



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JULY 25, 2022**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President

Tim Reid

Rosie Ayala

REMOTE: Aaron Pointer, Clerk

EXCUSED: Michael Liang

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters, 4702 S. 19th St. Tacoma, WA

STUDY SESSION QUARTERLY CAPITAL UPDATE

Marty Stump began the presentation by reminding the Board of the areas of allocated funding for the 2014 Capital Improvement Bond Program. It was explained that the 21-22 CIP areas of emphases include continuation of projects in progress, neighborhood & community parks in priority areas, critical infrastructure projects, planning projects, and leveraged projects.

Mr. Stump then reviewed and briefly commented on the CIP drivers including the following:

- Regulatory Requirements
- Physical and Emotional Health of the Community
- Equity and Geographic Balance
- Innovation in Meeting Community Needs
- Cost Recovery / Revenue Opportunity / M&O Offset
- Staffing and Budgetary Constraints
- Contractual and Partnership Considerations
- Consistent with 2014 Bond Brochure Language
- Public Safety and Staff Safety Benefits
- Covid19 Recovery Opportunities (Shovel Ready / Stimulus Program Candidate)

Via several diagrams, the Board members were then reminded of the standard CIP project work flow including milestones of scope, design and construction. Mr. Stump also highlighted the phasing and sequencing of projects.

Mr. Stump commented that the 2 year capital spending planning for 21/22 is \$50M consisting of about 85 projects. He then noted that recent community celebrations of completed projects including Swan Creek Phase II, Conservatory Rehabilitation, and the Owen Beach Renovation.

Mr. Stump then highlighted the Q2 projects that have been completed:

- Browns Pt Playfield Tennis Court Replacement
- PD Marina Renovations – Pilings
- PD Owen Beach Access
- COT 56th Street Sidewalk
- PDZA Bugs Alive Pollinator Garden
- SERA Playground Surface Replacement

Mr. Stump then highlighted the Q2 projects that are in construction:

- NW Trek Tram Station
- PDZA SPA Tank Improvements
- PDZA Painting
- PDZA Arctic Fox
- PD Sanitary Sewer Lift Station
- PD Marina Renovations - Buildings
- COT Sidewalk Access at People’s Park
- Meadow Park Golf Course – Bridge
- Portland Ave. Park Wading Pool Demo
- Tacoma Nature Center Building Renovations & ADA

Mr. Stump then highlighted the Q2 projects that are in design:

- Melanie’s Park at Foss Waterway
- Stewart Heights Pool – Mechanical Systems Renovation
- Gas Station Park

The Board was then informed about the recent funding awards including \$400,000 for Swan Creek from WA State Commerce funds, \$400,000 for Dash Point Pier Renovation Engineering from State RCO funds, and \$400,000 for Titlow Park North Hidden Beach Bridge from WA State Commerce funds.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Smith at 6:00p.m.

A motion was made to excuse Commissioner Liang; seconded and passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Smith commented positively on the Mosaic festival held in Wright Park over the weekend. President Smith also noted that she recently met with members of the Portland Avenue Neighborhood Group to discuss repairs to the Portland Avenue Community Center.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**Business& Responsive Agency Advisory Council**

Commissioner Reid commented that the committee met on July 12th. During the meeting the District's new CFO was introduced. Staff also gave an update on corporate relations, sponsorships and donations. Commissioner Reid stated that the committee also received information about the District's budget revenue and potential Levy Lid Lift.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala commented that this council is planning to request the approval new members in the near future.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- At the April 25th Board meeting the Board approved R26-22, a resolution related to the authorization of applications for RCO Grants. Recently RCO has reached out to staff and requested that that title of the resolution be modified to include the term: YAF (Youth Athletic Facilities); no other language in the resolution has changed. He noted that with general counsel's guidance staff has made the change administratively due to this scrivener's error.

A copy of the corrected version was distributed to Board members.

- There will be a Board CIC and COW on Wednesday, July 27th. The CIC will begin at 4:45pm and the COW will begin at 5:30pm. Both meetings are being held at MPT headquarters.
- Mosaic, Tacoma's Arts and Culture Festival returned to Wright Park after a two year break due to the pandemic. The event, formerly known as Ethnic Fest, welcomed new organizers to the event steering committee this year. The result was a rich mix of cultures showcasing music and traditional dance across two stages over two days. Preliminary feedback was positive and there is a great foundation to grow this event for the future. Wright Park continues to be a stunning location to showcase this event.
- Meadow Park Golf Course hosted Korsmo's Fore Eastside Golf Tournament. This was an experimental collaboration between a great community partner Korsmo Construction, The Metro Parks Foundation and Meadow Park Golf Course. Korsmo Construction leveraged community minded partners to generate sponsorship and golfers. The result of this collaboration was a very fun day of golf that raised over \$40,000 to help support The First Tee of South Puget Sound, The Billy Ray Shirley Foundation and the Mero Parks Foundation. Staff is hoping that this may become an annual event.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS None

MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Liang being excused).

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C54-22: POINT DEFIANCE MARINA COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS PIER PILING REPLACEMENT & BOATHOUSE REPAIR PROJECT NO. J2021-24 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Liang being excused).

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R55-22: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$50,000 FROM PIERCE COUNTY FOR THE MELANIE LAPLANT DRESSEL PARK PROJECT

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Debbie Russell commented that there are three resolutions on the Agenda tonight that accept and appropriate funding for Melanie's Park. Ms. Russell commented that construction for the Park is scheduled to begin this fall with projected completion of summer 2024. She noted this funding will be coming from Pierce County.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Liang being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. R56-22: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$750,000 FROM THE CITY OF TACOMA FOR THE MELANIE LAPLANT DRESSEL PARK PROJECT

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Ms. Russell commented that funds being accepted are coming from the City of Tacoma for support of Melanie's Park.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Liang being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. R57-22: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING WASHINGTON STATE COMMERCE FUNDS FOR GAS STATION PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Ms. Russell commented that funds being accepted are coming from Washington State Commerce for support of Melanie's Park.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Liang being excused).

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS

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

This resolution was moved and seconded at the July 11, 2022 Regular Park Board Meeting.

Hunter George commented that at the July 11, 2022 Park Board meeting, staff requested that the Board consider a ballot proposition asking voters to approve a levy lid lift that restores the District's rate to its authorized amount. Mr. George stated there are several types of levy lid lift mechanisms available under Washington State law, and at the time staff believed the best option was the "single-year" levy. Mr. George continued by commenting that after the resolution's first reading, staff continued to conduct research into financial projections and discussion with legal counsel and now recommend the "multi-year" levy lid lift. Staff recommend amending RR53-22 to provide a multi-year format and authorize staff to send the amended ballot proposition to the Pierce County Auditor for placement on the November 8 General Election ballot.

Mr. George indicated that the difference in revenue to Metro Parks over 6 years using a multi-year levy lid lift with a 6% cap is estimated to be as much as \$18 million more than the single-year lift. He noted that a multi-year levy lid lift would also allow Metro Parks to use its levy rate in the final year, 2028, as its base rate for 2029. Additionally, staff commented that although the levy rate could begin eroding if the assessed valuation exceeded 6% in any year, the multi-year levy lid lift would keep the levy rate closer to the authorized rate for a longer time horizon, thus giving greater predictability to both Metro Parks and to voters.

President Smith moved to amend RR53-22 to incorporate a multi-year levy lid lift and set the limit factor to 106% for the five subsequent years, and make other conforming changes; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pointer inquired about what services would be effected if this levy lid lift is not approved by the voters. Mr. George stated that as the Board goes through the 23/24 budget process & discussions will need to occur in order to determine what programs & services would be effected.

At the request of Commissioner Ayala, Hunter George noted examples of what a levy lid lift could help pay for including: increasing park security such as park rangers, wildfire prevention, level of service of restrooms, preventative maintenance, replacing one-time COVID dollars to continue after school programs, and salaries & benefits.

Curt Mehlhaff commented that he feels this is an inappropriate time for the District to go out and request that voters approve a Levy Lid Lift. Mr. Mehlhaff requested that he be appointed to the official “against” committee as recognized by Pierce County.

Tod Sharon stated that he has not yet received or read a copy of the amendment. He requested the Board table this action in order for the community to be able to consider the amendment. He noted he has had conversations with the auditor’s office about levy rates and average property values; noting that their website information does not align with the Board’s written report. Mr. Sharon also stated that property tax increases and the additional levy will increase over 100% in low income areas of town. He requested specific detail on exactly how the additional funding will be spent.

Being no additional comments on the amendment the question was called and the resolution was passed as amended on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Liang being excused).

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Pointer asked about using park buildings as cooling centers. Hollie Rogge commented that community centers are open to the public and also noted centers are free to Tacoma youth.

ADJOURN

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

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary