

**METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
OF TACOMA**



AGENDA

July 11, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Metro Parks Headquarters

4702 S 19th St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

Or

Join Remotely

Via Telephone: 1-253-215-8782

Enter Meeting ID: 897 3425 1085

Participant ID: no ID needed just press #

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89734251085>

MEETINGS ARE RECORDED
AND MAY BE HEARD UPON REQUEST

COMMISSIONERS

ANDREA SMITH, PRESIDENT

AARON POINTER, CLERK

TIM REID

ROSIE AYALA

MICHAEL LIANG

5:30 P.M. **STUDY SESSION** WHOLE CHILD PRESENTATION

6:00 P.M. **CALL TO ORDER**

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH PROCLAMATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Park District meeting sites are accessible to people who require special accommodations, please contact 305-1091 48 hours prior to the meeting time."



REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance of the meeting in written form. Please submit written comments to the Board by p.m. on July 11, 2022 by e-mailing them to Jennifer Bowman at jenniferb@tacomaparks.com. Comments will be compiled and sent to Board members in advance of the meeting. Comments may also be left on voicemail at 253-305-1091 by p.m. on July 11, 2022. Verbal comments will also be allowed during the meeting both in-person and remotely. To request to speak during community comments, please press the Raise Hand button near the bottom of your Zoom window or *9 on your phone. All speakers will have up to three minutes to speak.

MINUTES

- (5-8) MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

- (9-10) **RESOLUTION NO. C48-22:** APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR JUNE 2022
(Contact: Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration & Planning)
- (11-12) **RESOLUTION NO. C49-22:** W.W. SEYMOUR CONSERVATORY REHABILITATION PROJECT NO. J2021-01 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO PEASE CONSTRUCTION
(Contact: Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration & Planning)

REGULAR AGENDA

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

- (13-16) **RESOLUTION NO. PW50-22:** PDZA POLAR BEAR MINOR EXHIBIT IMPROVEMENTS A/E CONTRACT AWARD TO BCRA DESIGN
(Contact: Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration & Planning)

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

- (17-20) **RESOLUTION NO. R51-22:** AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH EVENT NETWORK FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RETAIL OPERATIONS AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM AND NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK
(Contact: Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education)

(21-22) **RESOLUTION NO. R52-22:** ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$490,000 FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR THE MELANIE DRESSEL LAPLANT PARK PROJECT
(Contact: Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration & Planning)

SECOND READING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring two readings for adoption)

FIRST READINGS:

(Requiring two readings for adoption)

(23-32) **RESOLUTION NO. RR53-22:** A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO LIFT THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN RCW 84.55.010 TO FUND THE RESTORATION, PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND SECURITY OF PARK, RECREATION AND ZOOLOGICAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS
(Contact: Hunter George, Policy and Government Relations Officer)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

July 13, 2022	Capital Improvement Committee	5:00 PM	Park Headquarters
July 18, 2022	Committee of the Whole	5:30 PM	Park Headquarters
July 25, 2022	Regular Park Board Meeting	6:00 PM	Park Headquarters
July 27, 2022	Capital Improvement Committee	5:00 PM	Park Headquarters

*Remote Option meeting details can be found on the Metro Parks Website www.metroparkstacoma.org

*Committee Meetings are subject to change - please check the Metro Parks Website, www.metroparkstacoma.org for the most up to date meeting schedules.





**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 27, 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 PRIDE PROCLAMATION

Sandra Eliason made opening remarks in regard to Pride History and noted the welcoming Pride events being held in the Tacoma community.

Commissioner Liang then read a proclamation into the record proclaiming that the Board of Park Commissioners recognizes and honors the month of July 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Tacoma, encourages all Tacomans to eliminate prejudice where it exists, and celebrates diversity by joining in this special observance of LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors.

Troy Christensen representing the Rainbow Center accepted that proclamation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Smith commented favorably on the Venardos Circus currently running at the STAR Center.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented that the council met on June 14th. Agenda items included a presentation on the District's budgeting process.

Active Lifestyles & Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Pointer noted that the council met on June 23rd. Council members received information about the ZEED Strategic Plan, aquatics programming, and Beyond the Bell program.

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Liang stated that at the council’s last meeting, members heard about a new mural planned for the South Pacific Aquarium at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. He stated that members of the council are planning a park heritage audit and are also recruiting new members.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala reported that the council is looking to diversify its membership. She commented that at their June meeting the council was informed about the ZEED Strategic Plan.

Metro Parks Foundation

President Smith stated that Korsmo Construction’s annual golf tournament proceeds will benefit the foundation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Later this week staff will be sharing a list of highlighted topics with the Board with the intent to lay out a schedule for discussion this summer.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Curt Mehlhaff thanked staff for sending him the Five Mile Drive geo-tech report. He acknowledged the safety concerns held by the Board. Mr. Mehlhaff also commented that he hopes to see options discussed to promote public access to this area of Point Defiance Park.

Tresa McDonald Evans commented that she recently attended a Portland Avenue Community Group meeting and appreciated that Lua Pritchard, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, was in attendance. She stated this community group is meeting at Eastside Community Center but would like to meet at Portland Avenue Community Center in the future.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 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. C45-22: SOUTH END RECREATION & ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND RESURFACING # J2022-07 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO PLAYCREATION, INC. SERVICES

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P46-22: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOOD AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. BUREAU VERITAS FOR ADA SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$330,000.00
2. AT&T FOR EQUIPMENT AND WIRELESS SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00 FOR 2022-2024

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

Marty Stump stated that in keeping with the requirements of the Department of Justice, Metro Parks will be updating its ADA Transition Plan. He noted that the District solicited for proposals to compile and implement a comprehensive [comprehensive?] ADA Transition Plan. It was noted that 2 proposals were received and that MPT has selected Bureau Veritas. Erich Sachs who will be managing the project noted that the self-evaluation and transition plan will include review of programs, services, buildings, parks, facilities, exterior amenities and paths of travel. Mr. Sachs noted that this work was slated for 2019 but was delayed due to COVID.

Commissioner Ayala inquired about prioritization of making improvements that are identified in the plan. Staff noted that the plan will address prioritization guidance, but cost and ability to make improvements are also issues the District will need to consider. Mr. Stump noted that working with the community will also help drive the priorities.

Commissioner Reid asked about previous transitions plans. Staff indicated that those will be reviewed as part of this new process.

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R47-22: INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PECK FIELDS (STATE ST AND S 14TH ST) SIDEWALK PROJECT WITH THE CITY OF TACOMA STREET INITIATIVE PACKAGE #32

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

Marty Stump commented that this resolution will authorize the appropriation of up to \$125,000 for construction of sidewalk and ADA access improvements along the State Street and S. 14th St. frontages to Peck Field. This resolution will also authorize the executive director to enter into the necessary agreements with the city of Tacoma. Mr. Stump commented that under Streets Initiative Package #32, the City of Tacoma will be constructing a \$3.45M, 23-block street improvement project and has agreed to include sidewalk, curb and curb-ramp improvements along the Peck Field frontage along S. 14th St. and State St. Staff noted this package will provide for the following: demolition, excavation, construction of 575’ length of concrete sidewalk, concrete curb and gutter, pedestrian access ramps and crosswalks, landscaping, and signage.

Commissioner Ayala stated that she was pleased to see project collaboration opportunities with the City.

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

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR44-22: ACCEPTING THE ZEED STRATEGIC PLAN

This resolution was moved and seconded at the June 13th Regular Board meeting.

Alan Varsik noted that this presentation was also reviewed by advisory council members on June 14th and 22nd.

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

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Liang commented that he is pleased about the District’s accessibility commitment.

Commissioner Ayala wished the community a happy Pride Month.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. C48-22

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR JUNE 2022

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners approved, appropriated and adopted the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget in Resolution No. RR56-20, dated December 14, 2020, to meet public expenses, bond retirement, interest and operational expenses for the biennium ending December 31, 2022: and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners has authorized the Executive Director to establish procedures to meet the fiscal year public debt, to maintain accountable records of all transactions, and to provide certification that labor and debt claims have been met; now, therefore, be it.

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma that the warrants issued to meet obligations in the Warrants Claim Fund and the Disbursements by Funds in the amounts and for the period indicated on Attachment "A" have been audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW.42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, be approved for payment.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Clerk

BLANKET CERTIFICATION AND WARRANT APPROVAL FORM

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that the materials have been furnished, the services rendered, or the labor performed as described herein, and that the claim is a just, due and unpaid obligation against the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, and that I am authorized to authenticate and certify to said claim.

FOR THE PERIOD STARTING JUNE 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022.

WARRANTS CLAIM FUND

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLAIMS FUND:

Warrant Serial Numbers <u>337150</u> to <u>337457</u>	AMOUNT:	<u>\$6,038,076.78</u>
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PAYROLL CLAIMS FUND:

Warrant Serial Numbers <u>055007</u> to <u>055192</u>	AMOUNT:	<u>\$110,380.35</u>
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(Most employees receive payment through direct deposit advice, which are paid to the bank through the Accounts Payable Claims Fund.)

TOTAL	<u>\$6,148,457.13</u>
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Finance and Accounting Auditing Officer
Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma

- Warrant summary reports are available with the board secretary.
- Detail reports and claim vouchers are available in the Finance and Administrative Services Office.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Debbie Russell, Director of Business, Administration and Planning

**SUBJECT: W.W. Seymour Conservatory Rehabilitation, Project No. J2021-01
Final Acceptance to Pease Construction**

DATE: July 6, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This resolution authorizes final acceptance of W.W Seymour Conservatory Rehabilitation Bid No. J2021-01 to Pease Construction.

BACKGROUND: The scope of work for W.W. Seymour Conservatory Rehabilitation provided the following components:

- Demolition and clearing
- Structural upgrades to building envelope
- Interior partitions
- Casework in gift shop
- ADA accessible pathways
- Plumbing fixtures
- Lighting and controls
- Interpretive signage
- Rock walls
- Green walls and planting
- HVAC systems
- Outdoor landscaping
- Vivarium for frogs
- Chimney and foundation repairs

The project was inspected by staff and was completed as specified. Final contract amount was \$2,364,754.75 with sales tax.

FISCAL IMPACT: The project funding includes:

Funding:	
2014 UTGO Bond Fund	\$ 1,952,302
WA State Capital Heritage Grant	\$ 749,810
W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Foundation	\$ 48,488
1% For Art To District Art Fund	\$ (21,392)
Total	\$ 2,729,208

Budget:	
Planning & Design	\$ 266,379
Construction (includes tax)	\$ 2,364,755
Other costs	\$ 68,280
<u>Contingency (Remaining)</u>	<u>\$ 29,794</u>
Total	\$ 2,729,208

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Debbie Russell, Director of Business, Administration and Planning at 253-305-1086 or Debbie.Russell@tacomaparks.com

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. C49-22

**W.W. SEYMOUR CONSERVATORY REHABILITATION
PROJECT NO. J2021-01 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO PEASE CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma desired to make improvements to W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory; and

WHEREAS, at the meeting of March 22, 2021, the Board of Park Commissioners approved the contract with Pease Construction; and

WHEREAS, Pease Construction has completed the project as specified and inspected by staff; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to accept the W.W. Seymour Conservatory J2021-01 Project.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____2022.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Clerk



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration and Planning

**SUBJECT: PDZA Polar Bear Minor Exhibit Improvements
A/E Contract Award to BCRA Design**

DATE: July 6, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This resolution authorizes an Architecture/Engineering (A/E) contract award for the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Polar Bear Minor Exhibit Improvements to BCRA Design in the amount of \$104,785.00.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: This resolution was reviewed by the Capital Improvement Committee at their meeting on June 29, 2022 with a recommendation to forward the action on to the full Board for approval.

BACKGROUND: PDZA is planning for minor improvements to the nearly 40-year-old Polar Bear Exhibit that can be accomplished in the next 11 months with a goal of having it ready to receive a new Polar Bear ahead of the 2023 peak visitor season.

This project will see several improvements designed to improve husbandry and welfare of future bears and will have a contracted component as well as in-house work completed by PDZA Maintenance and Operations staff.

Work contracted for design includes but is not limited to:

- Demolition of shotcrete beach
- Construction of new natural substrate beach
- Demolition of shotcrete “island” in the middle of the exhibit
- Installation of additional natural substrate in lieu of the island
- Construction of a new shade structure capable of being procured and installed by PDZA Maintenance and Operations Staff.
- Installation of new, automatic waterer
- Sealing of cracks in concrete in exhibit pool
- Construction of log shade structure within the exhibit

FISCAL IMPACT: A scope of services has been negotiated with BCRA Design in the amount of \$104,785.00. The total funds allocated to this project in the amount of \$600,000 are from the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Operating Funds;

PDZA Polar Bear Minor Exhibit Improvements:

PDZA Operating Funds	\$600,000
1% for Art	-\$2,592
Total	\$ 597,408

Project Budget:

Planning & Design	\$122,930
Building Construction (includes tax)	\$285,929
Owner Costs	\$ 149,665
Contingency	\$38,884
Total	\$ 597,408

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration and Planning at 253-305-1086 or Debbie.russell@tacomaparks.com

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. PW50-22

**PDZA POLAR BEAR MINOR EXHIBIT IMPROVEMENTS
A/E CONTRACT AWARD TO BCRA DESIGN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma desires to renovate the Point Defiance Zoo's Polar Bear Exhibit; and

WHEREAS, BCRA Design was selected to provide design, permitting and construction services from a ranking of qualified architecture and engineering firms listed on MPT's design consultant roster; and

WHEREAS, a scope of services was developed with BCRA Design to provide design services, permitting, construction documents and construction review for PDZA Polar Bear Minor Exhibit Improvements; and

WHEREAS, funds for this contract are provided in the amount of \$104,785.00 from Operating Funds, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to award the contract for Architectural and Engineering Services to BCRA Design in the amount of \$104,785.00

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____2022.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Clerk





MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education

SUBJECT: Authorization for the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Event Network for operation and management of the Retail Operations at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

DATE: July 6, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Staff requests that the Board of Park Commissioners authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Event Network, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company with a principal place of business at 9606 Aero Drive, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA. for operation and management of the retail operations at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

BACKGROUND: Metro Parks Tacoma entered into an agreement in February 2012 with Wildlife Trading Company (WTC) for retail operations at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, the contract was up for renewal on December 31, 2023.

In January 2021, after challenges and business impacts associated with Covid closures, Wildlife Trading Company announced an upcoming change in their retail operations and informed Metro Parks that Event Network, LLC would assume the retail operations and purchasing for six of their current partnerships:

- Cleveland Aquarium
- **Northwest Trek Wildlife Park**
- Naples Zoo
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- **Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium**
- St Louis Science Center

Staff is very familiar with Event Network, since they are highly regarded in the Zoo, Aquarium and Museum industry and ranked in the top two during the original vetting process. The company has been operating for over 24 year and has a history of optimizing store performance, crafting unique store environments and maintaining a strong commitment to ethically sourced goods, sustainable design and manufacturing. They are currently partnered with over 90 attractions with a combined visitation of over 70 million visitors annually.

Since February 2021 and after sixteen months of operation, Event Network has been working under the terms of our original contract with WTC. During this time, staff has been impressed with Event Network’s operations, vision for retail merchandising and strong sales during what continues to be a challenging retail environment.

This partnership supports ZEED strategic plan objectives of both Environmental Footprint and Wild Life Sustainability as follows:

- Focused metrics on reducing carbon footprint of goods
- Ensuring an increased number of retail items that inspire action and/or contribute to environmental sustainability

FISICAL IMPACT: Concession operations are one of the ways in which we support the core mission-related functions of conservation, education and zoological, so identifying ways to maximize the net return from retail sales is critical. Based on sales over the past sixteen-months, staff anticipates that Metro Parks would conservatively net nearly \$7.2 million over the term of the new agreement.

Event Network proposes to pay a percentage of gross sales (less tax and discounts) in addition to a capital investment in the operations.

Proposed	Annual Range	ZEED Combined 8 year
Concession Agreement:	\$755k - \$1.1 million	\$7.2 million
Capital Investment:		\$425,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Alan Varsik at 253-404-3634 or alanvarsik@tacomaparks.com

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. R51-22

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH
EVENT NETWORK FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
RETAIL SERVICES AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM AND
NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK**

WHEREAS, in February 2012, Metro Parks partnered with Wildlife Trading Company to provide retail services at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2021, Wildlife Trading Company announced an upcoming change in their retail operations; and

WHEREAS, our facilities were two of six national attractions that Event Network (EN), LLC would assume the retail operations and purchasing at; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks consented to the change of ownership and Event Network agreed to the terms of the current agreement; and

WHEREAS, over the past sixteen-months, Event Network has proven to be a great partner with a seamless transition of the operations, renewed vision for retail and increasing sales; so now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Event Network a Delaware Limited Liability Company, to manage and operate the retail services at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Clerk





MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Debbie Russell, Director of Business, Administration and Planning

SUBJECT: Accepting and Appropriating \$490,000 From The State Of Washington Department Of Commerce for The Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park Project

DATE: July 6, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This resolution accepts and appropriates a \$490,000 grant (\$500,000 less State Administrative Fees) from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Melanie LaPlant Dressel Park Project and authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contract agreement for the awarded grant.

BACKGROUND: Metro Parks, with the assistance of Legislative Sponsor Jake Fey, submitted a March 2019 Legislative Session Member Requested Local Community Project Information Form. In June 2019, the 2020 State Capital Budget appropriated \$500,000 for the “Melanie LaPlant Dressel Park Project” to construct a ¾ acre children’s play park along the shoreline of Tacoma’s downtown Thea Foss Waterway. Melanie LaPlant Dressel Park’s unique features are designed to attract residents and visitors from all walks of life to this waterfront setting. Easily accessible by auto from I-5/I-705 & transit service, it is also within walking distance of the recently completed Prairie Line Trail and several Tacoma neighborhoods and institutions such as the Tacoma Children’s Museum who plan to utilize this park for its activities.

FISCAL IMPACT: The project funding includes:

Funding:	
2014 UTGO Bond Fund	\$ 465,000
Foss Waterway Development	\$ 29,315
City of Tacoma	\$ 750,000
Pierce County	\$ 50,000
State Commerce	\$ 490,000
Donations* (at this time)	\$ 1,343,154
1% For Art To District Art Fund	\$ (20,320)
Total	\$ 3,107,149

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Debbie Russell, Director of Business, Administration and Planning at 253-305-1086 or Debbie.Russell@tacomaparks.com

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. R52-22

**ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$490,000
FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FOR THE MELANIE DRESSEL LAPLANT PARK PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma desires to make improvements to Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park on the Foss Waterway; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks has worked with interested citizens, a steering committee and potential partners to develop a final design for Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park; and

WHEREAS, included in the Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park are multiple play structures, a community space and restrooms; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-2021 State Capital Budget includes an appropriation of \$490,000 (\$500,000 after less State Administrative Fees) for the Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park Project; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners accept and appropriate \$490,000 from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute a contract for the \$490,000 contribution to the Melanie Dressel LaPlant Park with the Washington State Department Commerce.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____2022.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Clerk



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Hunter T. George, Policy and Government Relations Officer

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

SUBJECT: RR53-22 – A Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the district at an election to be held on November 8, 2022, of a proposition authorizing the District to lift the property tax levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and security of park, recreation and zoological facilities and programs.

DATE: July 7, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Staff requests that the Board of Park commissioners approve the attached Resolution No. RR53-22 which will place a proposition on the November 8, 2022 ballot for consideration by the voters of Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT). The Washington State Constitution requires that levy lid lift issues receive a “simple majority” (50% + 1) “YES” vote in order to be approved by voters.

BACKGROUND: Under state law, a taxing jurisdiction can only increase its regular property tax levy by 1% above the amount of revenue collected the previous year (not including new construction). That 1% limit does not keep up with inflationary and operational costs. Additionally, pro-rationing occurs when one or more taxing districts have the same statutory right to levy for taxes. Levy rates are limited by either the \$5.90 / \$1,000 maximum (combined levies for senior and junior taxing districts) or the 1% constitutional limit.

The combination of rising assessed values and the state-mandated cap on revenue collection substantially reduces the district’s levy rate. While state law authorizes park districts to collect \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the state’s property tax cap has eroded Metro Parks’ rate to \$0.46 due to consistently increasing property values.

The only way to restore the rate to the legal limit of \$0.75 per \$1,000 is to ask voters to consider what is known as a “levy lid lift.” MPT last had a levy lid lift on the ballot in April 2010, which voters approved 68 percent to 32 percent. MPT received the full amount of funding for next six years. The board asked staff to monitor the erosion of property tax revenues under the state-mandated cap and to consider a potential lid-lift between 2017-2020. Once the pandemic struck, however, staff recommended to wait and re-evaluate the situation after 2021 and focus on the financial needs of the district moving into the next biennium.

MPT has spent the past two years seeking community input on the types of programs and services needed and operational improvements that would better serve residents. This engagement has come through customer service surveys; meeting with ethnic and cultural partners, program focus groups, and advisory councils; hosting “Co-create to Recreate” events, etc. Additionally, the nonprofit Trust for Public Lands (TPL), which works with communities across the nation to increase public access to parks, programs and open space, says its own community survey shows Tacoma residents want the district to address key needs, including basic maintenance and operations to support out-of-school recreation programming and access to clean and secure facilities, parks, and open spaces.

Results from these efforts provide strong evidence that the community values MPT’s parks, recreation, and zoological system and understands the challenges of maintaining and increasing levels of service where necessary to meet the area’s growing needs.

According to Pierce County Election Office procedures, an operations and maintenance levy must be filed by August 2 for a measure to appear on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.

RR53-22 was prepared with the legal assistance of Pacifica Law Group and advisers in the public finance section at KeyBanc.

Voter-Approved Bond Issues and Property Tax Ballot Measures History:

MPT has sought voter approval for numerous tax initiatives and ballot propositions in our history. Since 1999, MPT has had six measures on the ballot for voter consideration:

Year	Proposition	Amount	Total Votes	YES %	Outcome
2014	UTGO Park/Zoo Bond	\$198m	29,005	66%	PASSED
2010	Levy Lid Lift	\$5.5m/year	31,750	68%	PASSED
2005	UTGO Park Bond	\$84m	42,037	62%	PASSED
2004	UTGO Park Bond	\$60m	78,796	58%	FAILED
2000	Park/Zoo Sales Tax	1/10 of 1%	139,350	59%	PASSED
1999	UTGO Zoo Bond	\$35m	41,230	66%	PASSED

FISCAL IMPACT: MPT’s levy rate has eroded from \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2016 to \$0.46 today. The average Tacoma home value for tax year 2022 is \$415,000, according to the Assessor-Treasurer’s Office. Restoring the rate to \$0.75 via a levy lid lift would increase the rate 29 cents per \$1,000 – which amounts to a little over \$10 per month for the average home.

If voters agree to restore to the full authorization of \$0.75, the district would receive an estimated \$10 million annually for the restoration, preservation, maintenance, and operation of park, recreation and zoological facilities and programs.

In planning for a potential levy, staff considered the impact to property taxpayers in the District. They reviewed current property tax levels and confirmed that no other jurisdictions in MPT's service area have tax measures on the November 2022 ballot at this time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Hunter George at hunterg@tacomaparks.com or (253) 686-9553.

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. RR53-22

- A RESOLUTION of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at an election to be held on November 8, 2022, of a proposition authorizing the District to lift the property tax levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and security of park, recreation and zoological facilities and programs.

PASSED: July 25, 2022

PREPARED BY:

PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP
Seattle, Washington

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. RR53-22

- A RESOLUTION of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at an election to be held on November 8, 2022, of a proposition authorizing the District to lift the property tax levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and security of park, recreation and zoological facilities and programs.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington (the "District") operates park, recreation and zoological facilities and programs, which require maintenance and operating funds; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.61.210 authorizes an annual tax levy of up to \$0.75 per \$1,000 to provide operating revenues for metropolitan park districts; and

WHEREAS, the regular property taxes imposed in support of the District at a uniform rate throughout the District for the years 2010 through 2016 equaled \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value; and

WHEREAS, the taxes levied in support of the District have decreased to the current rate of \$0.46 per \$1,000 of assessed value due to the combination of rising property values and the limits imposed by RCW 84.55.010; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of the District (the "Board") and District staff foresee increased demand for park, recreation and zoological services and programs which cannot be adequately met with projected revenues for the years 2023 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Board it is essential and necessary to avoid further limitations in park and recreation service in the District resulting from inadequate revenues, and

the Board hereby finds a substantial need to restore the levy rate to maintain park and recreation facilities, programs and services at their current level; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 authorizes the voters in the District to authorize an increase above the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.010; and

WHEREAS, the conditions here and above set forth require the holding of a special election in the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON, as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The Board hereby finds that it is in the best interests of the residents of the District to provide additional funds to support park, recreation and zoological facilities, services and programs, including without limitation restoring, preserving, maintaining and operating children's playgrounds, neighborhood parks, community centers, restrooms, recreational facilities, and Point Defiance Park/Zoo; addressing park safety and security; providing sports and recreation programs; and preserving lakes, waterfront access, trails, and greenspaces (the "Operations").

The Board shall determine, or provide for the determination of, the scope, timing, order and manner of funding the Operations. The cost of all compensation, benefits, training, support services, equipment, vehicles, infrastructure, facilities, appraisals, negotiation, closing, architectural, engineering, financial, legal and other consulting services, inspection and testing, administrative and relocation expenses and/or administrative expenses and other costs incurred in connection with the Operations shall be deemed a part of the costs of such Operations.

The Board may alter, make substitutions to and amend the description of any of the Operations as it determines is in the best interests of the District and consistent with the general park, recreation and zoological purposes provided herein. If the Board shall determine that it has become impractical to acquire, improve, develop, operate or maintain all or any portion of the Operations by reason of changed conditions, incompatible development, costs substantially in excess of the amount of tax levies and other District funds estimated to be available, or acquisition by a superior governmental authority, the District shall not be required to acquire, improve, develop, operate or maintain such portions.

Section 2. Maintenance and Operations Levy. It is hereby found and declared that the best interests of the District require the submission to the qualified electors of the District of the proposition whether the District shall levy regular property taxes above the levy limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for their ratification or rejection at an election to be held on November 8, 2022. For the purpose of providing funds to support costs of Operations, the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Pierce County, Washington, is hereby requested to assume jurisdiction of and to call and conduct such election and to submit to the qualified electors of the District for their approval or rejection the proposition set forth below. Upon approval of the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth, the District may use proceeds of such levy for the purpose of paying costs of Operations as provided herein. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to certify the following proposition to the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Pierce County, Washington, in the following form:

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
PROPOSITION NO. 1

PARK AND RECREATION MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS LEVY

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington adopted Resolution No. RR53-22 concerning ongoing parks, recreation and zoological maintenance, operations and security. This proposition would provide basic safety, maintenance and cleanliness of neighborhood parks, fields, restrooms, playgrounds, and family community centers; preserve open space; make safety improvements; fund wildfire prevention; and expand recreation programs for teens and youth, especially in historically underserved areas. This proposition increases the District's regular property tax rate to \$0.75/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2023, as allowed by RCW 84.55. The 2023 levy amount would be used to calculate subsequent levies.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED?.....

REJECTED?

Section 3. Minor Adjustments. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates (a) the Executive Director and (b) Bond Counsel to the District as the designated representatives of the District to whom such notice should be provided. The Executive Director is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Pierce County Auditor.

The Board Secretary is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

The proper District officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the regular property tax shall be increased, as provided in this resolution, to the electors at the November 8, 2022 election.

Section 4. Local Voters’ Pamphlet Authorized. The preparation and distribution of a local voters’ pamphlet providing information on the foregoing ballot measure is hereby authorized. The pamphlet shall include an explanatory statement and arguments advocating approval and disapproval of the ballot measure, if any, in accordance with RCW 29A.32.280.

Section 5. Severability. The recitals stated above (i.e., the “Whereas” clauses) constitute specific findings by the Board in support of the passage of this resolution. If any provision of this resolution is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions of this resolution and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this resolution or of any other resolution, or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized herein.

Section 6. Effective Date. This resolution shall be in full force and effective from and after its adoption and approval.

ADOPTED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof held this 25th day of July, 2022.

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

President, Board of Park Commissioners

Clerk, Board of Park Commissioners

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, (the "District") and keeper of the records of the Board of Park Commissioners (herein called the "Board"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. RR53-22 of the Board (herein called the "Resolution"), duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 25th day of July, 2022.

2. That said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of such meeting was given; that a legal quorum was present throughout the meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Board voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption of the Resolution have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of July, 2022.

Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners