



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 10, 2023**

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 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Stacey Luhring, Volunteer Coordinator at Point Defiance Zoo, opened the presentation by noting the many types of volunteers that Metro Parks has including educators at the zoo and Conservatory, reenactors at Fort Nisqually, coaches for youth sports, environmental stewards for our natural areas, and members of foundation boards and advisory councils. Ms. Luhring stated that District-wide in 2022 there were 4,900 volunteers totaling over 62,000 hours equating to an estimated value of \$1.8M. Ms. Luhring then highlighted specific details related to volunteer impact at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. Staff then reminded the Board of the Wildlife Champions Nature based science curriculum program that engages youth in Pierce County, she commented that the program relies heavily on volunteers to work with elementary students to develop empathy for animals so they become better stewards of their local parks and community.

Richard Madison was then introduced and spoke about appreciating volunteers of the District's Chip-In program. Mr. Madison provided the Board with details related to the impact of volunteers in this program including over 10,000 volunteer hours in 2022. The Board was then reminded that the 22nd Annual Parks Appreciation Day is scheduled for April 22nd, volunteers are needed at Point Defiance Park, Charlotte's Blueberry Park, Wapato Park and Titlow Park. Kevin Johnson was then introduced and spoke about volunteer impact related to recreation including youth sports after school programs, arts and fitness, adaptive recreation, and community centers. Mr. Johnson commented that over 18,000 volunteer hours by 345 people were recorded in this area in 2022. Staff commented on the upcoming initiative to rebrand and update the Chip-In program to the CHIPP-In (Communities Helping Improve Parks & Programs) program to help market opportunities in recreational areas including arts, fitness, and community centers.

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 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Reid read a proclamation into the record recognize and celebrating April as National Volunteer Month and extending deepest appreciation to all in the community who participate in caring for Tacoma's parks, zoos and their fellow community members as Metro Parks volunteers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Smith moved New Business ,Stanley Playfield to this point in the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS STANLEY PLAYFIELD

Staff stated that that comment period on this project related to the CUP with the City of Tacoma has ended. Ms. Russell also commented that MPT is updating prior City plan review comments on alternative sites, as well as working on coordinating additional community outreach in the Central & Hilltop areas of town.

President Smith commented on the on-going community comments and input regarding proposed improvements at Stanley Playfield. President Smith purposed that the MPT work with Tacoma Public School to update a plan for baseball and fast-pitch softball fields to be accommodated at a different site, such as Peck Sports Complex, rather than Stanley Playfield. She requested Director Sylvia work closely with TPS to meet their needs and requested a timeline of next steps.

Commissioner Ayala made the following motion: I move to authorize the Executive Director to develop a letter of intent and to negotiate necessary terms to execute the approach related to future sports fields as outlined by President Smith. It is critical to schedule a meeting with staff from MPT, TPS and COT within the next two weeks to provide clear expectations of all parties moving forward. This will allow Tacoma Public School the ability to see if this approach meets their needs and objectives; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Jennifer Lacey thanked the Board for considering another location rather than Stanley Playfield.

Jamika Scott thanked the Board for the update and noted her appreciation of the communication.

Austin Goble encouraged the District to engage with the community early about impacts on community during the planning phases of projects.

Sarah Holm noted she was thankful the Board is pivoting on this project and looking to locate ball fields in a different space.

Commissioner Ayala thanked the community for their innovative engagement during this process.

Commissioner Liang stated that this motion is the first step toward rebuilding trust.

Commissioner Pointer commented that he likes the idea of having more activity at Peck Field.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala commented that at the last council meeting Alan Varsik gave a presentation. She noted that new members are being appointed tonight, and although membership is full there is still space for a youth member to join the council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Staff will begin work in accordance with the direction given by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed by the Board regarding planning for ball fields at an alternative site and not Stanley Playfield.
- The CIC meeting scheduled for April 12, 2023 is canceled.
- Staff have wrapped up the Meadow Park Golf Course Concept Designs with their various golf advisory teams. They had over 80 participants with representatives from users, community leaders and golf industry leaders. There will be a public meeting on April 27th, 6 PM at the STAR Center for the neighborhood around Meadow Park Golf Course. Complimentary dinner and childcare services will be provided. In addition, staff will be presenting to Metro Parks Advisory Council's in April and May, starting with BRAC on this week.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Written comments regarding Stanley Elementary Playfield were submitted prior to the meeting by Sarah Perkins, Zephyra Burt, Betsy Kinblade, & Lori Arnold.

Voice mail comment from Brian Humphreys was received regarding concerns at the Eastside Community Center.

Jackie Jones-Hook commented that the Buffalos Soldiers Museum plans to hold a community Labor Day event at Cheney Stadium and requested the use Heidelberg Field for the event.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 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. C30-23: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR MARCH 2023

RESOLUTION NO. C31-23: APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE NATURE & ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. C32-23: APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ARTS & HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 5-0.

New council members in the audience were recognized and thanked.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P33-23: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. SEATTLE’S FINEST SECURITY & TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR SECURITY SERVICES CONTRACT AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$655,000 (INCLUDING WSST)
2. ROBERT HALF INTERNATIONAL, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES -TEMP. CONTROLLER POSITION CONTACT AMENDMENT FOR \$150,000

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

Mark Knowlden and Alan Varsik commented that the District is pleased with the services provided by Seattle’s Finest and are requesting a contract extension as allowed for in the original contract.

Debbie Russell commented that the contract with Robert Half is to continue to use temp. services for the District’s controller position until the vacant position is filled.

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith commented on the recent 90th birthday celebrations held for Margaret McCormick, former Parks and Recreation Director.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary