



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 15, 2021**

PRESENT:

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

IN THE CHAIR: Erik Hanberg

PLACE: Remote Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Hanberg at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 18, 2020 Minutes

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed on a vote of 5-0.

ENVISION OUR WATERFRONT UPDATE

Shon Sylvia stated that at last week's Board retreat staff highlighted numerous topics that that will require multiple touch points throughout the year with the Board.

Debbie Terwilleger commented that this initial part of the project wrapped up in December 2019. As a result of COVID 19, staff has not brought the project status to the Board. Ms. Terwilleger stated that this project began in September 2017 and continued through Spring 2019, with a final stake holders meeting held in December 2019.

Staff commented that the work started with a with a gap analysis consisting of community outreach and workshops. From that outreach three guiding principles emerged as noted below:

1. Stories: Tacoma has an opportunity to tell a larger story about national leadership in proactively addressing critical issues around climate change and social equity

2. Equity and accessible: An equitable waterfront reduces barriers to access, promotes stewardship, and supports intercultural experiences

3. Resilience: Sustainable, collaborative efforts that respond to changing conditions will provide for essential functionality or future generations.

In addition to the guiding principles, Ms. Terwilleger commented that five themes resulted from the community and stakeholder outreach. The five themes were outlined as followed:

1. Welcoming Waterfront - Ms. Terwilleger commented that strategies to achieve a welcoming waterfront are identified through the creation an advisory process, promote culture of water stewardship, consolidate uses as private business where it is most appropriate, as well as provide affordable & cultural appropriate offerings.

Staff commented that these strategies could be fulfilled by expanded water use, expanded recreation opportunities, diverse programming, and offering affordable amenities to the community.

2. Direct Multi Benefit solutions – Ms. Terwilleger commented that this theme is supported by the idea that that City and Metro Parks will need to make large investment in infrastructure in a coordinated fashion. She noted that making sure projects and improvements have multiple benefits, so as to address several different issues makes sense in many ways including that it ranks higher when seeking funding and helps reduce future costs.

Ms. Terwilleger commented that suggested strategies to achieve multi-benefit solutions include assessing underwater buffers, natural protection waves, managing flooding, and working towards natural slope preservation.

Commissioner Baines commented that he is supportive of these strategies as they the support environmental protection and could help with public access as well.

3. A Natural Waterfront- Ms. Terwilleger commented that the third theme supports the idea of developing a more naturalized shoreline to provide greater protection from sea level rise.

Ms. Terwilleger commented that ways to achieve a Natural Waterfront include: deep water habitat, enhancing ecological diversity, shallow water habitat, and ensuring public access along the waterfront that is safe. She further stated that all the forementioned would require significant research and exploration. Ms. Terwilleger commented that there are significant opportunities with this type of work however, there are barriers that are existing related to the railroad & gulches.

4. A Space for Everyone- Ms. Terwilleger commented that this theme is inclusive of the notion of supporting active transportation like walking and cycling over single occupancy vehicles. She noted that recommend strategies include seeking to support mass transit & multimodal means of transportation. Staff commented that tactics to address these strategies includes things such as separating fast moving activities like cycling and skating form pedestrian spaces. In addition, Ms. Terwilleger stated that this requires development a cohesive corridor parking strategy and management plan, and linking Pt Defiance/Pt Ruston

and downtown. Staff also commented that consolidating parking adjacent to compatible uses and enhance neighborhood connectivity is key.

Commissioner Baines commented that he supports this theme and agrees that working more with the public transit system is going to be key.

5. Adaption of valuable spaces: Staff commented that revising policy based on science and creating a shared governance structure to provide cohesive guidance for interagency stewardship is key.

Ms. Terwilleger commented that consulting with the Puyallup Tribe to identify areas of cultural and historic significance and areas for ecological enhancement remains important.

Commissioner Pointer inquired if Point Ruston was involved in any of this process?

Staff indicated that Point Ruston was interested and provided feedback during the charette process. It was noted that next steps include more engagement with private entities along with the community.

Ms. Terwilleger that that next steps include work in three major areas: data collection, governance, and implementation.

Staff noted that a call for additional studies related to shoreline, transportation and equity centered corridor valuation are needed. Additionally, to address governance it was recommended that a community advisory board be formed, policy review and updates occur, and funding & partnership be explored.

Staff followed by commenting that implementation can be addressed by moving on opportunities for pilot projects, asset management, master planning, maintenance, and management.

Debbie Terwilliger comment that she will follow up to this presentation by sending the complete report to the Board.

Commissioner Hanberg commented that he feels this study is not complete. He noted that he is looking for more information and expected more specific recommendations. Commissioner Reid commented this a huge plan that will set the vision for the long-term vision for the waterfront. He noted that implementation costs will be significant but can be done in small increments.

Staff comment that this is a visioning report not a master plan.

Ms. Terwilleger advised the Board the adopting a vision plan will be helpful in setting future policy that can impact future master planning. She also stated that City can decide if they might do the same.

Conversation amongst staff and the Board ensued about the how adopted plans usually carry more weight and provide clearer direction in setting priorities.

Marty Stump then commented that MPT and the City are working together on climate action plan as well. Mr. Stump emphasized the coordination for any planning as this ribbon of land is both private and public.

Staff also indicated that they are working to gathering ideas for pilot projects that could be used for federal funding requests.

Jim Parvey representing the City of Tacoma was then introduced to review the 2021 City Climate Action Plan. Mr. Parvey noted the guiding principles of the plan as follows:

- Act locally and collaboratively with ambition and urgency
- Lead with racial justice and equity
- Build transformational solutions for enduring community recovery
- Prioritize health and other co-benefits Make decisions based on science and data, including community expertise and input
- Be transparent and accountable

Mr. Parvey commented that the first edition of the City's plan was done in 2016, the second edition is scheduled for completion by the end of 2021. He noted that the City remains committed to focus more intently on community outreach as the plan is developed.

Joe Brady was then introduced and spoke about the on-going maintenance and management of Ruston Way including tree management, sidewalk repair, and site furnishings. Mr. Brady noted these continuations improvements are phased and address the safety along the Ruston Way waterfront.

Commissioner Pointer requested that a different tree species be considered when planting along Ruston Way as to help avoid future deterioration of the sidewalks.

OTHER

PDZA Walrus Glass replacement

Shon Sylvia commented that on November 17, 2020 the PDZA Walrus Glass Replacement was declared an Emergency and the bid was originally awarded to Tradewinds Construction. They declined to sign the contract. Therefore, the District has now awarded the work to Legacy Renovation Product Services. A memo with the details was sent to the Board on March 11, 2021.

Parking at Dune Peninsula at Point Defiance Park

Commissioner Pointer recommended a more coordinated approach related to parking at Point Ruston as their visitors are parking at Dune Peninsula, leaving no parking available for park visitors.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President Reid adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary