



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 13, 2023**

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

EXCUSED: Rosie Ayala

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

**STUDY SESSION TACOMA PARKS FOUNDATION REPORT OUT**

Teri Moore, Executive Director of the Tacoma Parks Foundation was introduced. Ms. Moore commented on the new mission, vision and values of the Foundation: *We cultivate a community invested in providing parks and recreation access for all. And Plentiful, equitable access to nature, play and recreation in Tacoma.*

Ms. Moore spoke about the new name and brand refresh of the foundation including the new website.

Ms. Moore then commented on examples of support for 2022 as follows:

- Beyond the Bell/Club Beyond administration
- Ruston Way Site Furnishings
- Memorial Bench Program
- McCarver and Wright Park playground improvements
- Fore Eastside Golf Tournament
- Youth programming (late night, summer playground, Eastside)
- Athletic Equipment
- Swan Creek Dog Park Opening
- Melanie's Park donor stewardship
- Levy Lid Lift contribution
- 2022 Distribution Total \$1,208,452.26

Ms. Moore commented that the Foundation is planning the following for 2023:

- Ruston Way Site Furnishings Celebration
- 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Eastside Community Center
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fore Eastside Golf Tournament
- Stewart Heights Skate Park

- Vans for Outdoor Recreation
- Senior Programs
- Late Night

Katrinka Mannelly, President of the Fort Nisqually Foundation was introduced. Ms. Mannelly commented that goals for the next year include: build the Fort Foundation Board, prepare for a Capital Campaign and increase Foundation productivity and professionalism.

Ms. Moore commented on some highlights from 2022 Conservatory Foundation and grand reopening including:

- providing support for new programming that included BIPOC artists and entrepreneurs
- Over 800 visitors on opening day
- Unveiling of the new vivarium
- Record number of visitors following the reopening
- Memberships up and preparing for a big renewal push as the 1-year anniversary of the reopening approaches

In 2023 the Conservatory Foundation is planning to:

- Focus on board development to grow the team
- Maximize the summer months for community events and member engagement
- Offer stronger support to staff for future programming
- Brainstorm new ideas for fundraising and communications to increase memberships and membership renewals

Teri Moore then recognized her staff Hannah Fields and Quinn Bartholomew and Tacoma Parks Foundation Board Member Alicia Lawver who was present at the meeting.

Ms. Moore commented that trends in fundraising include anything related to homelessness, and capital projects.

### **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.

Commissioner Reid moved to excuse Commissioner Ayala, seconded and passed unanimously.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Gavin Wuttken was honored by staff and the Board upon his retirement from Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium after 18 years of service as the diving safety officer.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Smith commented that she attended last Friday's JMAC meeting. She noted the agenda included a presentation from the Imagine Justice Program.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS** None

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Dash Point Park and Pier Community Meeting is being held at Norpoint on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- Staff has heard community concerns regarding public process, environmental impacts, loss of public space, parking, traffic and other neighborhood impacts related to proposed Stanley Playfield renovations. Mr. Sylvia commented that MPT is committed to hearing all voices. He noted a community meeting is planned for this Thursday at 3pm at People’s Center.
- STAR Center Kids Night Out, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- Norpoint Teen Center activities are starting this Wednesday from 3-5pm
- State House and Senate budget proposals expected to be out 4-5 days after March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Woodards’ State of the City address is this Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Mt. Tahoma HS
- This Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm there will be a DNR Press conference at Dickman Mill Park related to the State funded clean up, President Smith will be attending.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

The following individuals submitted written comments related to their concerns about the proposed planned improvements to Stanley Playfield: Katie Marler, Hannah Parker, Lynda Foster, James Harper, Tiffani Reyes.

Curt Mehlhaff commented that if there was a quorum of Board members at the recent Advisory Council annual meeting proper noticing was necessary.

Sarah Holm spoke about her concerns about the Stanley Playfield improvements noting lack of community process & information, and the negative environmental impacts of the proposed changes.

Ariane Chenard commented that she is concerned about the proposed Stanley Playfield Project, noting that more ball fields are not needed at this time in the neighborhood to serve the current neighbors and students. Ms. Chenard commented she is also concerned about traffic safety issues and environmental issues caused by artificial turf.

Josh Stovall commented about his frustration about the lack of opportunities for community engagement and public input in the Stanley Playfield project. He urged the Board to elevate community voice and be mindful of community input.

Abigail Potter commented that she attended the March 1<sup>st</sup> community meeting for Stanley Playfield. Ms. Potter commented that the Districts field study does not recommend the ball fields in this area of town. She noted that stakeholder input from current park users is lacking and should be a focus moving forward.

Rebecca Vitsmun commented that she's concerned about the loss of large green space if Stanley Playfield is converted to ball fields. Ms. Vitsmun spoke of the environmental benefits of large green spaces. Ms. Vitsmun commented on the studies centered around health-related concerns attributed to artificial turf.

Amy Igama commented on her concerns on the proposed Stanley Playfield improvements. She commented on how her family uses the playfield and the importance of teaching kids the value of taking care of the environment and open spaces. Ms. Igama commented that public process was lacking in this project.

Katie Marler thanked the Board for listening to the community voices tonight. Ms. Marler commented the square footage being proposed for Stanley Elementary field is not large enough and transforming it to ball fields will be a huge loss. Ms. Marler commented about her concerns related to the fact that artificial turf is not environmentally friendly.

Lee Wong spoke about her family's use of the Stanley Playfield. Ms. Wong spoke about the values and mission as stated on the District Web page. She expressed the idea to address the need for creating a sense of place for the Hilltop Community.

President Smith thanked community members for attending tonight and stated there is a community meeting on the topic of the Stanley Playfield Plan this Thursday at People's Center at 3pm. Another evening meeting is currently being scheduled.

Shon Sylvia commented that TPS and MPT are committed to collaboratively working with the community on this project.

### **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. C20-23: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR FEBRUARY 2023**

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

### **PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. P21-23: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA**

1. DELL MARKETING LP FOR LAPTOPS AND DESKTOP COMPUTERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$147,000

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

Debbie Russell commented that these laptops and computers are being purchased from the State Contract for the Business Administration and Planning Department. Ms. Russell noted that most District computers are replaced on a 5-year cycle.

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

### **SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R22-23: ACCEPTING & APPROPRIATING \$587,567.66 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE TACOMA PARKS FOUNDATION FOR MULTIPLE METRO PARKS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

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

Mark Knowlden commented on the partnership with the Tacoma Parks Foundation and the funds raised to support various projects and programs.

Mr. Knowlden spoke about how staff and the foundation work together to determine fundraising priorities.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R23-23: ACCEPTING & APPROPRIATING \$18,287.50 IN FUNDS FROM THE W.W. SEYMOUR BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION**

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

Mark Knowlden commented on how well the Tacoma Parks Foundation supports the Conservatory Foundation.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R24-23: DE-ACCESSIONING AND SURPLUSING ITEMS FROM THE FORT NISQUALLY COLLECTION**

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

Mark Knowlden commented on the process of surplusing historical artifacts. Jim Lauderdale noted that most of the items are being moved from the permanent collection into the living history collection at the Fort.

Commissioner Liang thanked staff for following policy in this process.

Mark Roberts commented that the vote should be postpend since all five commissioner are needed to surplus items.

Commissioner Smith motioned to postpone the vote on this resolution until the next Board meeting; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS** None

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Reid thanked the community for attending and commenting.

Commissioner Pointer noted he appreciated the comments that were made tonight, and the comments were heard.

Commissioner Liang commented that he's interested in more dialogue with the community about the Stanley Playfield project and there is a need for rebuilding some trust with the community.

Commissioner Smith commented there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15.m.

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary