



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
August 14, 2023**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: District Headquarters  
4702 S 19<sup>th</sup> St.

**STUDY SESSION FIRE STATION 7**

Marty Stump opened the presentation by commenting the Park District has been in conversation with the City and Tacoma Fire about a proposal to possibly relocate Fire Station 7 via a land transfer. Justin Davis representing the City of Tacoma commented that the City is conducting a Fire Facilities Master Plan to establish long-term strategies to prioritize which buildings will be renovated and which would be replaced. Mr. Davis spoke of the many facilities that have extensive deferred maintenance and do not meet ADA requirements, are inefficient and lack capacity for growth. Mr. Davis then spoke of the current Fire Station 7 noting that it was constructed in 1959 and serves as one of the two areas in the city with the highest call volume. He then spoke of the need to add response units, however the current station is undersized, and the existing property lacks the capacity for the needed expansion.

Mr. Davis then commented that a new South Tacoma Fire Station is proposed for the vacant corner of the SERA campus, near South 58th and South Tyler. He highlighted this site is approximately 7.8 acres of land and hillside are unimproved on the northwest corner of the 60-acre MPT campus. Mr. Davis further commented that the City is requesting the opportunity to purchase approximately 2.3-acres of the unimproved MPT property. The Board was informed that the proposed new station would strategically place TFD in a better location to respond more effectively to the growing south end community while co-locating vital emergency response resources on the campus, a designated disaster/crisis response site. Several preliminary concepts drawings of a proposed station were then reviewed.

Mr. Davis then noted that opportunities that may come as a result of the new station including:

- Activating underutilized and periodically misused area of SERA
- TFD a trusted community partner as cornerstone of civic campus
- Co-Development opportunities for improved park access & safety

- Leveraging neighborhood-wide multi-modal access enhancements with Sound Transit under South Tacoma Station project
- Funds leveraging for park improvements within SERA or SW planning area more broadly
- Opportunity to collaborate with the community on planning, design, development and operations for public benefit

Staff stated a Public Open House on this proposal is scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup> at the STAR Center at 6p.m.

Commissioner Pointer inquired about tree removal. Mr. Davis commented that design work is being done to minimize tree removal at the site.

Commissioner Ayala inquired about plans for the current Fire Station 7. Mr. Davis commented that it may be used as an ambulance site.

Commissioner Liang commented that he is anticipating more questions about this proposal from community related to park property, safety issues, and tree canopy.

### **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** None

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Smith commented favorably on the grand opening event at Gas Station Park.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### Active Living & Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Pointer commented the council met on July 27<sup>th</sup>. He noted staff was present at the meeting and presented on the District’s strategic plan work. The next meeting is schedule for August 24<sup>th</sup> at Wright Park.

#### Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Liang commented that council is scheduled to meet August 16th.

#### Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented that this council will be meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Smith noted that JMAC met on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included updates on homelessness strategies, and youth safety.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- The colorful banner in the back of the Board room is from Mosaic event
- There is a Summer Bash scheduled on August 18<sup>th</sup> at Stewart Heights Park
- There is a Kids Health and Safety Fair scheduled at People’s Center on August 20th

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

The following individuals submitted written comments highlighting their opposition to a proposal to locate a new Fire Station 7 at the SERA Park campus: Anna Sierra, Heidi Stephens, Aife Pasquale, Cathie Raine, Gemini Gnull.

Cathie Raine stated she did submit written comments , she noted that locating a Fire Station in the proposed location will likely not reduce response time as traffic in that areas is congested.

Heid Stephens spoke in opposition of the proposed Fire Stion 7 plan location as it will affect trees and the tree canopy in the neighborhood.

Aife Pasquale commented that she is opposed to Fire Station 7 proposal.

Curth Mehlhaff stated that the flag at Heidelberg Field needs repair. He also commented that the past land owners of the Gas Station Park location should have been held more financial accountable for the mess that was left on that site.

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 24, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. C61-23:** APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR JULY 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. C62-23:** APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

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

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. P63-23:** AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. MERCEDES BENZ OF SPOKANE FOR 2023 SPRINTER 3500 CARGO VAN 9,990 GVWR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,617.25 (including WSST)

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

Alan Varsik stated that this van is a fleet van used by the Zoo’s research and dive team. The van is being purchased from the State contract.

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

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In accordance with RCW 42.30.10, the Board recessed into executive session to discuss a real estate matter.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57p.m.

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary