



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Jessie Baines Jr.

IN THE CHAIR: Erik Hanberg

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters and via ZOOM

STUDY SESSION

Portland Avenue Planning and Outreach

Marty Stump began the presentation by reminding the Board about the history, development and uses of Portland Avenue Park. He noted that since the 1930's when the park was built that the neighborhood has always participated in the park and its evolution. Mr. Stump remarked that the wading pool was built in 1949 and is the last wading pool in the system. The community center on the site was built in 1989. The Board was reminded that in 2007 a plan was prepared for the park, the plan included a water play feature upgrade and future improvements. Mr. Stump stated that funding from the 2005 Bond paid for playground upgrades, modest improvements to the community center and renovation of the restroom building. Board members were reminded that from 2018 through 2020 the KWA occupied the building, but it remains vacant at this time. Staff commented that the Tacoma Rugby Club continues to use the fields at the park.

Mr. Stump stated that there are several capital issues underway for the park. He noted that the intent was to move forward with demolition of restrooms and the wading pool as they have outlived their effective lifespan. Staff indicated that although a replacement plan of these facilities is absent at this particular time that sometimes leaving facilities in a deteriorated state can lead to issues such as vandalism. Mr. Stump then commented that in addition to the demolition the fire remediation at the community center is also on the docket of projects to tend to. Mr. Stump further explained that furthermore details related to TERO Program has also come to light and is effecting the forementioned projects.

Mr. Stump commented the TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) is a program to remove employment barriers from Native Americans living on and off the reservation by providing employment referrals, support services, job training, and other situations as they may arise; as well as to assist native owned business and locating projects, legal counsel, outreach, and other support services to provide them the opportunity to better grow their businesses. Mr. Stump commented that the District is continuing to learn more about this program as they were unaware of it when the bid package for the wading pool demolition was developed. The Board was informed that staff will be going through training about this program later in the month. Discussion ensued about the benefits of the program to both tribal members and MPT.

Mr. Stump commented that planning staff has been engaging with the Tribe to learn more about their interests in the site. He reminded the Board that getting into the community early remains important before any plans are developed. It was noted that understanding future programming needs of the community will affect the capital side of improvements that will occur at Portland Avenue.

Staff commented that that recommended next steps include: vacating current bids for the wading pool and restroom project and rebidding with TERO criteria , engaging further with the Puyallup Tribal Council and staff, continuing public outreach and engagement for Portland Ave. Park and facility planning, completing the fire remediation project, continuing with a near term focus upon current and future activation, and dialogue with the Park Board on tribal issues.

Commissioner Reid encouraged continued work with the Tacoma Rugby Club as planning moves forward.

President Hanberg asked if staff could consider other options for restrooms if the old ones are demolished.

Staff commented that there is funding from the 2014 Bond for the demolition and future planning of the park. Commissioner Hanberg suggested reprioritizing from other areas of funding from the 2014 bond to be used for improvements at Portland Avenue Park.

REGULAR MEETING

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Hanberg thanked all in attendance for masking up.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Zoo Liaison Committee

Commissioner Smith noted that the committee met on September 7th. The committee was informed that the new NW Trek Trams are in transit.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Smith noted that the committee met on September 10th . She commented that the committee is continuing to work in preparation for the Summit of 60 planned for October 15th. At this point the Summit is being planned as in person event.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Alan Varsik was called upon and introduced new employee, Danna Molidor.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Curt Mehlhaff commented on the extinction of species globally and encouraged the District to do more in the way of protecting the environment.

Ryan McHugh representing The Tacoma Rugby Club noted that he has spoken with staff about the restroom and wading pool demolition proposal. Mr. McHugh noted that he feels the restrooms are still in good condition and tearing down a storage shed without a plan makes the

park less usable. He encouraged Metro Parks to continue to keep Portland Ave. Park as an active space.

Scott Barney Rapp commented that he has been part of the Tacoma Rugby Club since 1976. He commented that the club views this as a great community space and wants to continue to work with the District to continue to partner to make the park more accessible to all.

Nancy Chapa commented that she lives near Baltimore Park and is concerned about the City of Tacoma’s traffic mitigation project that redirects traffic to Baltimore St. & North 46th St. She noted that safety concerns she and neighbors have by directing more traffic into their neighborhood. She encouraged MPT staff and Board to attend an upcoming neighborhood town hall meeting.

Charles Ulufale commented that he currently runs the youth side of the Tacoma Rugby Club. He spoke of the positive impacts being involved with the club has had on their youth participants which have greatly increased.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 23, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being absent).

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C57-21: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR AUGUST 2021

RESOLUTION NO. C58-21: DICKMAN MILL PARK EXPANSION AND HEAD SAW PROJECT NO. J2020-14 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO REDSIDE CONSTRUCTION

RESOLUTION NO. C59-21: AUTHORIZING SURPLUS AND DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being absent).

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. PW60-21: PORTLAND AVENUE PARK WADING POOL AND RESTROOM DEMOLITION AND SITE STABILIZATION- REJECTION OF BIDS FOR BID J2021-11

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

Debbie Terwilleger commented stated that there were there responsive bids for the Portland Avenue Park Wading Pool and Restroom Demolition and Site Stabilization and all bids where responsive and the low bid was within budget.

Ms. Terwilleger stated that as explained during the study session the reasons for rejecting the bid are that the District has just learned about a program called TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) and that it is enforced within the Tribal Boundaries set for in the 1990 Treaty. Portland Avenue Park is within that boundary and MPT would like to understand TERO, its compliance requirements and the opportunities it provides to the local community. Staff commented that this project can be rebid at a later date to accommodate this new program if required.

Commissioners Reid and Hanberg directed staff to include the Tacoma Rugby Club input as things move forward with this project.

Commissioner Hanberg confirmed that this project will be put on hold as TERO and other community concerns are re-evaluated. Staff noted that the timeline will be slowed down and that this may not be re-bid until the Spring.

Being no additional comments, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being absent).

RESOLUTION NO. PW61-21: POINT DEFIANCE SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION BID NO J2021-22, CONTRACT AWARD TO AWARD CONSTRUCTION, INC.

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

Debbie Terwilleger commented that this item was discussed at the September 7th Special CIC meeting. Staff noted the current sanitary sewer lift station located near the Marina at Point Defiance Park has exceeded its effective service life and requires frequent servicing to remain operational unreliable. This project seeks to improve the integrity and sustainability of the current facility , and to implement improvements necessary to extend the effective life of the pumps and associated equipment. Ms. Terwilleger noted that three responsive bids were received. Staff commented that the District has not worked with this contractor before but satisfactory reference checks have been completed. Marty Stump commented that staff is being mindful of delays in the supply chain, and the project is scheduled to begin this Fall.

Commissioner Hanberg inquired as to a portion of funding for the project coming from the zoo and aquarium bond allocation. Staff commented that because all facilities in Point Defiance Park rely on the sanity sewer system, funding is being used from that allocation to support the project.

Being no additional comments, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being absent).

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary