



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 22, 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

STUDY SESSION DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Hunter George was present to inform the Board about the District's legislative agenda. Mr. George noted that the items being discussed tonight are in draft form and that he looks forward to Board input as the agenda is being finalized before its adoption this fall.

Mr. George noted the following items are being considered at the state level:

- % Property Tax Cap: Partner with other local government organizations /associations to support modernizing the 1 percent property tax limit so that it can be more accurately adjusted for growth and inflation.
- Parks Rx: Provide resources to support Parks Rx pilot projects under a framework recommended by the state Parks Rx Task Force. Metro Parks is the leading advocate, and is supported by allies across the state who served on the Task Force and its Regional Advisory Committees.
- Childcare: Participating in year 2 of DCYF's multi-site organizational childcare licensing project.
- Derelict Vessels (part 2): Following up on last session's funding increase, Rep. Dan Bronoske proposes to reduce the 30-day waiting period before taking custody of a derelict vessel on MPT property.
- Joint Municipal Action Committee (JMAC): Monitoring topics that address supports and barriers for minority- and women-owned businesses that contract with public agencies; apprenticeships and other access to careers; public health and safety; and dismantling systems that perpetuate systemic racism.
- Maintenance Backlog Grant Fund: Support WRPA's request for a grant fund to address maintenance backlogs at the local parks department level (matching the 2022 decision to fund state-agency maintenance backlogs). Would probably result in a grant of +/- \$50,000.
- Restoring Biodiversity: The state Fish & Wildlife Commission is including \$47 million in its budget request for habitat protection and restoration, population recovery of species of

greater conservation need, and increased capacity for fish and wildlife conservation education.

- Capital Projects under consideration:
 - Portland Avenue Park sprayground – construction dollars
 - Dash Point Pier, Swan Creek pedestrian bridge, Hidden Beach bridge

Mr. George then commented on the following items be considered at the federal level:

- America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521)
Omnibus bill that includes environmental and wildlife conservation measures. The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) supports provisions from the Preventing Future Pandemics Act; the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act; the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act; and the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act.
Mr. George noted that AZA has concerns over a proposed edit of the Lacey Act that would “presumptively prohibit” the importation of non-native species that have not been previously imported or transported across state lines “in more than minimal” quantities during the past year.
- Polar Bear Rescue Act of 2022 (not yet filed)
This proposal would amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to clarify that polar bears may be imported and placed at accredited zoos to benefit the health and welfare of individual animals and provide research supporting the conservation of the species in the wild.
- Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (HR 2773 and S 2372)
The bill would provide nearly \$1.4 billion in conservation funding to states and tribes. Additionally, \$750 million would also go toward establishing the Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund to aid getting species off the federal endangered list. Passed the House on June 14, 2022.
- Big Cat Public Safety Act- H.R. 263/S.1210
This bill would prohibit keeping tigers, lions and other big cat species as pets, and ban direct public contact like cub petting. Passed the House on July 29, 2022.
- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
Support reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. Staff noted that there are concerns about comprehensive permitting reform legislation, which should be monitored during implementation.

Mr. George then commented that next steps include coordinating with JMAC and community partners to identify areas for collaboration. He also commented that additional internal vetting and analysis with MPT staff and the lobbyist team will occur prior to a final presentation for adoption by the Board in late fall.

Commissioner Reid requested staff consider adding an item to the legislative agenda that would help address urban wildfire prevention and protection.

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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Smith commented that she attended the NW Trek Foundation fundraising event last Thursday.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Commissioner Ayala commented that she recently met with staff out at NW Trek. She recognized the animal care staff that do so much on site at Trek.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala commented that the council met on-site at Owen Beach. The meeting included new membership on the council.

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Liang stated that this committee recently met at Charlotte’s Blueberry Park. He noted that the committee spent time defining *heritage*.

Summer Bash

Commissioner Liang commented positively on the Stewart Heights Summer Bash. He thanked staff for putting together the event.

Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented that the council met on August 9th. He noted that the agenda included a pre-statement on the capital program and a budget update.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Ayala commented that the committee met August 12th. The agenda included updates from committee members and their CEOs about their safety and security approaches.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- There will not be a Board CIC meeting this week.
- On August 25, from 2-6pm, Metro Parks will host the first Eastside Community Market Resource Fair at Portland Avenue Park in farmer’s market-style. There will 31 vendors, including Food Lifeline, Emergency Food Network and Food is Free WA, at Portland Avenue Park to provide free food to the Eastside community. The first 300 families to

attend will receive a \$50 Safeway gift card. In addition to receiving goodie bags and healthy fruit and vegetables, Eastside families are invited to meet with community providers, where they can learn how to access free resources like public assistance paying utility bills or finding jobs. The Eastside Community Market Resource Fair is presented by Coordinated Care and Metro Parks Tacoma, in partnership with Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier region.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Rueben Lawrence explained to the Board that his organization is having a back to school basketball event and are in need of borrowing a few backboards. He inquired as to whether the District may have some to lend.

Erin Guinup, Executive Director of the Tacoma Refugee Choir noted that she has become frustrated with Metro Parks Tacoma as her organization has been trying to establish a partnership for a video shoot project that they are planning to hold at Dune Peninsula in September. Ms. Guinup requested the Board consider both the systems and budgetary considerations that are limiting access to Metro Parks facilities in order to foster better partnerships in the community.

Heidi Stephens commented that currently the District is not meeting the 10-minute walk to a park goal for all that live in the city of Tacoma. She highlighted the need to preserve and protect open space from private sales. Ms. Stephens urged Metro Parks to work with the Port of Tacoma to protect cottonwoods and wetlands in that area. Ms. Stephens also inquired about the no parking signs that have been removed along the street at Wapato Hills Park.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 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. C65-22: APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE ARTS & HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. C66-22: APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NATURE & ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. C67-22: METRO PARKS TACOMA HEADQUARTERS FACILITY UPGRADES PROJECT NO. J2020-04 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO PIONEER HUMAN SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. C68-22: ACCEPTING \$620,884.60 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION FOR MULTIPLE METRO PARKS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

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. P69-22:** AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS & SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. T E WALRATH TRUCKING FOR GROUND SUPPLIES, SAND, GRAVEL & DIRT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,000
2. TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC., MUNIS DIVISION FOR SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, OTHER SERVICES AS REQUESTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$706,442
3. WASHINGTON STATE AUDITORS OFFICE FOR UP TO \$290,000 FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENT, FEDERAL SINGLE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY AUDITS FOR 2018, 2019, AND 2020

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

Mark Knowlden commented that the TE Walrath purchase is for gravel and sand for paths and bunkers at Meadow Park Golf Course.

Debbie Russell commented that the Tyler Technology purchase is for the District's suite of financial software modules subscriptions including general ledger, budgeting, accounts payable , purchasing, accounts receivables, and payroll.

Debbie Russell then commented that the Washington State Auditors items is for an increase of \$150,00 for the completion of multiple audits (2018-2021).

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS****RESOLUTION NO. R70-22:** AUTHORIZING ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$54,500 FROM 2014 UTGO BOND FUNDS & AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVING PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR TACOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY ADJACENT TO CHARLOTTE'S BLUEBERRY PARK

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

Debbie Russell commented that staff has negotiated the terms of a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Tacoma Public Schools for five parcels of property adjacent to Charlotte's Blueberry Park. Ms. Russell commented that acquisition of the property by Metro Parks Tacoma was first proposed in 2018 when TPS sought to surplus and sell several parcels it owned adjacent to and near the park. TPS conducted an appraisal on the property in 2017.

Ms. Russell noted that many of the TPS parcels were sold to a private developer. The remainder of the parcels, often referred to as the “pan handle” or “chair back”, abut the western edge of the park. The Board was informed that these parcels include blueberry farm plants such as those in the park and a portion of the trail that provides access through the park. These pan handle parcels also include a wetlands area that required mitigation work be performed by TPS per the City of Tacoma’s SEPA process. Ms. Russell stated that TPS concluded the wetlands mitigation in 2019. Ms. Russell indicated that per the 2017 appraisal, the value of the parcels in the pan handle has been estimated at \$.30 per square foot.

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

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Ayala commented positively on the Summer Bash at Norpoint held earlier in the month.

President Smith thanked the Greater Metro Parks Foundation for their contributions to the District.

Commissioner Liang thanked the community members that commented during the meeting.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary