



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
October 23, 2023**

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

REMOTE: Aaron Pointer

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- GENERAL TAX LEVY OF REGULAR PROPERTY TAX FOR COLLECTION IN 2024
- EXCESS TAX LEVY FOR UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION (UTGO)
BOND REDEMPTION

Tania Wink opened the hearing by reviewing RCW's related to the District's need to establish amounts for property revenue needed to fund operations. She stated the established amount is due to the County Assessor's office by November 30th , and the County then has assessed rates in place by December 31st.

Ms. Wink then gave a brief review of the restrictions in State law limiting annual property tax revenue growth. A 2023 Property Tax distribution graph noting agency collection rates was reviewed. Additionally, Ms. Wink provided information showing the home value rates comparison for 2022 and 2023 noting the decrease in assessed values of single-family homes in Tacoma in 2023.

A table showing property tax collection rates for the District from 2015-2024 was then reviewed. Ms. Wink commented that in 2024 the Regular levy is proposed to be set at \$.75, and the excess levy rate set at \$.46 totaling \$1.2160.

The first reading for the levy certification is scheduled for November 13th with second reading scheduled for November 27th.

The floor was then opened for community comments.

Being no additional comments, the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Smith read a land acknowledgement.

Commissioner Ayala was named as acting clerk as Commissioner Pointer attend the meeting remotely.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PARKS CHAMPION AWARD

Following an introduction from Sandra Eliason and BRAC Chair Doug Andreassen, Coordinated Care and Akeem Davis were both named as Parks Champion Award recipients for this quarter. Board members thanked and recognized the efforts of the recipients.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Chris Buck was recognized by the Board on the occasion of his retirement after serving 33 years with Metro Parks Tacoma.

QUARTERLY CAPITAL UPDATE

Marty Stump opened the presentation by commenting and showing photos related to projects completed in Q3 including Stewart Heights Aquatic Facility renovations and the People's Center roof. Mr. Stump then commented on the projects in construction in Q3 including:

- Melanie's Park
- PDZA South Pacific Aquarium Renovation
- Community School Yards
- Jennie Reed Elementary
- Stafford Elementary
- Rocky Shores Filtration Infrastructure
- NW Trek New Well at Conservation Center

Several photos noting the progress of Melanie's Park, South Pacific Aquarium, the NW Trek Well, and community school yards were shared with the Board.

Projects in design during Q3 were highlighted as follows:

- TPS Community School Yards
- Mann, Whitman and Larchmont
- Titlow Park North Hidden Beach Bridge
- Titlow Park Lagoon Restoration & RR Trestle
- Fort Nisqually Clerks House and Bldg Renov.
- NWT Animal Operations Facility
- Pt. Defiance Park Loop Trail Phase 2
- Jefferson Park Fieldhouse – Fire Remediation
- Dash Point Pier and Park Renovation
- Peck Community Sports Park
- Point Defiance Utilities Assessment
- Ferry Park Play Equipment Replacement

Mr. Stump highlighted the planning work occurring around Titlow Park at North Hidden Beach and the Lagoon Restoration. He also reminded the Board of the work with community related to the Peck Sports Park and showed a couple of design concepts that will be shared with the community at a public meeting scheduled for November 8th.

Mr. Stump then commented on the project goals of the Dash Point Pier and Park Renovation project including: restoration of local fishing, ensuring safety & accessibility, and consideration for environmental impacts.

Q3 Partnership Projects were also noted by staff including:

- First Creek Park & Trailhead Improvements (with TPL)
- Swan Creek Channel Restoration (with Pierce County)
- Verlo Multi-Sport Court with Seattle Kraken
- EPA Shoreline Improvements at Dune
- Joint Operations & Skills Center Planning
- COT / TFD Facilities Planning
- FS #7 at SERA - PreDesign
- Commencement Bay Shoreline Planning

Mr. Stump then summarized funding awards for many projects from 2022 and 2023.

Additionally, Mr. Stump noted the following Q3 planning efforts in progress:

- Parks and Recreation System Comprehensive Plan
- MPT Climate Action Plan
- Enterprise Asset Management System
- MPT Future Bond Planning
- ADA Transition Plan

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented on the sessions she attended at the NRPA annual conference earlier in the month.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala commented that the committee will meet later this week.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Ayala stated that at the last meeting Pierce Transit presented information on their agency sustainability plan. The committee also received a presentation about the Cultural Ambassador program.

Business & Responsive Agency Advisory

Commissioner Reid commented that the council met last Thursday. The committee received information on District branding work, as well as the status of District policy review & Q3 financials.

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Liang commented that the council meet last week and discussed the Capital Improvement Policy, specifically the percentage for the arts section.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- The District hosted 2 state legislators and a staffer from Senator Patty Murray's office at Point Defiance Zoo last week. Guests were Senator T'wina Nobles, Representative Melanie Morgan, and Juan Beltran-Gonzales, who represents Senator Murray's interests in Pierce County. Staff are working on scheduling visits with other Tacoma-area legislators and will keep Board members posted.
- Debbie Russell introduced new employees Ha Ho and Joel Oliver.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Written comments were submitted by Heidi Stephens in opposition to a land transfer to allow for the current proposal of Fire Station 7.

Sandra Ford sent in photos of the current Blueberry Park sign and requested the District replace the sign due to its poor condition.

Theresa Evans commented that she is aware of a homeless family living in a local park and requested that perhaps staff could assist with resources.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 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. C85-23: APPOINTING ALEX FAZEKAS-BOONE TO THE ACTIVE LIVING AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. R86-23: DEMOLITION AGREEMENT OF THE EXISTING BUILDING AT SOUTH PARK BY AND BETWEEN THE ASIA PACIFIC CULTURAL CENTER AND THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

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

Debbie Russell commented Metro Parks supports the demolition and construction of the new Cultural Center and is advancing the demolition agreement separately from the restated lease agreement and construction agreement, so that demolition phase may proceed according to project schedule. It was noted that the demolition agreement will replace the current lease agreement with APCC and will be in effect until the restated lease and construction agreements are finalized.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R87-23: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM ONE ROOF FOUNDATION TO BUILD A NEW FLOOR BALL AND MULTIPURPOSE COURT AT VERLO PLAYFIELD

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

Debbie Russell commented that the Seattle Kraken and the National Hockey League (NHL) will contribute funding to Metro Parks Tacoma to build a new, fully inclusive and accessible floor ball and multipurpose court for the Eastside neighborhood of Tacoma. One Roof Foundation will provide Metro Parks Tacoma with up to \$225,000.00 for the project.

Commissioner Liang commented on public feedback gathered in support of this kind of amenity. Commissioner Ayala asked if the donated funds would cover the entire project. Ms. Russell commented that staff expects that it will cover the costs.

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

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Pointer commented that he is excited about the Peck Sports Park. President Smith noted that there will not be a CIC meeting on Wednesday. President Smith commented there is a COW scheduled for Monday, October 30th.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary