



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 22, 2024**

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

**EXCUSED:** Matthew Mauer

**IN THE CHAIR:** Andrea Smith

**PLACE:** Center at Norpoint, 4818 Nassau Ave. NE

**STUDY SESSION** NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS PARTNERSHIP

Hannah Polly, Northwest Youth Corps. Program Manager for the State of Washington was introduced. Ms. Polly opened the presentation by reporting on the mission and giving a brief history of NYC. Board members were then informed about the programs offered today by NYC including the Sound to Summit which was founded in 2017 with Metro Parks Tacoma. Ms. Polly commented that the program serves youth 15-18 years old in the local area by providing a 5-week experience allowing for high school credit and earning up to \$2250. Ms. Polly commented that with experienced field staff, participants complete service projects in the community with MPT. 2023 Accomplishments of the program included over 6,000 hours of work with 10 project partners. The Board was also informed about the \$12M grant awarded to NYC that will be spent over three regions (Eugene, Boise & Tacoma) as part of the USDA Forest Service and Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act. Jay Satz NYC Senior Strategic Advisor addressed the Board and thanked the District for the continued successful partnership.

Kevin Johnson, Community & Special Projects Coordinator for Metro Parks Tacoma, then spoke about the NYC/MPT partnership that began in 2017 that began with 8 students and has now grown to 60 students. Mr. Johnson commented that in 2024 the projects include work at Charlotte's Blueberry Park, Swan Creek, Eastside Community Center, Wapato Hills and McKinley Park. He noted that projects include invasive removal, fire mitigation, native planting, tree pruning, and wetland restoration. Mr. Johnson outlined the many job skills and career guidance that students received during their time on 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****CENTER AT NORPOINT CO-CREATED COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT**

Mark Knowlden, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation commented on the work done in collaboration with community at all four community centers via the CO-Create to Recreate series.

Meagan Kula was introduced to update the Board about the participatory budgeting exercise that was done at the Co-Create to Recreate events. Ms. Kula noted that during this process at Norpoint over 250 people participated to contribute ideas and vote on spending \$10,000 at their center. Meagan Kula described the top three projects, noting that strength & fitness equipment won the vote. Members of the Center at Norpoint Leadership Committee were present at the meeting and were thanked for their time and dedication.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Smith commented Melanie's Park is now open. President Smith also commented that last week the official renaming of Catherine Ushkas's Gas Station Park took place.

President Smith introduced County Council Member Marty Campbell representing District 5. Council Member Campbell thanked Metro Parks Parks for its continued partnership with the community and Pierce County. He also thanked the Board and staff for the renaming of Gas Station Park.

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

Commissioner Reid commented that agenda items at the last meeting included a financial update and possible improvements for Meadow Park Golf Course.

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Commissioner Ayala stated that JMAC met on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included Pierce Transit Strategic Plan, Summer Late Night Program, and conversation around community wealth building. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Arts & Heritage Advisory Council**

Commissioner Ayala stated that the committee has done some restructuring and will now have two vice chairs and several subcommittees to dive deeper into specific issues that the council is discussing.

**Active Lifestyles and Community Wellness Advisory Council**

Commissioner Pointer commented that the council is scheduled to meet this Thursday.

**Tacoma Parks Foundation**

President Smith noted that she attended a recent board meeting where foundation staff roles and responsibilities were discussed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Debbie Russell introduced new employee Narvie Seals
- Community was thanked for great participation in Parks Appreciation Day
- Hunter George gave an update on the City’s Charter Review Commission work noting that the Commission voted down the District’s request to amend section 9.1. He noted that since the City Council itself can offer amendments, MPT staff will submit the amendment proposal to the Council during that stage of the process.
- Craig Standridge and Zach Hawn representing Point Defiance Zoo and NW Trek were introduced to give an update on the City Nature Challenge. Mr. Standridge stated that the City Nature Challenge launched in 2016 and has grown globally. The noted goals of the of the program are to connect people to nearby nature, build community, grow volunteer biodiversity documentation, and to collect data. Zach Hawn then spoke about the iNaturalist online tool used to collect and track data collected by the public. Maps and data showing the species reporting done locally were shown.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Heidi Stephens requested that the District purchase the Madison School Site so it can continue to be used as open green space.

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 4-1 (Commissioner Mauer being excused).

**CONSENT AGENDA** None

**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 Pointer inquired about future Peck athletic field scheduling. Shon Sylvia commented that all scheduling will be coordinated through MPT.

Commissioner Ayala wished all a Happy Earth Day.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary