



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 8, 2024**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

STUDY SESSION DISTRICT VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Debbie Russell opened the study session noting the work that staff is engaging in to increase alternative work force and volunteer engagement. Detrek Jones was introduced and briefly commented on the growing trends in the alternative workforce. He noted the District-wide approach that includes: CHIP-In! program, interpreters, coaches, educators, advisors and stewards. Mr. Jones also shared data about the volunteer service across the District for 2023 including 2,094 volunteers equating to 73,815 hours. He noted the areas of signification impact were at the Zoo, Trek, Chip-In!, Fort Nisqually, Tacoma Nature Center & People's Community Center. Commissioners were reminded that Parks Appreciation Day is scheduled for April 20th. Tessa Bondi was then introduced and spoke about the volunteers at Fort Nisqually. Ms. Bondi noted that in 2023 the Fort had 162 volunteers equating to 8,639 hours of services. The Board was informed about the role of volunteers at the Fort including education, heritage skills, youth activities, and deepening the experience of a living history through interaction with the public. Volunteers Jim Wagner and Nancy Keller-Scholz were highlighted as outstanding Fort volunteers. Ms. Bondi stated that in 2024 the Fort will celebrate 90 years. Wilson representing volunteer staff from Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium was introduced. Wilson briefed the Board on the youth leadership development program at the Zoo. Wilson commented that the program helps to provide purpose filled experiences in wildlife conservation, community building, as well as developing empathy and stewardship for wildlife. In 2023 the program had 69 volunteers equating to 7,820 hours. Avery Silos was highlighted as an outstanding youth volunteer at the zoo. Wilson commented that the program will grow to 85 youth in the next year and will be expanding opportunities for those in the program.

REGULAR MEETING

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS VOLUNTEER MONTH PROCLAMATION

Alan Varsik introduced the proclamation. Commissioner Reid then read a proclamation recognizing and celebrating April as National Volunteer Month and extended deepest appreciation to the dedicated individuals who give freely of their time to support our spaces, programs, and fellow community members.

The Board then recognized and thanked volunteers Avery Silos, James Wagner, Nancy Keller-Scholz for their outstanding dedication to the District.

PARKS CHAMPION AWARD

Shon Sylvia stated that the District is honoring Council Member Catherine Ushka with the Parks Champion Award. Mr. Sylvia commented on the many years of public service by Catherine Ushka and her tremendous work and effort in community collaboration related to parks in Tacoma including Gas Station Park.

A proclamation recognizing Council Member Catherine Ushka as Parks Champion was then read by President Smith.

President Smith commented that considering Council Member Ushka's support of Gas Station Park and the Eastside, she made a motion to add Catherine Ushka's name to Gas Station Park; seconded.

Commissioners Mauer, Reid and Ayala made brief comments in support of the motion and spoke highly of the work of Council Member Ushka.

Being no additional comment, the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented that she attended the Co-Create to Recreate at People's Center on March 27th. She noted that community members have voted to spend their allocated funds on improving the teen center furnishings.

President Smith reported that on March 28th she and Hunter George gave a tour of the People's Center to City Council Member Jamika Scott.

President Smith made a motion to move the location of the April 22, 2024 Regular Park Board Meeting to the Center at Norpoint; seconded and passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer commented that agenda items at the council meeting included the District's Climate Action Plan. As a follow up Commissioner Mauer requested a study session on the plan and noted he would like to discuss the District setting a goal related to decarbonization.

Active Lifestyles and Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Pointer commented that the council met on March 28th. Meeting agenda items included an update on polices under review by staff and a senior program update.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Staff requested that the Board table Resolution R22-24
- The April 10th CIC meeting is cancelled
- Reminder of the Dedication of Melanie’s Park is scheduled for this Thursday at 4:30pm

COMMUNITY COMMENTS None**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C18-24: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR MARCH 2024

RESOLUTION NO. C19-24: GAS STATION PARK IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. J2022-25 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO WILDWOOD CARPENTRY LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. C20-24: AUTHORIZING SURPLUS AND DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P21-24: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. MOBILE MODULAR FOR PRE-OWNED 14’X64’ WMS MOBILE MODULAR OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 (INCLUDING WSST)

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Hollie Rogge commented that this purchase is for new equipment and is necessary to complete the recent initiative to transition maintenance responsibilities for several parks and athletic complexes to the Regional maintenance team. She stated that regional maintenance staff will stand up their team at the Wright Park maintenance shops necessitating the neighborhood central

maintenance team to have an office at the Point Defiance Shop Facility. Ms. Rogge noted that funding for the purchase will come from the Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Fund, and it is anticipated that up to \$100,000 will be used to purchase, deliver, and set up the unit.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R22-24: METRO PARKS TACOMA / TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PECK COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK MULTI-USE BASEBALL FIELD PROJECT

Resolution was tabled.

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Mauer commented that he recently met with members of the skate boarding community and is encouraging the District to look into upgrades to the skate board facilities as Stewart Heights Park.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary