



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JULY 6, 2022**

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

EXCUSED: Michael Liang

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters 4702 S. 19th St.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

March 21, 2022 COW Minutes

Commissioner Ayala moved adoption of the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Pointer and passed unanimously.

REVENUE OVERVIEW AND 2023-24 BUDGET PROCESS

Debbie Russell introduced the District's new CFO Tania Wink, and Deanna Gregory, the District's bond counsel.

Debbie Russell began the presentation by noting the agenda for the meeting will include a discussion about proposed Board budget workshop schedule & strategy, and a revenue overview.

Ms. Russell shared a proposed schedule to include opportunities for Board input and information sessions as the District staff prepares for the 23/24 budget. The schedule includes study sessions & COW meetings between July and December. Ms. Russell commented that staff is interested in bringing forward information at these future sessions related to capital projects, a possible budget amendment, sustainability, labor negotiations, the City's interlocal agreement with the MPT, JMAC work, MWBE program, future policy actions and other issues that will impact the budget in 23/24. Ms. Russell commented that toward the end of August the Board will have opportunities to discuss budget priorities and many opportunities in the fall during department budget presentations for Q&A.

Commissioner Reid requested information related to any survey information and outreach the District may have as the budget is being developed. Shon Sylvia stated that current outreach with the community is indicating that safety & security, access and inclusion are continuing to rate high, but staff will continue to test those themes and any other areas the Board would like to focus on. Commissioner Ayala stated that she is interested in any demographic information that the District might have from survey participants.

Ms. Russell then shared a graph highlighting sources of the District's revenues. It was noted that the 21/22 budgeted revenue was comprised of: earned revenue at 43%, property tax at 29% sales tax at 20% and other miscellaneous revenue at 8%. Ms. Russell then followed by reminding the Board of the department allocation of the revenue dollars in the general fund and enterprise funds. Ms. Russell then continued to explain where the revenues come from in each category:

Earned Revenue (43%)

- Admission fees
- Activity/Program registrations
- Rentals, permits & event fees

Sales Tax (20%)

- Dedicated portion to Park agencies in Pierce County, with a specific call out for Zoo/Trek

Other (8%)

- City of Tacoma Subsidy
- Local, State, Federal grants & donations

Deanna Gregory of Pacifica Law, Bond Counsel for Metro Parks was then introduced to speak about property tax collection which accounts for 29% of the District's revenues. Ms. Gregory explained the following limitations related to property tax collection as follows:

- 1% Constitutional Limit—State Constitution prohibits the total of all tax levies from exceeding 1% (\$10 per \$1,000 AV); does not apply to excess levies
- \$5.90 Levy Limit—maximum combined regular tax levies for senior/junior taxing districts
- 101% Levy Limit—prohibits a taxing district from levying regular property taxes more than 101% of the highest regular property taxes, plus an amount calculated for new construction and the increase in the state assessed property value

Staff then reviewed a table that showed the operational levy rates collected by the District since 2013. Ms. Russell noted that the District is authorized to collect up to \$0.75 per \$1000 of assessed value but due to the increase in assessed values the levy rate has dropped and is currently at \$0.45.

Staff suggested that the Board may want to consider a levy lid lift in November of 2022 as property tax levels have been eroding since 2017, noting the lift could generate an additional \$10

million. Staff indicated that \$10 million less revenue was collected in 21-22 than the prior biennium. Staff also pointed out that MPT has revenue needs to continue programs that resulted from one-time funding over this biennium, increased costs related to safety & security, and overall increase in staff & labor.

Commission Reid stated that there are operational budget holes that need to be addressed to keep parks safe.

Shon Sylvia indicated that engagement opportunities with the community including the Co-create to Recreate workshops that have been occurring at community centers this spring & summer along with survey work done by the Trust for Public Land has shown strong sentiment for the continued need & importance of parks and recreation as the country emerges from the pandemic.

President Smith commented that it is important to let the public know that a lot of the programming that was provided in the past two years was provided through one-time funding resulting from COVID related funding and will not be able to continue without additional revenue.

Commissioner Reid suggested staff place a Levy Lid Lift discussion on the next Board meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary