



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 23, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Clerk
Tim Reid
Michael Liang

REMOTE: Rosie Ayala

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

STUDY SESSION

The Zoo Society & NW Trek Foundation Report Outs

Alan Varsik introduced John Patterson, Co-Chair of the NW Trek Foundation. Mr. Patterson spoke of the efforts being made to improve communications and relationships so as to move forward to support the work of NW Trek. Mr. Patterson commented that after some work an MOU was put into place last year and it has led to good collaboration. He stated that progress includes the hiring of a development director and assistant, development of donor programs, reestablished interaction with Trek staff, expansion of the Trek Foundation Board with new skill sets, grant writing and expanded in-person fundraising auction this May. Mr. Patterson then highlighted the current financial stats of the Foundation noting that two significant bequests were received in 2022, fundraising goals were met and contribution goals were exceeded. He continued by stating that net assets increased by 84% and support to Trek projects and programs increased from 2020 to 2022 by 77%. Mr. Patterson commented that the support to return ratio for 2022 was 3.36. Mr. Patterson then commented on plans for 2023 including a two-year operating agreement with the District that presents a 60% increase in support of Trek projects and programs. Mr. Patterson concluded by noting in 2023 the Foundation is looking forward to continued development of communications and relationships.

Ruthann Howell, Executive Director and Matthew Schemp, President of The Zoo Society were then introduced. The Board was informed of the Zoo Society's success in the past year including the following:

- Achieved 2:25 to 1 ROI to the Zoo
- Successful Donor Community Engagement and Results
- Transformational Bequest/s
- Effective Board Governance
- Building Aligned Staff

- Continued Strong Relationship with the Zoo

Mr. Schemp commented that funding priorities for 2022 included: animal care, education, conservation, zoo programs and support, and the Pacific Seas Aquarium. Ms. Howard and Mr. Schemp noted that supporters of the society in 2002 included in-person events on zoo grounds, increased opportunities to meet with individuals and families who support the society and the zoo, and transformational bequests. Mr. Schemp also noted that in 2022 the board of the society was focused on effective board governance, mission driven decision making, building a strong bench, for training, completion of a strategic plan, and continuing to build board reach and increased reflection of Tacoma's diverse community.

Both Ms. Howell and Mr. Schemp commented positively on the working relationship between the Society and the Zoo staff.

Mr. Schemp commented that areas of focus for 2023 will include: raising funds effectively, investing in the zoo with impact, aligning with the zoo's new strategic plan and facilities plan, and a goal of doubling annual support for the zoo in the next three to five years.

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. President Smith read a land acknowledgement.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PARKS CHAMPION AWARDS

Sandra Eliason commented that Metro Parks Tacoma honors community organizations and individuals as Park Champions for their collaborative work on innovative parks, projects and programs within the park district over the previous year.

The Park Board and staff recognized the following:

The staff of Arlington Elementary School, for their leadership and collaboration. Tacoma Creates, for supporting Beyond the Bell and cultural community celebrations. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma Public Schools and Washington Sea Grant for partnering in the Owen Beach renovation.

Photos of honorees with the Board were taken.

STAFF RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Staff and the Park Board honored Art Tachell for 48 years of service to Metro Parks. Lane Sample was also recognized by the Board and staff for her 21 years of service to the District.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Smith commented positively on recent Tet Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival held in partnership with Golden Bamboo at the Eastside Community Center.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Join Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Ayala commented that the committee met on January 13th. She noted the committee had a recap of their December meeting and elected new committee leadership for 2023.

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Liang commented that at its January meeting the committee disused the District's Legislative Agenda. He also commented that council interviewed 4 potential candidates for the council.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

It was noted that the council will now be meeting on 4th Tuesday of each month.

Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid stated that the council met on January 10th. He noted that agenda items at that meeting included an overview of the ZEED facility planning efforts and their work plan for 2023.

Commissioners Reid and Ayala noted that they attended the Burns Dinner volunteer recognition event for Fort Nisqually.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- The Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee held a hearing on Senate Bill 5095 on Thursday, January 19th. Hunter George worked with the state Parks Rx Task Force and other advocates to arrange for testimony by Mr. George and another Task Force member from Molina Health Care in Spokane. In all, 40 people signed in favor of the legislation, including all members of our Arts & Heritage Advisory Committee. The bill is scheduled to be voted out of committee on Tuesday, January 24th. Our lobbying team is working to have a companion bill filed in the House.
- Portland Avenue Community Center fire damage repair by contractor Asher Construction is now complete. This work was from the arson fire that occurred at the NE corner on the community center building in 2021. Funding for the restoration work was provided through a WCIA insurance claim. The repairs have now restored the affected area of the building as required. Parks staff will complete further updates on the HVAC system, prior to building occupancy.
- A video was shown to introduce new members of Parks & Recreation Staff.
- Several photos of the Tet Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival were shown. Mark Knowlden commented that Golden Bamboo collaborated with a host of partners, including the Vietnam American Community Association, the Vietnamese Senior

Association of Olympia and Vicinity, the Southeast Asian Symposium, Harvest Pierce County and Temple Phước Hu to put on this event.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Written comments regarding the status of the Jefferson Field House were submitted by Julia Keller. President Smith noted that negotiations with the District's insurance carrier related to Jefferson Field House have been complicated and lasted many months. The District believes they have now settled upon a claim adjustment amount. President Smith continued by stating that once the District has assurance of when it will receive claim payment, a broader community conversation about redevelopment potential will occur.

Curt Mehlhaff commented on his concerns about safety in the community. He encouraged the Board to consider metal detectors in community centers.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2023 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. C7-23: APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NATURE & ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. C8-23: APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE BUSINESS AND RESPONSIVE AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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. P9-23: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. ATLANTIC PACIFIC SEAFOOD FOR ANIMAL FOOD CHANGE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,099.20 (including WSST)
2. WASHINGTON CITIES INSURANCE AUTHORITY FOR PROPERTY, LIABILITY AND AUTO INSURANCE IN THE AMOUNT \$1,141,946
3. BERRYDUNN, MCNEIL & PARKER LLC. FOR ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000

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

Alan Varsik commented that the Atlantic Pacific Seafood change order is needed to cover the additional cost of food due to the addition of two walrus at the Rocky Shores exhibit.

Debbie Russell commented that WCIA is the District's insurance provider for property, liability and auto insurance. She noted that WCIA is increasing rates over all to its members by 40% for 2023, noting that rates vary individually to members based on claim losses. Metro Parks is expecting an increase of 42.3%

Shon Sylvia commented that the contract with BerryDunn will allow for phase 2 of organization development work to occur as realignment continues to occur post-COVID. Mr. Sylvia noted that phase 2 will focus on work in the Business Administration Division, Office of the Executive Director, and Parks & Recreation.

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

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

RESOLUTION NO. R10-23: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE 2023/24 OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE ZOO SOCIETY AND THE NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION

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

Alan Varsik commented that both the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation are committed to contribute to Metro Parks a value equal to or greater than 2 times return on MPT payment each year as follows:

- A. The Zoo Society agreement provides the following:
 - a. Annual support of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium initiatives for animal welfare, field conservation, community programs, staff development, capital equipment, and capital projects with the minimum amount of \$1,283,000.
 - b. Metro Parks will pay the Zoo Society \$600,000 for development services including major gifts, grants, capital projects and endowment.

- B. The Northwest Trek Foundation agreement provides the following:
 - a. Annual support of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park initiatives for conservation programs, community education, and capital project with a minimum amount of \$400,000
 - b. Metro Parks will pay the Northwest Trek Foundation \$200,000 for development services including major fits, grants, and capital projects.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R11-23: ADOPTING NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 302

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

Debbie Russell commented that the new CBA covers a term of three years beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, and governs approximately 180 represented employees, or 48% of career staff, across the District.

Debbie Russell highlighted the following areas of the CBA:

Wages: The General Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are:

- 2023: 7%
- 2024: 4%
- 2025: 3%

Ms. Russell commented that the employee and dependent health insurance contribution remains the same at ten percent (10%) through the end of the contract. The contract contains language that allows the wellness committee to propose benefit design changes if health and dental insurance plans and/or fee schedule adjustments are projected to increase more than seven percent (7%) in a plan year. Ms. Russell commented it is possible that a plan change will occur during the current contract cycle and all changes will be addressed through the wellness committee.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R12-23: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE 2023 OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE TACOMA PARKS FOUNDATION

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

Mark Knowlden reminded the Board of the strong relationship the District has with the Tacoma Parks Foundation. He noted this agreement will be for one year and includes the following:

- A. The Tacoma Parks Foundation agreement provides the following funding:
 - a. Metro Parks will pay TPF an annual allowance of \$444,874 in 2023 for development services including major gifts, grants, capital projects and endowment. In return, the Tacoma Parks Foundation will pay to Metro Parks a value equal to 1.5 times return on MPT payment each year.
 - b. In addition TPF will make the following distributions:
 - i. Eastside Community Center Lease & Operations: The distribution amount for the NMTC is expected to be \$236,000
 - ii. Eastside Community Center Programing Endowment: The estimated distribution from the endowment is between \$189,000 and \$211,000 in 2023

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS None

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary