



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 25, 2022**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters, 4702 S 19<sup>th</sup> St. Tacoma WA

**STUDY SESSION 2022 Q1 CAPITAL UPDATE**

Debbie Russell began the presentation by reminding the Board of the areas of emphasis within the 21/22 Capital Program, including continuation of projects in process, neighborhood & community parks in priority areas, critical infrastructure projects, planning projects, and leveraged projects. Ms. Russell then note that within the 21/22 CIP program there are a total of 85 projects with 23 currently in construction and 38 currently in the planning phase. Ms. Russell then highlighted Q1 2022 projects completed including Swan Creek Phase II, Conservatory Rehabilitation, and Owen Beach renovation. Photos of each of the Projects were shown. Ms. Russell also made note of the other projects competed in Q1 including the following:

- Dash Point Pier Engineering Condition Assessment
- Meadow Park Golf Course Driving Range Net Replacement
- MPT Headquarters Facility Upgrades
- Eastside Community Center Mural
- ECC Billy Ray Sculpture
- Tech Metasys Upgrades (Centralized HVAC control)
- PDZA Walrus Exhibit Glass Replacement
- NW Trek Wells—water system improvements
- PD Waterfront Phase 1 Signage
- PD Vehicle Barriers at selected viewpoints

Ms. Russell then commented on the current projects currently in construction:

- NW Trek Tram Station
- Browns Pt Playfield Tennis Court Replacement
- PD Sanitary Sewer Lift Station
- PD Marina Renovations – Pilings
- PD Marina Renovations - Buildings
- PD Owen Beach Access
- COT Sidewalk Access at People’s Park
- COT 56th Street Sidewalk

- Meadow Park Golf Course – Bridge
- PDZA Bugs Alive Pollinator Garden
- Portland Ave Park Wading Pool Demo

Ms. Russell showed several photos of the Trek Tram Station progress and the Marina pilings project.

The Board was then informed by Ms. Russell about the projects currently in permit/bid or contract including :

- Tacoma Nature Center Building Renovations & ADA
- SERA Playground Surface Replacement
- Pt. Defiance Marina—Building Updates
- Portland Ave Park – Wading Pool Demolition
- Melanie’s Park at Foss Waterway
- Gas Station Park

Projects in pre-design or design were then highlighted by staff as follows:

- TPS Community School Yards
- Jennie Reed and Stafford (Design/Permitting)
- Mann, Whitman and Larchmont (Pre-Design)
- Titlow Park North Hidden Beach Bridge
- Titlow Park Lagoon Restoration & RR Trestle
- Fort Nisqually Clerks House and building renovation.
- PDZA SPA Tank Improvements
- NWT Storage building
- Pt. Defiance Park Loop Trail
- Dash Point Pier and Park Renovation
- Stewart Heights Pool – Mechanical Systems Renovation
- Athletic Facilities with TPS at Lincoln High School /Stanley Elementary

Ms. Russell then commented on the projects that are occurring at Titlow Park including updates to the master plan, Hidden Beach and the Titlow Lagoon.

Commissioner Pointer asked staff to find out what the current situation is with Steamer’s restaurant at Titlow as, the parking lot maybe something MPT could acquire.

Staff also commented on the funding awards for some of the projects including \$400,000 Washington State Commerce Funds for Swan Creek Park Bicycle & Pedestrian Bridge; \$400,000 Washington State RCO Funds for Dash Point Pier Renovation, Engineering; \$400,000 Washington State Commerce Funds for Titlow Park North Hidden Beach Bridge.

Ms. Russell also noted that staff will be applying for RCO grants during its current cycle for Stewart Heights Skate Park, Swan Creek & Ruston Way.

Commissioner Reid briefly commented on the need to continue to pay attention to sea level rise at Ruston Way.

**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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** None**PRESIDENTS REPORT** PARK BOARD VACANCY

President Smith stated that Erik Hanberg resigned from the Park Board effective March 31 2022. On March 14th the Board announced it would be taking applications from the community to fill the vacant position. She noted the Board received 13 applications, noting that the board narrowed it down to 4 applicants. President Smith stated that last week the Park Board and the Advisory Council representatives interviewed the four candidates. The Board conducted the interviews in an open public meeting that was available in person and via Zoom. Commissioner Smith thanked the citizens who suggested questions for the interviews, and she also thanked the Advisory Council members who assisted with the commitment of time in the appointment process. President Smith then publicly thanked the four candidates noting that they were outstanding applicants who showed a commitment to serving the public. President Smith also noted that the Board has received over 30 letters of recommendation for the candidates. Board members then discussed the qualifications of each of the 4 candidates highlighting the following:

Julia Kagochi

- Resident of the Hilltop / Central area of Tacoma
- Passionate about, thought focused and connected on issues related to justice, equity and diversity, which is also her professional focus
- Community involvement as a member of Tacoma Boss Ladies, Peace Community Center, and Hilltop Equity and Access Committee
- Significant work with the Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- Advisory committee noted Julia is forward thinking about parks in the future and not just about the here and now

Michael Liang

- Ten years of employment with the National Parks Service and passionate about public parks and open spaces
- Familiar with developing budgets and with business operations as the Executive Director of Spaceworks through the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Understands partnerships with an established network of public officials, businesses and non-profit leaders to leverage the district's parks and recreation agenda
- Connected with each of the Advisory councils "work plans / areas of expertise"

•Advisory committee noted Michael’s work is relevant to what we do and the examples he provided regarding partnerships, the pillars / platforms resonated with them

Tara Scheidt

- Resident of the Eastside of Tacoma
- Has served and continues to serve as a Leader for the City of Tacoma Neighborhood Council both as an Eastside member and Community Council member along with being a member of the Dometop Neighborhood Alliance and City Club
- Grass roots advocate who understands issues Metro Parks faces in serving all areas of the community
- Passionate about finding solutions to issues
- Advisory committee noted Tara brings incredible things to the table and that she brought up areas they felt were really important

Dean Burke

- Executive Director of Travel Tacoma / Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission
- Extensive network of businesses, associations, non-profit, and local public officials
- Entrepreneurial expertise creating recreational opportunities
- Data driven in making his decisions
- Participated on advisory committees for both Metro Parks and Pierce County Parks
- Advisory committee noted Dean brings a lot to the table with expertise and experience and understands the community well

Commissioner Reid commented that all candidates are excellent, and it is difficult to make a selection.

Commissioner Pointer also commented that all candidates are excellent, and this will not be an easy choice.

Commissioner Ayala acknowledged the process noting that including the public in the process gave the Board a really good opportunity to hear what they care about. She noted that she was appreciate of all the emails of support for all the candidates. Commissioner Ayala also stated that this process helped in identifying competencies and gaps of the current board, and that this appointment may help round those out.

President Smith commented that all letters of support for the candidates received will be entered as part of the public record.

Commissioner Smith stated that although this is a difficult decision after considering all the information the Board now has that Michael Liang would complement the current Board. Commissioner Smith nominated Michael Liang for appointment to Commissioner Hanberg’s position; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the motion passed on a vote of 4-0. Having the unanimous support of the Board Michael Liang was appointed to Commissioner Hanberg's position and upon taking the oath and any other necessary or required steps will be seated effective immediately.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council**

Commissioner Reid stated the council met the second week of April. The committee received a presentation and information from the districts IT manager and HR managers.

**Nature & Environment Advisory Council**

Commissioner Ayala commented that the council met in-person at the STAR Center. She stated that the committee discussed committee member recruitment.

**US Deputy Secretary of Education Visit**

President Smith commented that representatives from Tacoma Public Schools and Metro Parks had an opportunity to meet with the US Deputy Secretary of Education to talk about the partnerships between the agencies in elevating education in the areas of biology, sea life and nature.

**Portland Avenue Community Group**

President Smith met with this community ad hoc group who reminded her that they are interested in the center opening in some capacity after fire remediation is complete.

**Greater Metro Parks Foundation**

President Smith indicated that she recently met with the foundation board, at that meeting they discussed summer programming, Beyond the Bell, updating their website and a possible opportunity to rename the foundation.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Swan Creek Community Opening Celebration will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm
- Spring into Health Fairs are being hosted at Norpoint on May 7<sup>th</sup> and STAR Center on May 14<sup>th</sup>

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS** None

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 4-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA** None**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. PW25-22:** TACOMA NATURE CENTER BUILDING & ADA IMPROVEMENTS BID#: J2022-17 CONTRACT AWARD TO BEAR CONSTRUCTION GROUP INC.

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Debbie Russell indicated that this resolution was brought forward to the CIC at their last meeting. she noted That this resolution will allow for improvements in the aging infrastructure as well as making improvements to the entryway to meet ADA standards.

Being no additional comments, the question was called in the resolution passed on a vote of 4 to 0.

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. R26-22:** 2022 RECREATION & CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO) WWRP GRANT APPLICATIONS AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION: STEWART HEIGHTS SKATE PARK PHASE II & SWAN CREEK PARK COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ayala

Debbie Russell commented that the Recreation & Conservation Office has announced that they are accepting grant applications now for the 2022 funding cycle. She further noted that Staff developed an internal review process to look at a wide range of project alternatives. Review criteria included consistency with the District's Capital Improvement Program; availability of local match; schedule; project merits weighed against grant program criteria; and past application experience. Based upon this process, staff is proposing to submit two (2) applications : Stewart Heights Skate Park phase II and Swan Creek Park Community Connections project.

Kristi Evans briefly explained the amenities being proposed for the improvements to the skate park.

Being no additional comments, the question was called in the resolution passed on a vote of 4 to 0.

**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS** None

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

President Smith commented that she and her family enjoyed last weekend’s event at Fort Nisqually.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary