



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

**June 15, 2022
5:00 PM
MINUTES**

Attendees: Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Smith (filling in for Commissioner Pointer)
Staff Support: **Marty Stump**, Deputy Director - Planning and Development; **Kristi Evans**, Capital Program Manager, Community & Neighborhood Parks; **Alisa O'Hanlon Regala**, Strategic Planning Manager; **Mary Kay Henley**, Planning Administration

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the May 11, 2022, meeting were approved as written.

Discussion Item

Peck Field De-Pave & Rain Garden Project with Pierce Conservation District

- This project came to Metro Parks through the Pierce Conservation District. Kristi explained that neighbors of Peck Field wanted more vegetation around the area. A rain garden along the edge of our parking lot was decided on. University of Washington students prepared designs and presented them to Metro Parks. These designs were shown to the Commissioners. Kristi noted they are consistent with our structure and sustainability standards. Selected plants are primarily native to the area.
- She added that several local agencies are participating in this project. Pierce County has written a grant for the plants and the City of Tacoma is helping with asphalt paving removal. Metro Parks is helping with curbing and debris haul away.
- Our communications team will promote volunteer opportunities as they arise, noting an upcoming July 18th Volunteer Site Prep Work Party.
- Both Commissioners liked the project and Metro Park's involvement.

Action Item

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Peck Fields (State St and S 14th St) Sidewalk Project with the City of Tacoma Streets Initiative Package #32

- Marty explained that Metro Parks and the City of Tacoma (COT) regularly coordinate on identifying shared capital project development opportunities that provide community value for both entities. An opportunity arose to combine the COT's Streets Initiative Package #32 project with improvements to sidewalk safety and access at Peck Fields.
- This resolution would authorize \$125,000 from Metro Park's bond funds to supplement the City's project budget for the construction of 600 linear feet of sidewalk and ADA access improvements along frontages to Peck Fields. COT would manage the project, including

providing public notifications, design, and engineering, permitting, bidding, and construction, and providing for equitable allocation of costs to Metro Parks.

- Staff explained this project provides critical pedestrian access to Peck Fields for those arriving by vehicle, bicycle or on foot. Pedestrian safety will be enhanced as Peck Field lacks basic sidewalk, curb-cut, and crosswalk infrastructure along its north and west frontages.
- Alisa facilitated an additional conversation on work she has been doing on behalf of Metro Parks to develop partnerships and program/project alignments. She noted we are in constant conversations with other agencies, looking for projects that intersect with our parks. There are a variety of ways to build out partnerships and leveraging opportunities. Projects mentioned were:
 - City of Tacoma Street Initiative
 - Safe Routes to Schools/Safe Routes to Parks
 - City of Tacoma Vision Zero – Reducing transportation fatalities to zero, noting Portland Ave investment.
 - Sound Transit – South Tacoma Station at SERA that improves site access
- Commissioner Reid asked how much of this is included in our master interlocal agreement with COT. It was explained our master interlocal focuses more on park locations, not connectivity. Commissioner Reid added this interlocal could be used as an umbrella tool to clearly define agency roles.
- Resulting walkability improvements at Peck fields was discussed, noting we have a vested interest in any trails that provide access to our parks. Prairie Line Trail and Water Flume Line Trails were mentioned as examples.
- Marty also pointed out Metro Park’s recent partnership with COT on their repaving of Tacoma’s 56th Street project. He explained Metro Park’s long-term goal was to continue the sidewalk to the entrance of Swan Creek Park. We negotiated an \$80,000 funding agreement with COT that included sidewalks. He pointed out this is an efficient use of our funds, noting if we facilitated the project solely, it would have cost us substantially more.
- Commissioner Reid suggested we present the Board with a comparison of costs: solely funded vs partnering with COT. Marty reported we will calculate these figures before the Board presentation.
- Commissioners asked when the project will start. Marty explained it is a long process, with building estimated to start late 2023 or early 2024. The goal is to get the funding agreement in place before work starts.
- This item was accepted for moving forward to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

Meeting Adjourned