



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 23, 2022**

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

**IN THE CHAIR:** Andrea Smith

**PLACE:** MPT Headquarters, 4702 S 19th St. Tacoma WA

**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** ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE  
MONTH RECOGNITION & PROCLAMATION

Debbie Russell reminded the Board that the APCC has agreed to serve as the operating partner at Portland Ave. Community Building once the fire remediation is complete. She noted that the District is working on the agreement to transition programs and services temporarily to the Eastside while their new cultural center building is constructed. Ms. Russell further commented that the District is excited that their temporary relocation will enable them to continue providing rich cultural programs, while at the same time activating the space in a way that provides opportunities for partners from the Eastside to share use of spaces with APCC as they work together to serve community needs.

The Board was informed that the District has begun sharing this information with both South and Eastside communities. Ms. Russell commented that staff are excited by the early reaction of eastside community members who were enthusiastic about the news that APCC will operate the new building and are interested in collaborating with others.

Debbie Russell then introduced Lua Pritchard, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center. Dancers and drummers from the Asia Pacific Cultural Center performed.

A proclamation celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander community and their contributions to Tacoma's social, economic, physical and cultural well-being was read by Commissioner Liang. Commissioner Liang commented on his personal family history as a Chinese American, and the impact parks played in his life.

President Smith thanked the APCC, Lua Pritchard, dancers and drummers for their contributions to Tacoma. She commented that the District is grateful for the long-standing partnership.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Smith commented the decision to close the Outer Loop of Five Mile Drive to vehicles was not made lightly. She noted that the Board knows how deeply the community cares about this tranquil, forested space and the Board shares the sense of loss in no longer having motorized access to this portion of the park. President Smith continued by stating that upon review and evaluation of the recent geo-tech report, the District ultimately determined the ongoing erosion of the bluff, encroaching on the road’s edge, poses a concern about continued vehicular access on the existing roadway. She continued by stating the District’s commitment to public safety and environmental protection of this rare urban treasure necessitated this difficult decision in direct response to the acceleration of erosion caused by multiple forces of nature.

President Smith stated that an announcement was made on Tuesday at 10 AM and immediately was a social media hot topic. She stated that staff worked diligently with media and on social platforms to help generate community awareness as quickly as possible prior to the closure which took effective on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

President Smith stated that with the closure now in effect, the District is exploring possibilities for re-establishing a route for motorized access by using an existing service road on the peninsula. This road is currently closed to the public and bisects the tip of the peninsula. It will require less modification, impacting fewer trees and associated habitat. She noted that staff are also assessing ways to develop an accessible connection between the new upper Owen Beach parking area and the non-motorized Outer Loop experience to provide access for those with limited mobility.

President Smith concluded her remarks by stating that Metro Parks is committed to accessibility and inclusivity for all, while keeping people safe in the parks in balance with stewardship of the park’s rare urban ecosystem. She continued by stating that MPT wants to create a route with nearby parking for those with mobility issues to gain safe, user-friendly access for a non-motorized experience on the Outer Loop.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala noted that this council is planning to rotate their upcoming meeting to different parks, as they are learning how the public is using these spaces.

Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented that the council met on May 10<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting staff gave a presentation on the proposed ZEED strategic plan. The council also discussed perspective new members.

Commissioner Reid read a letter into the record from the council to staff acknowledging staff’s work through the pandemic.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

President Smith commented that JMAC met on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Meeting agenda items included a discussion about equitable access to affordable childcare.

President Smith officially appointed Commissioner Liang to serve on the Arts & Heritage Advisory Council.

Joint Advisory Council Meeting

Commissioner Liang commented that he attended the joint meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> where members of all councils were able to meet one another and engage in mutual topics of interest and their commitment to Metro Parks.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- May 25, 2022 CIC meeting is canceled
- Owen Beach re-opening is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Brian Davern representing the All Points Pickleball Club submitted a written comment to the Board requesting that the District consider adding more outdoor pickleball markings to the current tennis court resurfacing project at Brown’s Point Playfield.

Jackie Jones-Hook, Executive Director of the Buffalo Soldiers Museum requested use of Heidelberg Field for activities she is planning in partnership with JBLM, to host a Labor Day Festival for honoring the community’s Military Labor Force.

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. C33-22: APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE BUSINESS & RESPONSIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** NONE

**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. PW34-22: NORTHWEST TREK ANIMAL OPERATIONS AREA IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT AWARD TO BCRA DESIGN**

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Debbie Russell commented that this project includes work for a new commissary, new hay barn and upgraded fencing. Project Manager Fred Ramey reviewed a site map of Trek to familiarize the Board with the location of the projects.

Commissioner Pointer inquired about leftover contingency funds at the end of the project. Mr. Ramey noted that any contingency not used will go back into the NW Trek operating funds.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. PW35-22: POINT DEFIANCE MARINA COMPLEX PIER IMPROVEMENTS, AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. – CHANGE ORDER #3**

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Liang.

Debbie Russell stated that this contract was awarded back in September 2021. She stated that through the course of construction there have been two other change orders. This third change order for \$16,478.25 is needed to take care of piling caps and below deck structural members.

President Smith then commented that she has heard from some users and renters at the boathouse that construction may impact their usage.

Ms. Russell stated that this change order is for in-water work and should have no impact on facility users. She commented the other work that will commence on the second contract, passed by the Board at their last meeting is related to building improvements. Ms. Russell noted that staff is currently negotiating with the contractor on the sequencing and timing of that work. Staff is continuing to communicate with users as the schedule is firmed up.

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

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. R36-22: GRANTING MAINTENANCE COVENANT AND EASEMENT ACCESS FROM METRO PARKS TACOMA TO CITY OF TACOMA FOR STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN SWAN CREEK PARK**

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Debbie Russell commented that this agreement grants the City, its employees, independent contractors and designees, a nonexclusive easement for ingress and egress over, across and under the property from time to time at the City's sole discretion to inspect, sample, and

monitor components of the stormwater system and discharges. She further stated that these efforts are to ensure that the stormwater system is being maintained and operated in accordance with the O&M Manual and applicable stormwater regulations and guidelines.

Being no additional comments, the question was called in the resolution passed on a vote of 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION NO. R37-22: APPROVING A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER PROGRAMMING**

Commissioner Pointer moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Liang.

Mark Knowlden explained this resolution authorizes up to \$250,000 for afterschool and summer learning for the Special Education Program.

Julian McGilvery commented that this program serves about 180 students.

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

**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS** None

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Liang acknowledged the grief and sadness of the community over the closure of Five Mile Drive but noted he trusts the District to come up with solutions for continued access.

President Smith commented on the tremendous community turnout for the re-opening of the conservatory.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary