



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
April 3, 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.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

March 20, 2023 COW Minutes

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

STANLEY PLAYFIELD PROJECT

Debbie Russell opened the discussion by commenting on the needs that the District is trying to address with this project as: home fields for Stadium HS Boys Baseball and Girls Fast Pitch, multipurpose fields, year-round play spaces & playground, and updated community park amenities.

Ms. Russell then reminded the Board of the four public meetings with the community that were held in March. Ms. Russell then spoke about the feedback that was received at those meetings. She noted the community had many concerns reading safety, locked fields, loss of trees, artificial turf, the space the fields would take up, lack of outreach in planning, and traffic/parking & circulation issues. She also noted items the community supports including an open natural area for free play, trees, multi-sport use and covered play spaces. Ms. Russell further noted the community shared their ideas about the space that included locating the ball fields at Peck Field including a walking trail, the inclusion of an off-leash area, and spaces for netted sports areas for things like tennis or volleyball.

General Board discussion ensued acknowledging that the District was not clear in its communication early on about project planning with Tacoma Public Schools for this site. Board members noted that collaboration & partnerships projects should be aligned with the District's

Partnership Policy and the Public Engagement Policy. Staff agreed that moving forward a partnership agreement will need to be put into place.

Commissioner Pointer spoke about his concern about Stanley Playfield not being the right size space for this kind of project and commented he would like to see Stanley Park remain a neighborhood park.

Commissioner Reid commented that Stanley Playfield is classified as a neighborhood park and it cannot support the ball fields and the associated amenities.

Commissioners encouraged staff to look into Peck Field as a possible site for these future ball fields. There was a brief conversation about the funding for the project; staff noted that funding from TPS will follow the ball fields if a different site is explored and chosen.

Debbie Russell commented that staff will evaluate alternative sites and have further conversations with the City and TPS. She also commented that staff will broaden the focus of park needs with in the Central/Hilltop areas and expand neighborhood outreach. Staff indicated they will report back on these items at the April 10th Regular Park Board meeting.

OTHER None

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary