



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
November 21, 2022**

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

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

November 16, 2022 COW Minutes

It was moved and adopted to approve the minutes as presented; seconded & passed unanimously.

2023-2024 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET & WORK PLAN

Mark Knowlden began the presentation by noting the Park & Recreation Department Structure. Staff indicated that the budgeted FTE count for 23/24 is budgeted to be 12% higher than in 21/22. The Board was informed that the proposed allocation of operating budget for the Parks & Recreation Department is budgeted at \$77.8M for 23/24.

CFAO, Tania Wink was introduced and reviewed a financial table that showed the proposed allocation of the 2023-24 Operating Budget for Parks and recreation including revenues and expenses for general fund and enterprise funds.

Several slides were discussed to demonstrate how work plan initiatives within Parks & Recreation, supported by the budget, and align with the District's pillars of sustainability and guiding principles.

The following work plan areas were highlighted within each pillar:

People: The Social Pillar of Sustainability

- Primary Department Focus: Children & Families

- Enabling and Empowering Staff to Execute Successfully
- Continuously Reaching Out To Inform Service Delivery

Conservation: The Environmental Pillar of Sustainability

- Promote & Build Urban Resiliency Through Programs and Services
- Stewardship Focused on the Future
- It's All About the Science

Financial: The Economic Pillar of Sustainability

- Equip Staff To Work Effectively
- Maintain Equitable Systems That Expand Access
- Develop Business Practices That Strengthen The District, in Partnership with BAP and ZEED

Mr. Knowlden indicated that as the department director his focus will be in the following areas:

- Innovation and creativity in leveraging available resources.
- Focus on leadership development and enhancing a positive work environment.
- Operating with excellence in a very complex world.

Deputy Directors Hollie Rogge and Joe Brady then commented on the following work plan initiatives for 23/24:

- **Prioritize Safe and Secure Parks, Programs, and Facilities**
Develop a unified system to safeguard staff, visitors and the community utilizing integrated strategies that include Park Rangers and Ambassadors, staff training, contracted professional services, and collaboration with other public agencies including law enforcement and emergency responders. Prioritize safety-related infrastructure improvements to parks and facilities.
- **Comprehensive Security**
Expand Rangers and Ambassadors districtwide. Focus on interpretation and customer service, low level code compliance, and increased communication with law enforcement and partner agencies.
- **Protocols, Procedures and Training.**
Refresh, develop and train staff on safety and security protocols and procedures.
- **Expand Conservation Principles and Environmental Commitments**
 - Expand efforts to grow, maintain and protect Tacoma's urban forests in the face of climate change.

- Continue transition to pervasively preventative maintenance model for MPT's urban forestlands.
 - Collaboratively develop and implement wildfire prevention plans with the Tacoma Fire Department and other partner agencies.
 - Excellence in display and production horticulture.
 - Leverage and bolster the expertise of MPT horticulturalists to expand opportunities to properly install, maintain and interpret landscapes throughout the District.
 - Create new revenue streams where practical.
 - Develop resources to assist the City of Tacoma in reaching its urban forest canopy coverage goals.
 - Model and lead environmental sustainability efforts.
 - Bolster efforts and resources to expand MPT's inventory of pesticide free parks, integrating principles of organic nutrient management and integrated pest management.
 - Focus staff resources into MPT's natural areas, partnered with a reinforced and bolstered CHIP-In volunteer program.
- Focus on Outreach, Engagement and Community Needs.

Create intentional outreach platforms to build relationships. Engage with and listen to community needs and desires through diverse methods. Document and analyze community voices and utilize them to develop responsive programs and methods of delivery through a lens of safety, health, wellness, inclusion, equity, and fun.

- Co-create to Recreate
 - Inviting community to each community center for engagement and relationship building events on a quarterly basis
 - Tacoma Nature Center is hosting an event in March
 - Usually themed but also opportunity for community input on any subject
 - Listen, document, respond, communicate, invite more feedback
 - Outreach and Engagement
 - Surveys, neighborhood groups, Advisory Councils, intentional outreach to community leaders and partners, parent/ teacher nights + back to school functions, special events at centers
 - (CHIP-In); special project coordinator engaging volunteers for park work parties, community gardens, park stewards, park watch, etc.
- Focus on Youth
- Deliver excellent, accessible, and inclusive youth and teen programs and services equitably to a diverse community. Focus on underserved populations, remove barriers, and support youth, teens, and families.
- Tacoma Nature Center

- Nature education programs and preschool; family nature walks are free to reduce financial barriers.
 - Partnerships
 - Child Care, Beyond the Bell and Club Beyond in partnership with TPS and Greentrike, out of school time programming, sports, arts, STEM and more Summer camps both in TPS, MPT facilities and parks
 - Extended summer care for the ESY program + summer camps for self-contained youth
 - Community Centers and Parks
 - Free summer meals and playground program
 - Free youth memberships at Community Centers
 - Free Teen Programming
- Provide Resourceful, Equitable, and Productive Employment Pathways and Volunteer Opportunities.
 - Expand Opportunities.
 - Develop and implement programs that support a diverse, continuously improving workforce.
 - Healthy Culture.
 - Ensure that the organizational culture celebrates individual growth and nurtures an environment where team members can serve with significance.
 - Grow, Serve, Contribute.
 - Provide a comprehensive process of volunteer outreach and recruitment, along with methods and opportunities for supporters to add value and advocate for our parks, programs, facilities, and natural areas.
- Develop and Maintain Collaborative Partnerships

Work collaboratively with other community partners and public agencies to leverage resources, eliminate duplication and create efficiencies to jointly provide excellent, responsive parks and recreation services to the community.

 - Develop and leverage public/public and public/private partnerships
 - First Tee of South Puget Sound - Meadow Park Golf Course capital facility investments.
 - Tacoma Housing Authority – Interagency landscape maintenance service contract(s).
 - Tacoma Public Utilities – Point Defiance Utility Improvement Project.
 - Plan and execute community events, festivals and celebrations
 - Major community events: Summer Blast 4th of July and MOSAIC at Wright Park. Evaluating New Opportunities!
 - Contracted professional partners will deliver a slate of concerts at Dune Peninsula.

- Seek out and build partnerships with important community groups like the Callaveras Collective and the Asia Pacific Cultural Center to host community events at our facilities.
 - Focus on Preventative Infrastructure Maintenance
 - Moving from ‘Reactive’ to ‘Proactive’.
 - Offer an enhanced emphasis on preventative maintenance and infrastructure improvements to ensure that the comprehensive capital assets, both large and small, are proactively managed and sustained to their maximum functional lifespan.
 - Comprehensive Asset Management.
 - Implement sustainable practices to ‘operationalize’ the formal asset management system currently being developed.
- Provide Quality, Accessible, and Equitable Programs and Services to the Diverse Communities We Serve
 - Quality:

MPT family is compassionate, talented and service-driven. Our teams serve in our parks, community centers and schools, and work with an ethic of quality and excellence, providing beautiful, safe and great places to connect to nature, work out, enjoy programs, wellness and fun.
 - Accessible:
 - Collaboration with Pierce County and other agencies to serve our specialized populations.
 - Provide more opportunities for adaptive integrated programs in collaboration with TPS in BTB.
 - Continue free youth programming, late night and special events in our community centers and expand our commitment to helping remove financial and transportation barriers.
 - Equitable:
 - Enhance our ability to provide equity emphasis work improving play areas, landscaping and park furniture in high opportunity areas in southeast and central Tacoma.
 - Expand analysis of our program offerings to identify gaps in service and respond to community need.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary