



**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
(VIRTUAL MEETING)**

**December 15, 2021
5:00 PM
MINUTES**

Attendees: Commissioner Pointer, Commissioner Baines (absent)

Staff Support: **Marty Stump**, Deputy Director - Planning and Development; **Roger Stanton**, Capital Program Manager, Regional Parks & ZEED; **Fred Ramey**, ZEED Asset and Facilities Services Manager; **Mary Kay Henley**, Planning Administration

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Discussion Items

Owen Beach Entrance Improvement Project – SEPA Determination

- Marty explained this project is the first part of the Loop Trail project, a new entrance and exit for Owen Beach to improve pedestrian and vehicle traffic safety. It was noted this project is separate from the Owen Beach project. Bidding is expected the first of next year with completion targeted to coincide with the opening of Owen Beach, in early to mid January of 2022.
- Currently we are in the permitting phase that includes a review of any environment impact through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Marty reported an environmental checklist has been completed and a Determination of Nonsignificance has been awarded after considerable review by Metro Parks staff.
- Marty explained the next step – publication of the determination that allows the city, state and community members the chance to provide feedback on the project and this finding. He noted that public messaging is being prepared.
- Marty added that although every effort was made to minimize tree removal, 26 trees are targeted for removal. Trees effected include maple, evergreen, hemlock, fir and cedar.
- Commissioner Pointer stated that Commissioner Hanber is passionate about tree conservation and will most likely want to discuss further the removal of mature trees. Roger reported that these 26 trees were included in the 60 trees referenced needing removal during a recent Board tour.
- To make sure the Board is fully informed prior to publishing the SEPA determination, it was decided that a informational memo will be sent out to Board members asking for any concerns or input.
- Commissioner Pointer asked if we will be planting any new trees. Marty said yes at a 2 to 1 ratio, 2 trees planted for each one removed.

Action Item

PDZA SPA Exhibit Repairs & Improvements Amendment No 2 to Schemata Workshop

- This resolution authorizes Schemata Workshop Amendment No 2 for the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium SPA Exhibit Repair & Improvements in the amount of \$52,285. These additional funds are needed for design and engineering the shell & core of the New Coral Tank Exhibit
- Fred explained the required renovations are routine in the aquarium industry and due mostly to the age of the 32-year-old aquarium and its continual operating use over that time. This work will increase the lifespan of the exhibit itself and ensure that it is a safe home for the animals in the collection for years to come.
- This is primarily a maintenance project, with Fred describing it as an exhibit facelift. He added that work requiring the exhibit empty is given high priority.
- He reported discussions have been held on how to keep project costs contained. A compromise was reached, adding additional funds and eliminating some items i.e. roof replacement because of its 1- 3 years remaining life.
- Commissioner Pointer asked if this is typical maintenance for an aquarium of this sort. Fred said yes, stating we can hopefully get 20-30 more years of service with these repairs and improvements.
- The facility is currently off-line even through it won't be drained until the first of February 2022. The reasoning - it woun't make for a good public experience with animals being removed.
- Commissioner Pointer asked where the animals are being house. Fred reported the larger animals are in the holding facility and others behind the exhibits at PSA.
- Commissioner Pointer asked how long the animals will be out of the facility. Fred reported animals will start being placed back in the late fall.
- This item was accepted for moving forward to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

Meeting Adjourned