



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

**July 14, 2021
5:00 PM
MINUTES**

Attendees: Commissioner Pointer, Commissioner Baines

Staff Support: **Marty Stump**, Planning Deputy Director - Planning & Development Department; **Kristi Evans**, Capital Program Manager – Community & Neighborhood Parks; **Mary Kay Henley**, Planning Administration

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the June 16, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Discussion Items

Tacoma Public Schools Projects (TPS) – Lincoln Park and Stanley Playfield

- Tacoma Public Schools has included Lincoln Park and Stanley Playfield in their current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for targeted athletic field improvements. Metro Parks also has included in our 2-year CIP improvements at both sites. To help coordinate efforts we have been participating in joint planning, noting a kickoff meeting a couple weeks ago. Marty added that Metro Parks would like to hire the consultants for improvements happening on our property. Additionally, we would like to manage this property moving forward.
- Lincoln Park - Marty showed commissioners a map of the area targeted for improvements. He explained a 2016 joint field study that we conducted with PS showed the need for ball fields and tennis courts. With passage of their bond, TPS has now hired a design build team to provide conceptual layout options for the site.
 - Option 1 is entirely on school district property and includes a ballpark, fencing, and vegetation to improve the bowl area.
 - Option 2 includes a girls' softball field on MPT property.
 - Option 3 – This is the preferred option of TPS with tennis courts on MPT property and a ballpark on school property.
- Marty mentioned that because some of the improvements fall on our land, TPS has been instructed not to promote any options without MPT's approval.
- It was mentioned that Metro Parks will benefit from these improvements with new programming options.
- Commissioner Pointer had a serious concern about site parking, noting increased visitor draw due to new ball fields. Marty validated his concern, noting we have discussed this with TPS. He added that TPS will have to coordinate with the City of Tacoma expanded parking on their land.

- Commissioner Baines noted the lack of safe residential access to the park. He asked if Metro Parks has considered adding additional parking to the southern portion of the park, noting it is rarely used. Marty reported he will forward this recommendation, adding ADA accessibility is include in our project scope.
- Commissioner Pointer asked when the project will get started. Marty said it is just getting underway. He added this is a high priority project for the school district, however Metro Parks doesn't want it rushed, noting the importance of community input.
- Stanley Playfield – Marty explained that meetings with the school district began earlier during the Heidelberg redevelopment conservations. Considered improvements include new athletic facilities, preferably ball fields. Marty noted significant improvements are planned on Metro Parks property noting we must be careful not to lose general park use. Significant programming benefits were also mentioned.
 - Metro Park's has earmarked only \$340,000 for improvements, mentioning a possibly a pocket park or public area to compliment the new ball field areas.
 - Commissioner Pointer asked if the fields will be lighted. He added we need to be considerate of nearby residences. Marty stated the school district would like them lighted. Commissioner Baines added that winter programming without lights is hard and there aren't a lot of home in the area planned for the new fields. He also mentioned we should seek out partnerships to help grow the project's budget to increase community impact.

Action Item

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Peoples Park Entrance Improvements with the City of Tacoma Links to Opportunity Streetscape Project

- This resolution authorizes up to \$20,000 for construction of pavement improvements within People's Park to transition to the right-of-way sidewalk improvements being constructed by the City's Links to Opportunity Streetscape Project along MLK Jr. Way and adjoining streets. This resolution also authorize Metro Parks to enter into the necessary agreements with the City of Tacoma.
- Kristi explained these improvements make sense because the Peoples Park entry abuts COT's sidewalk improvements. She added we will be fixing our entry so it flows nicely into the park.
- Commissioner Baines asked if any other park improvements are need. Kristi reported no. Marty added that Metro Parks has earmarked bond funds for a park refresher in 2023-24.
- Commissioner Baines asked how many square feet this be involved. Kristi will have more information on the total square footage by the Board presentation. She added this resolution is up to \$20,000 but might be less.
- There was also a discussion of COT's Festival Street project on the west side of park. It was explained COT has grant funding for street redevelopment that allows for party or parade closure. Metro Park's involvement will be minimal but will include programming opportunities.
- This item was accepted for moving forward to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

Additional Discussion Items

- Marty reported the Q2 capital project update will happen at the next Board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned