



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 26, 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**

**Q1 2021 CAPITAL PROGRAM UPDATE**

Marty Stump, Deputy Director of Planning opened the presentation by reviewing the 2014 bond project categories and noting that the capital spending plan for 21/22 is \$50M. Mr. Stump reminded that Board of the capital project priorities that were identified at the Board retreat earlier this year as follows:

- Continuation of Projects in Progress
- Neighborhood & Community Parks in Priority Areas
- Critical Infrastructure Projects
- Planning Projects
- Upcoming Leveraged Projects

Mr. Stump then briefly noted the following projects completed in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 which included:

- Norpoint Roof
- Meadow Park Clubhouse Foundation
- TPL First Creek Community Space
- People's Center HVAC Replacement
- PD Waterfront Phase I Close-Out

The list for projects currently in construction during Q1 were then reviewed with the Board, they include:

- Swan Creek Park Phase II Improvements
- Pt. Defiance Park - Owen Beach Improvements
- Dickman Mill Park
- Pt. Defiance Park - WP1 Signage
- PDZA Walrus Exhibit Glass Replacement
- PDZA Bugs Alive Pollinator Garden
- MPT Headquarters Renovations
- NW Trek Water Systems Improvements
- Eastside Community Center Close-Out
- Dawson Park (Pierce County Parks)

Staff reviewed construction photos of Swan Creek and Owen Beach highlighting the major infrastructure work being done at both of those park locations.

Mr. Stump also reviewed several photos of the work being done at Dickman Mill Park, noting the historic Headsaw is being refurbished and is scheduled to return in early May. He noted the public art project that will be installed as well.

Commissioner Pointer asked about repairs to the STAR Center outdoor playground surface. Mr. Stump noted that surface did not hold up well and staff plans to replace the surface as it is in the two-year CIP.

Commissioner Pointer also asked about the signage at Jack Tanner Park. Staff noted that signage has been installed at the north edge of the park.

A list of projects to address critical infrastructure needs that are currently in the design phase for Q1 was then shared with the Board. Those projects include:

- Gas Station Park Improvements
- TPS Green School Yards
- Jennie Reed and Stafford
- Titlow Park North Hidden Beach Planning
- Titlow Park Lagoon Restoration & RR Trestle
- Pt. Defiance Park Loop Trail
- Fort Nisqually Clerks House and Building renovation
- Tacoma Nature Center Building and ADA
- PDZA SPA Tank Improvements
- COT Water Flume Trail

Discussion between Board members and staff then ensued about the multiple sub projects that fall under the Titlow Park Improvements. Mr. Stump emphasized the need to review the elements of the Titlow Master plan with the Board as it includes design work to the North Hidden Beach and Titlow Lagoon restoration. Mr. Stump also commented that the City is working on railroad safety improvements at the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossing. Mr. Stump reviewed several slides highlighting design options for North Hidden Beach and the culvert remodel & replacement bridge at the lagoon.

Commissioner Hanberg asked about timing on the Tiltow projects. Mr. Stump commented that design could take about 18 months, and construction could take up to two years.

Mr. Stump then reviewed the list of Q1 projects in the permitting and bidding phase as follows:

- NW Trek Tram Station
- Melanie's Park at Foss Waterway
- Pt. Defiance Park Marina Renovations
- Pt. Defiance Park Sanitary Sewer Lift Station
- Meadow Park Golf Course Driving Range Netting
- Meadow Park Irrigation Pumps
- MPGC Hole #13 Bridge Renovation
- WW Seymour Conservatory Rehabilitation
- Tacoma Nature Center Building and ADA
- Portland Ave Park - Demo Phase
- Browns Point Playfield Improvements

Staff also commented on the status of the public art projects around the District including the Ghost Log project at Dickman Mill and the mural at Eastside Community Center.

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****EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS**

The following new employees and full time employees receiving promotions were introduced to the Board; Sheila Maida, Tracy McKendry, Dave Horstman, Dave Iverson, Mike Bornander & Ross Wilton.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** None**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS****Nature & Environment Advisory Council**

Commissioners Reid commented the council met on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included a history on the Heidelberg Sports Complex and a presentation by the District's Equity & Outreach Team.

**Greater Tacoma Community Foundation**

Commission Smith commented that she attended the last GMPF meeting. She noted that the foundation is currently running a very successful campaign for supporting the McKinney Vento kids.

**Cultural & Heritage Advisory Council**

Commissioner Smith commented that at this month's meeting the council discussed the role they have as an MT advisory council. The council plans to spend time reviewing the proposed updates to the Advisory Council Handbook with a DEI lens. The council is currently recruiting new members.

**Active Lifestyle & Community Wellness Advisory Council**

Commissioner Pointer commented at the last council meeting the council welcomed a new member and extended a membership for those who served during 2020. Planning staff attended the meeting to share Dickman Mill Park project information. The council may be planning a site visit to the park.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Debbie Terwilleger filling in for Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Today the District opened Eastside Community Center and STAR Center and tomorrow the District will opening Norpoint Pool for our community members. All four Community Centers are re-opened in some capacity.
- Despite a wet and rainy day, 103 volunteers showed up to work at six sites on Saturday for Parks Appreciation Day. Volunteers did path work at Titlow, mulch at Point Defiance, litter and blackberry removal at Wapato and sign sprucing at Charlottes Blueberry Park. Ryan's Park received some entrance work, while volunteers continued the fight against blackberries at Dickman Mill.
- Fort Nisqually Living History Museum supervisor, Jim Lauderdale has been elected to serve a six-year term on the board of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). Beginning in June, he will serve two years as vice-

president of the Board, followed by two years in the presidency, and concluding his term serving as past-president.

Fort Nisqually is slated to host the ALHFAM annual conference next year - planned for June 23-28, 2022.

- Hunter George was introduced to give a State legislative update. Mr. George reported on the following:
  - Operating Budget includes a Parks Prescription Pilot Program that will provide 3 case studies in partnership with public health, health care providers, and others. MPT is prepared to manage one of those case studies.
  - The Operating Budget includes a pilot project to streamline childcare licensing processes and strengthen the ability to leverage existing public infrastructure and expertise in the childcare sector. MPT are prepared to work with the state on this.
  - The Operating Budget includes \$33.4 million for King, Snohomish and Pierce counties to distribute Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA) funds to benefit children and youth. MPT is talking with partners about next steps.
  - The Capital Budget includes \$515,000 to plan and redevelop the formerly contaminated Gas Station Park property in the South End.
  - The Capital Budget also includes \$1.5 million to support the partnership with Trust for Public Land to develop portions of six school properties into parks.
  - The Capital Budget funds the state Heritage Projects list, which includes \$378,000 for Fort Nisqually phase II improvements, which address buildings erected in the 1930s: the Clerk's House (Montgomery House), the Sale House, and the Kitchen.
  - MPT and WRPA sought more resilient tools to enable recovery from millions of dollars in revenue losses. While the Legislature declined to authorize WRPA's request for additional sales tax authority, the Legislature did make extraordinary investments in a number of categories. Staff will be studying those to see how they might apply to MPT.
  - No transportation revenue package, yet. The House and Senate were not able to reach an agreement on a transportation revenue package, so they approved a status quo transportation operating budget. The House version of the proposed revenue package includes a significant investment in the Schuster Parkway trail. It's widely believed that Democratic leaders in both chambers will attempt to work out their differences and possibly approve a transportation revenue package in a special session later this year, or they may wait until the 2022 session.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Madison Huffman submitted a written comment to the Board raising awareness of the skateboarding community and the request for additional skate parks in Tacoma.

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 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** None

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SECOND READINGS 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**

This resolution was moved and seconded at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

Erwin Vidallon stated that he followed up on the question raised by Commissioner Smith at the first reading regarding currency for the purchase. Mr. Vidallon stated that contract for this purchase specifies that payment must be made in US dollars.

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

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ASSETS DEACCESSION PROCESS REVIEW**

Debbie Terwilleger commented that staff is planning to bring forward a resolution for the deaccession of the Never Never Land Figurine collection for Board consideration on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Terwilleger stated that the District has an adopted policy that provides guidance for the deaccession process. A process flow chart was then reviewed by staff. Ms. Terwilleger noted that the process includes review by the Arts & Heritage Advisory Council, followed by a recommendation to the executive director, and finally a Park Board resolution.

Commissioner Smith commented that this deaccession proposal was discussed and reviewed by the Cultural & Heritage Advisory Council with a recommendation for deaccession of these items and sale of these items via auction.

Commissioner Baines commented that he supports the recommendation but requested that culturally insensitive figurines be destroyed.

Commissioner Hanberg requested that the future support memo, resolution and presentation include how the programming plans for Point Defiance were developed with the community.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Smith commented that she was happy to be backed to the People’s Center last week.

Commissioner Reid commented on the great volunteers that worked at the Titlow Park site on Parks Appreciation Day.

Commissioner Baines emphasized the need for the District to keep the parks as clean as possible now that they are being used as the spring weather gets nicer.

**ADJOURN:**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm

**APPROVED:**

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary