



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JULY 27, 2022**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Tim Reid
Rosie Ayala
Michael Liang

REMOTE: Aaron Pointer, Clerk

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

July 18, 2022 COW Minutes

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

PRE-CIP PLANNING FOR 23-24

Debbie Russell opened the presentation by commenting on the focus of the evening's meeting agenda including discussions related to MPT CIP fundamentals and 23/24 CIP development.

Marty Stump was then introduced to speak more about the District's capital framework. Mr. Stump began by reminding the Board of District Policy 100.013, The Capital Improvement Planning & Budgeting Policy. It was noted that projects not extending the useful life of an asset will typically be budgeted in the operating fund. Staff also pointed out that the Capital Budget may include those capital projects that are major deferred maintenance and that are not included in the operating budget. Board members were informed that capital maintenance projects are included in the CIP budget if they are \$35,000 or more, if less than \$35,000 the budget is in the operating fund. Board members were also refreshed on the plans in the District that support one another and help drive the capital planning efforts. Mr. Stump then reviewed the definitions of *Capital Improvement Plan*, *Capital Budget* and *Capital Project*.

Ms. Russell gave a brief overview of the 2014 Bond structure noting how \$198M is divided into three major areas including Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (\$65.4M), Regional Parks &

Attractions (\$67.2M), Neighborhood Parks, Natural Areas & Recreation Facilities (\$65.4M). Commissioner Reid commented it is important to share this information with constituents so they can see how money is being allocated. Ms. Russell commented that of the \$198M about \$40M remains.

Mr. Stump reminded the Board of the core values and community benefits of the capital program including:

- Compliance with health, safety and other legal requirements
- Opportunity to improve design and construction efficiencies
- Opportunity to uphold equity and fairness
- Opportunity to reduce current operating costs or generate revenues
- Availability of alternative resources

Staff then reviewed the priorities that the Board adopted for the 21/22 operating and capital budget which includes: Racial Equity, Access & Inclusion, Health & Wellness, Conservation, Partnerships, and Engagement. Staff plans to confirm that during the budget development process that these are still priorities for the Board for 23/24.

Mr. Stump then pointed out the criteria that are continuing to influence the timing of capital project work plan timing as follows:

- 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)

Mr. Stump commented that in 21/22 the approved spending plan is \$50M which includes 85 projects. He then briefly spoke about the tracking mechanisms that staff uses to track and monitor the project budgets and funding sources for the 2-year and 6-year capital plans. Staff commented on the leveraged dollars that the District brings in for these project which is averaging 30 additional cents for each dollar spent. Staff will send out the 2-year and 6-year CIP to the Board following tonight's meeting. Mr. Stump then explained the tracking spreadsheet that staff uses to track the capital work plan items including status, budget, timelines, next steps, etc. Board members were also made aware of a live GIS mapping tool that is available to the public that shows where projects are taking place in the District.

Ms. Russell & Mr. Stump then commented that moving into 23-24 the following are priorities that staff is moving forward with:

- Continuation of Ongoing Projects from 2021/2022 CIP
- (+/-) \$40M CIP Funds Remaining for New Project Assignment
- Majority of Remaining Funds Fall within Neighborhood Parks, Natural Areas & Recreation Facilities (Major Category)
- Advance Planning for Aging, Critical and Failing Infrastructure to provide Shovel-Ready Projects

Ms. Russell pointed out that MPT planning staff is also focused on working with the City of Tacoma and other agencies to be sure MPT planning is included in their planning as well.

Maps showing the neighborhood parks with competed projects were then briefly reviewed.

Ms. Russell highlighted the importance of seeking advance grant funding to plan for future projects including:

- Swan Creek Park Bicycle & Pedestrian Bridge, (\$400K Washington State Commerce Funds)
- Dash Point Pier Renovation, Engineering (\$400K Washington State RCO Funds)
- Titlow Park North Hidden Beach Bridge, (\$400K Washington State Commerce Funds)
- Stewart Heights Park - Skate Park Phase 2 (Washington State, RCO Local Park Program)
- Swan Creek Park - Community Connections (Washington State, RCO Local Park Program)
- Commencement Bay Shoreline (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

A high-level schedule noting the 23/24 CIP budget development and implantation by quarter was briefly reviewed by Ms. Russell. She pointed out that it does include future conversations for planning a future bond programming.

Ms. Russell commented that staff will continue to work on internal audits to look at projects as well as work with the Board, partners and the community between now and November to develop the CIP plan.

Commissioner Ayala highlighted language access related to things like the District website and preparing for climate resiliency as being important items that constituents have brought to her attention.

There was brief discussion about the importance of addressing housing density and how to look at land acquisition for more green spaces for the community.

Commissioner Smith requested that staff perhaps look at the linear park spaces (Union /Mason) in town that are managed by the City. Shon Sylvia indicated that cohesive planning with our partners like the City will continue to connect neighborhoods.

Commissioner Smith requested the People's Center also be addressed with the City. Shon Sylvia noted that it is being evaluated by the City and Libraries in their facility planning.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the success of the micro-library at ESCC. Shon Sylvia noted it was not as successful as hoped and it was removed.

Commissioner Liang inquired about planning for natural disasters. Ms. Russell commented that that it is important to have a COOP & emergency plan, and to work regionally and with the County.

There was a brief discussion about the District's insurance coverage of things like building fires.

Shon Sylvia stated he has been working with Chief Green at the TFD to look at wildlife prevention and management. Mr. Sylvia noted the importance of protecting the District's urban forested areas.

Commissioner Pointer inquired about the use of Peck Field and wondered might it be considered for other park uses. Shon Sylvia stated that he would like to look at planning that site differently to think about more use as a central community park. Marty Stump noted planning for the future of that park is identified in 23/24 CIP. Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of removing fencing at fields such as Peck for more accessibility and to make it more inviting while continuing to protect the park's assets.

Commissioner Ayala commented on the constituent communications that she has received for more pickle ball courts.

Board members briefly talked about generational recreational programming for certain sports.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:

Jennifer Bowman, Secretary