming April 24th as Parks Appreciation Day and the month of April as Earth Month.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Hanberg encouraged individuals to continue to wear masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Join Municipal Action Committee

Commissioners Smith commented that JMAC met last Friday. The committee discussed the recent self-assessment conducted by JMAC to identify topics of focus for the committee.

Active Lifestyle & Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Pointer commented that this council met on March 25th. He noted that agenda items and discussion were focused around the Move Your Way initiative, and challenges related to equity and diversity in park usage. Currently the committee is recruiting for new members.

Baseball Committee

Commissioner Pointer commented that he recently was a guest speaker at a panel discussion hosted by the Buffalo Soldiers of Tacoma. As speaker on the panel Commissioner Pointer shared his experiences of playing professional baseball as an African American in south in the 1960s.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS None

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 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. C28-21: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR MARCH 2021

RESOLUTION NO. C29-21: EXTENDING CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS TERMS

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P30-21: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. PIERCE COUNTY FOR SPECIALIZED RECREATION SERVICES COUNTY WIDE, INCLUDING SERVING CITY OF TACOMA RESIDENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR 2021/22
2. PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR SUPPORT OF A COORDINATED, REGIONAL, COMMUNITY GARDENS, URBAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000

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

Marina Becker stated that the District is partnering with Pierce County to expand the specialized recreation program. Ms. Becker indicated the goal of the expansion is to alleviate barriers and provide more recreational opportunities in more spaces to serve a greater number of participants. It was noted that one of the two Metro Parks staff members in this program did apply for one of the positions with Pierce County.

President Hanberg commented that he is somewhat concerned that the new experiences are being offered through the County rather than through MPT. Commissioners Reid & Pointer commented that perhaps that MPT should be the lead on this partnership rather than the County. Commissioner Smith requested additional detail relative to the County's contribution and budget for this program.

Shon Sylvia commented that the new partnership model is focused on equity and access for this population of participants. He noted that the model will leverage access through out the county as well as Tacoma and serve more individuals.

Marina Becker commented that item 2 is for the MOU that will allow for the management of the community garden program. She noted that this arrangement has been in place since 2014.

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. PW31-21: DICKMAN MILL PARK EXPANSION & HEAD SAW CONTRACT AMENDMENT #7 TO ANCHOR QEA

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

Debbie Terwilleger commented that this item was discussed at the CIC on March 24th. This resolution authorizes a contract amendment #7 for Anchor QEA to provide extended construction-phase support for the Dickman Mill Expansion and Head Saw Project and supplemental re-design services for the upland plaza required to adjust to unknown obstructions encountered during pile driving, in the amount of \$40,033.00. Ms. Terwilleger commented that even with this change order the contingency budget remains healthy.

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

RESOLUTION NO. RR32-21: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AND EXECUTION OF A FINANCING CONTRACT AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF SAID PERSONAL PROPERTY

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

Erwin Vidallon commented that this resolution seeks Board approval to enable the Executive Director to enter into the necessary loan agreements and related documentation for the financing of the purchase and acquisition of NW Trek trams that were approved for purchase in August of 2019.

Mr. Vidallon noted that financing will be processed through the Office of the State Treasurer (OST) LOCAL Program. The program provides municipalities with a cost-effective way to finance equipment and/or real estate projects.

Staff further stated that the District will be requesting the financing in phases based on OST's funding availability and process. Participants in this program must directly pay for the equipment and be in possession of the equipment prior to applying for the financing. The Board was informed that the District will process the financing accordingly:

- Trams 1 and 2 – scheduled delivery by April 2021 and financed in June 2021.
- Trams 3 and 4 – scheduled delivery by July 2021 and financed in October 2021.
- Trams 5 and 6 – scheduled delivery by March 2022 and financed in June 2022.

Commissioner Smith suggested staff investigate savings related to currency used to pay the vendor since they are located in Portugal.

Being no additional comments, the resolution moves to second reading on April 26th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Reid reflected on and thanked staff on the way the District is rebounding from the pandemic in a years’ time.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary