



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Andrea Smith, President  
Tim Reid, Clerk  
Aaron Pointer  
Matthew Mauer

**REMOTE:** Rosie Ayala

**IN THE CHAIR:** Andrea Smith

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

**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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**THE ZOO SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT OUT**

Ruthanne Howell, Executive Director of The Zoo Society was introduced. Ms. Howell informed the Park Board about the Society's fundraising efforts to support the areas of wildlife sustainability, community education & access, environmental footprint, and Zoo staff. She also noted the work to raise funds for capital work at the Zoo. Ms. Howell reported that the Society's total investment in 2023 was \$1,283,000.

Mark Terry, Zoo Society Board President commented that focus of the Society in 2024 will include a continued capital goal of \$1.3M as well as reduction of contractual membership revenue and obligation by 2026, generate more annual support and ensuring The Zoo Society has appropriate staffing capacity, continue to build the Society Board of Directors to broaden voices within the community and reflect those communities effectively.

**NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OUT**

Lori Price, President of the Northwest Trek Foundation was introduced. Ms. Price began her presentation by commenting on the successful fundraising efforts in 2023 including their dinner auction. The Board was informed that in 2023 the Foundation raised \$413,000 helping to support the following: Commissary, Northern Leopard Frog, Online Wildlife Academy, Porcupine exhibit design, and animal care/enrichment. Trek Foundation Board Member John Patterson spoke about the focus in 2024 including continued fundraising, grants, enhanced marketing, and connecting more with community.

Board members thanked The Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation for their continued support.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Smith commented that the Board held its annual retreat last Friday. Agenda items included the District's Strategic Plan, 2024 District work plan update, Safety & Security discussion, Board JEDI work.

President Smith noted she attended the strategic plan stakeholders meeting and the Tacoma Parks Foundation meeting last Wednesday.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS****Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council**

Commissioner Reid commented that the council met on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion items at the meeting included MWBE report, capital projects partnership update, and a legislative update.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- legislative update noting that today is Day 50 of the legislative session. The House has included funding for the People's Center feasibility study, and the Senate included funding for the South End community center feasibility study. Staff is waiting for the two chambers to reconcile their budgets before their scheduled adjournment next Thursday, March 7. Staff hopes to have confirmation by this weekend.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS** None**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. C12-24:** ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$250,000 FROM THE NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION FOR THE ANIMAL OPERATIONS AREA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

**RESOLUTION NO. C13-24:** ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$77,000 FROM THE NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION FOR THE NORTHWEST TREK PORCUPINE HABITAT PROJECT

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

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**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**

Commissioner Reid commented on informing the community about a park ranger program.

President Smith stated that there is a Co-create to Recreate being held at Norpoint this Thursday, and it's also a celebration of Norpoint's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**ADJOURN**

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

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary