



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
September 11, 2023**

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

REMOTE: Aaron Pointer

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

**STUDY SESSION PARK GUIDES & COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

Mark Knowlden opened the presentation by informing the Board that the park guides are just a piece of the park ranger system being developed. He noted the challenges the District faces in keeping parks safe and secure. Mr. Knowlden commented that the guide program is a part of a tiered approach with other components that will be implemented over time.

Daniel Mero was introduced. Mr. Mero commented on the development of the park guide position and the role they play in incident response, policy education, visitor services, and external partner liaison. Mr. Mero then commented on the park guide mission: *MPT Park Guides create meaningful engagement with our community where they play, learn, and grow and the park guide vision MPT Park Guides are community's field connection to all the resources that Metro Parks Tacoma has to offer, and Metro Parks Tacoma's field connection to our community.* The four new park guides were introduced.

Mr. Mero commented that the primary focus to date has been the park guide role in the District's larger visitor compliance program. He then explained the delineation of their responsibilities in context with contracted security and commissioned police officers. Mr. Mero stated that this provides a tiered response to safety and compliance concerns: education and engagement from the guides, who can escalate concerns to contracted security in an effort to develop voluntary compliance, and ultimately, if appropriate commissioned officers for ordinance enforcement. Park Guide visitor engagement results data was then shared with the Board.

President Smith requested a status update on the program in 6 months.

**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 Liang was named acting clerk as Commissioner Pointer attended the meeting remotely.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Commissioner Ayala read the proclamation into the record recognizing and honoring September 15- October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

### **WELCOMING WEEK PROCLAMATION**

President Smith read the proclamation into the record recognizing and honoring September 8-17 as Welcoming Week.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Smith commented that the Board held its mid-year retreat on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included discussion around the District's strategic plan work, capital planning and community safety.

President Smith commented that she attended the Asia Pacific Cultural ground breaking last week. Commissioners Reid and Laing commented they attended the event as well.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Commissioner Ayala commented that JMAC met last week. The committee was updated on the summer late night program.

### **Arts & Heritage Advisory Council**

Commissioner Liang commented that the council is scheduled to meet next week.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium has received accreditation from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums.
- Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium recently celebrated the success of their summer Youth Volunteers for all their hard work at the zoo. Combined, the youth volunteers worked 7,421 hours during the summer of 2023.
- Northwest Trek is happy to announce that the new all-electric trams will be opening to the public on September 20th.
- Upcoming Co-create to Recreate Events: STAR Center September 12th at 5:30pm & Eastside Community Center September 20th at 5:30pm.
- Debbie Russell introduced new employee Amber Udelhoven.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Curt Mehlhaff thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend last week’s Board retreat. He noted that he appreciates the multi-agency planning occurring. He noted his concerns about city zoning changes that are impacting population density and affecting parks. Mr. Mehlhaff commented that the District’s 10-minute walk to a park goal is aspirational but will be difficult to achieve.

President Smith commented that through the Geen School Yards initiative more spaces are being opened up for public recreation and used to help achieve the 10-minute walk goal.

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 28, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. C70-23:** APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR AUGUST 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. C71-23:** NW TREK WILDLIFE PARK TRAM STATION BID #J2021-05 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO LAKE TAPPS CONSTRUCTION UNLIMITED

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

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. RR69-23:** UPDATING POLICY 511.001- AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & UPDATING POLICY 000.004- NAMING METRO PARKS TACOMA’S ASSETS

This resolution was moved and seconded at the August 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Board meeting.

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

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary