



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Clerk
Erik Hanberg
Tim Reid
Rosie Ayala

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Hybrid Remote Meeting

STUDY SESSION

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Hunter George was introduced to give an update on the current legislative projects.

Mr. George began by reminding the Board that in 2021 the legislature authorized a childcare licensing pilot project. The goal of the project is to streamline processes by establishing organizational licenses for entities with multiple childcare sites. Mr. George then reminded the Board of the benefits of this pilot project which include establishing a central person to manage multiple site licenses and making services available to more families through state childcare subsidies. Mr. George then commented on a few details related to the pilot project including the scope which includes 3 to 7 sites per organization, Metro Parks Tacoma will have three sites which are Eastside Community Center, People's Center, and STAR Center. Mr. George then commented that there is a three-year timeline on this pilot project which will allow for collection of data and a report to the legislature culminating in a 2025 ask to the legislature to fully implement this program.

Mr. George then comment on the Parks Rx pilot project. Mr. George reminded the Board that this project was authorized by the legislature in 2021 thanks to Senator T'wina Nobles. The Board was reminded that studies prove health benefits of spending time in nature and participating in active lifestyle choices. The budget proviso in place recommends the design of three pilot Parks Rx projects in the state, modeling agreements to enable insurers to offer incentives to employers, and public-private partnerships. Mr. George continued by noting that the Parks Rx pilot project is facilitated by the Washington Department of Health and a 14-member state task force. Staff then highlighted some of the challenges related to this project including connecting to insurance, making sure the initiative is equitable, and getting stakeholders to see the benefits beyond just exposure to nature. Mr. George then commented that a report will go to the legislature this summer and will ask them to fund a pilot program in 2023.

Mr. George then remarked on current legislative initiatives for the District. It was noted that a capital budget request has made relative to work on Dash Point Pier, Titlow Park/Hidden Beach bridge, and pedestrian bridge at Swan Creek. It was explained that Titlow Bridge is in both budgets, with the House on the higher level at \$350,000. Staff indicated that the District will continue with lobbying work to hopefully get Dash Point and Swan Creek included into the

budget. It was further noted that the derelict vessel program has bipartisan support for an extra \$8 million. The Board was also informed that that the local parks sales tax initiative being spearheaded by WRPA is dead for the session; WRPA will be seeking a new strategy in moving that initiative forward in the future.

REGULAR MEETING

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

Commissioner Hanberg moved to amend the meeting agenda for the purpose of adding Resolution No. R15-22; seconded and passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Greater Metro Parks Foundation

Teri Moore, Executive Director of the Foundation was present to inform the Board of the Foundation's work over the past year.

Ms. Moore showed several slides that introduced the Foundation's Board and staff members. She then highlighted shadow outcomes such as securing a \$230,000 Seek grant, & application for a second SEEK grant for 2022, and private unveiling of the Billy Ray Shirley sculpture at ESCC. Ms. Moore then noted several organizational improvements included activating a benefits package for the foundation staff, creating an employee handbook, and making several improvements around accounting and investment policies was achieved over the past year. Ms. Moore then commented on some account clean-up resulting in a transfer of \$753,743 to the Eastside Endowment and distribution of funds for Zina Linnk Park at over \$173,000. Board members were the informed that the Foundation was successful in 81% of its grant applications resulting in \$466,842 in 2021.

Other notable highlights for the Foundation for 2021 included supporting the park bench memorials program, supporting Melanie's Park donor stewardship and supporting the Conservatory Foundation campaign.

Commissioner Hanberg commented on the great work and success of the Foundation. He inquired as to whether the Foundation may consider the name change as recommended in a past report. Ms. Moore indicated that the Foundation Board is continuing to discuss that recommendation.

Zoo Society

Ruthann Howell, Executive Director of the Zoo Society was introduced to give a summary of the Society's work in 2021 and plans for 2022.

Ms. Howell noted the following society highlights: met budgeted obligations to the zoo, increased generosity to the community, exceeded revenue goals, acquired 449 new donors, continued to see high board engagement and 100% board giving, created a new website and VSG marketing contract, and increased bequest requests. Ms. Howell then highlighted some

specific funding amounts related to certain areas including \$25,000 for Zoo support in programs; \$125,000 for JEDAI; \$193,000 for conservation; \$100,000 for education programs; and \$320,000 for animal care. Ms. Howell then commented on 2022 key focus areas for the Society including utilizing the skills and talents of increased staffing to generate support for the Zoo, continuing to build the board as well as increased representation of the community, providing more opportunities for supporters to be on grounds and have meaningful experiences, building more grant funding opportunities, and continuation of building towards a future capital campaign.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented that the Board will resume in-person Regular Board meetings beginning March 14th.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala commented that she recently attend the council's meeting. The council discussed the mural unveiling event at the Eastside Community Center.

President Smith and Commissioner Reid commented on the success of the recent Zoo Volunteer Recognition event. President Smith commented that over the past year volunteers contributed over 12,000 hours equating to about \$408,000.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Staff is canceling the CIC meeting for Wednesday, March 2nd.
- Staff is planning a COW meeting for Monday, March 21st.
- Alan Varsik introduced new Zoo Employee Lindsey Justin

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Heidi Stephens commented that she is displeased to hear about the Asia Pacific Cultural Center's future plans to demo the existing USO building, noting that as it is more environmentally sustainable to improve the current building. Ms. Stephens also commented she has concerns about the removal of mature trees as improvements at Owen Beach are occurring. Ms. Stephens also commented that she has concerns related to the City's lack of progress to take any action related to the green space above the aquifer in South Tacoma.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C9-22: ACCEPTING 2021 MEMBERSHIP REVENUE SHARE AND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT FROM W.W. SEYMOUR BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION

RESOLUTION NO. C10-22: ACCEPTING \$408,012.94 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION FOR MULTIPLE METRO PARKS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P11-22: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. LAMAR ADVERTISING FOR BILLBOARD ADVERTISING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$135,000 FOR 2022
2. KAMMIE MCARTHUR/ANDY NORDFORS FOR CREATIVE SERVICES/ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,000 FOR 2022

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

Alan Varsik stated that Lamar has the largest inventory of billboards in the South Sound area. He noted that billboard advertng was reduced a bit during closures resulting from COVID but there is a now a need to increase use of billboards for the Zoo, Zoolights and NW Trek. Mr. Varsik then commented that the contract with McArthur & Nordfors will be focused on building successful summer advertising campaigns for the Zoo and NW Trek.

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. PW12-22: SEYMOUR CONSERVATORY REHABILITATION PEASE CONSTRUCTION – CHANGE ORDER NO. 7

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

Debbie Russell commented that this change order is being requested to account for additional work related to chimney crack repairs and unknown pipe leakage repair. Ms. Russell commented that this item has been reviewed by the CIC.

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

RESOLUTION NO. PW13-22: OWEN BEACH ACCESS BID NO SWR J2022-05,
CONTRACT AWARD TO WILDWOOD CARPENTRY LLC

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

Debbie Russell commented that 4 bids for the project were received. Ms. Russel commented that this project is related to safety improvements for the vehicle entrance to Owen Beach. Commissioner Hanberg noted his concern about tree removal for these improvements. Ms. Russell commented that although there are trees that will be removed, staff has work diligently and have taken great care through the deign process so as to limit the removal of existing trees. President Smith requested additional information from staff related to the contingency costs.

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

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R14-22: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES GRANT: SUMMER EXPERIENCES & ENRICHMENT FOR KIDS FUND (SEEK FUND) A PROGRAM OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OSPI) FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA (MPT) LIFETIME FIELD TRIP ADVENTURES AND TACOMA NATURE CENTER SUMMER PROGRAMS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

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

Joe Brady commented that this resolution will approve funding through the SEEK grant funds administered by AWC. Mr. Brady commented that the funds have been made possible by federal COVID-19 relief funds given to OSPI. Mary Tuttle then commented on the types of field trip and programs that are being offered to the community as a result of the funding. Ms. Tuttle also indicated that the programs have included a meal for participants.

Commissioner Ayala requested addional demographic information on participants that were served with last year's SEEK grant.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R15-22: AMENDING THE OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg

Shon Sylvia began by recognizing the great partnership with the Metro Parks Foundation. He further commented that an amendment is needed at this time to be able to secure additional support and services such as grant writing and other projects from the foundation. Mr. Sylvia noted that the original agreement was for \$650,000, the amendment requested is for \$150,000.

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 Hanberg read a letter of resignation to the Board stating that after twelve years of serving on the Board he has decided to resign due to family and work obligations. He stated he will resign his seat effective March 31, 2022.

President Smith made a motion to accept Commissioner Hanberg’s resignation effective March 31, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Pointer and passed unanimously.

President Smith acknowledged Commissioner Hanberg’s leadership for the past 12 years as a member of the board. President Smith stated she will work with all of the board members and legal counsel to determine the process by which a replacement commissioner will be selected and appointed. That appointment process will be shared with the public at a future Park Board meeting.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary