



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
June 24, 2024**

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

REMOTE: Tim Reid

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Eastside Community Center, 1721 E 56th St. Tacoma, WA 98404

STUDY SESSION METRO PARKS TACOMA URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

Joe Brady opened the presentation and introduced the District's Urban Forester, Mark McDonough. Mr. McDonough made note of the District's horticulture and urban forestry program's organization chart and budget details. The Board was then informed about the tree plotter inventory management system that assists the District in keeping track of the tree canopy coverage. He noted the growth of MPT's coverage in 2011 of 56% to 68% in 2021. The Board was then informed about the \$110,000 grant from DNR to update the and expand the District's urban forestry and wildfire management plan.

Mr. McDonough commented that that the plan will do the following:

- Refresh the canopy coverage figures for each park owned or managed by MPT
- Ensure consistency and alignment with the MPT Climate Action Plan (currently under development)
- Conduct stakeholder engagement to ensure public input is heard and incorporated
- Develop a long-term framework to guide program operations, staffing models, protocols for tree maintenance, removal/replacement policies and procedures, invasive species encroachment, climate change resiliency, pest and disease mitigation, canopy goals, planting priorities, and overall program funding needs and opportunities
- Develop strategies and tactics to prevent wildfires on MPT owned and managed lands
- Establish protocols and procedures to guide staff and partners in the event of a wildfire incident
- Develop steps and processes to ensure areas affected by wildfires are restored and rehabilitated.

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.

Commissioner Pointer was appointed as acting clerk as Commissioner Reid attend remotely.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF LGBTQ +PRIDE MONTH**

After a brief introduction from Alan Varsik, Commissioner Mauer read the proclamation into the record that honors and recognizes June as National LGBTQ+ Pride Month and July as Tacoma Pride Month and encourage members of the community to learn about LGBTQ+ history and take part in celebrations hosted by the Tacoma Pride Festival.

Tony Ivey, representing Washington Conservation Action accepted the proclamation and addressed the Board about the Earth Gay Event on July 27th.

WAPATO PARK HISTORIC DESIGNATION NOMINATION

Claire Keller-Scholz was introduced to speak to the Board about the Wapato Park historical nomination proposal. The Board was informed briefly about other historic preservation sites within the Metro Parks Tacoma properties that are on state and national registries. Ms. Keller-Scholz then presented the Board with historical background information related to the development of Wapato Park. The Board was then informed about the impacts of historic listings and staff commented that a historic listing will not prevent future improvements to the park and may be of benefit as the park may become eligible for potential special tax valuations, historic preservation grants and rehabilitation programs. Staff noted that next steps for this process include submitting the nomination packet to the Landmarks Preservation Committee where it will be reviewed, and public testimony will be accepted and recorded. The final step includes approval of the listing by City Council.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented that she recently attended the art opening at Eastside Community Center. President Smith also commented that she went to Cushman Substation Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**Arts and Heritage Advisory Council**

Commissioner Ayala stated that council attended the Eastside Community Center Art dedication.

Commissioner Ayala commented that she also attended the Juneteenth event at Stewart Heights.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director commented on the following:

- CIC meeting scheduled for this Wednesday, June 26th is cancelled.
- Alan Varsik introduced the following new ZEED employees: Jen Degroot, Dayna Wallace, Lo Holahan, Cameron Trout, Cera Webb, Rose Henry.
- Juneteenth was a successful event- photos of the event were shown

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Bryan Hillerman submitted a written comment related to a past due invoice for the Pacific Rim Aquarium.

Carissa Birge commented on the Labor Day Festival being sponsored by the Buffalo Soldiers Museum. She requested use of the Heidelberg sign on 19th St. in order to promote the event.

Kiera Thomas commented that she would like Metro Parks Tacoma to engage more with small business.

Benjamin Hawthorne commented that he would like to see how he can connect with the District to partner for youth opportunities.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 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. C42-24: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NOMINATION OF WAPATO PARK TO THE CITY OF TACOMA’S REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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. P43-24: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. WOODLAND PARK ZOO FOR WILD LIGHTS FIGURES AND CONTROLLERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,175 (INCLUDING WSST)

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

Alan Varsik stated that since Woodland Park Zoo moved from the traditional holiday lights figures they had installed to a partnership with Wild Lanterns for their light display. He noted that this meant that they had a large inventory of in-house built figures they needed to surplus. These displays are similar to our own Zoolights displays and will enhance and increase our displays for our annual event.

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. R44-24: METRO PARKS TACOMA / TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PECK COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK MULTI-USE BASEBALL FIELD PROJECT**

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

Debbie Russell commented that this item was reviewed at the last CIC meeting with the recommendation for forwarding to the full Board for approval. Ms. Russell noted the MOU in May 2023 for the feasibility planning of the site. She commented that that this ILA is focused primarily upon Phase One of the overall project consisting of the Multi-Use Baseball Field Project. The Project will serve the needs of youth athletic programs for Stadium High School, Hilltop Heritage Middle School, other TSD students, and the general public by providing improved sports fields as well as other facilities and spaces for active and passive recreation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R45-24: JOINING THE WASHINGTON STATE TREE EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

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

Joe Brady commented that by committing MPT to the Tree Equity Collaborative, MPT reaffirms its commitment to actively growing our urban forest and the multiple benefits that it will provide to our community. Furthermore, the District would commit to doing so with an equity lens- thus prioritizing our focus on areas of our jurisdiction who need canopy coverage the most.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R46-24: METRO PARKS TACOMA / WA STATE DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE FOR THE DICKMAN MILL PILING REMOVAL PROJECT

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

Debbie Russell commented that the Dickman Mill Piling and Debris Removal Project will remove approximately 1,200 creosote-treated piles, remnant superstructures, and debris from the nearshore environment of Commencement Bay, offshore of Dickman Mill Park. After pile removal, approximately 6 inches of clean sand with gravel will be placed across the dense piling fields, in accordance with a request from the Washington State Department of Ecology to stabilize the substrate and minimize the potential suspension of contamination.

Commissioner Mauer inquired about who would receive credits for the project. Ms. Russell indicated that DNR would receive the credits.

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Reid commented that the Business and Responsive Agency Advisory Council met on June 20th. Agenda items included an update on the 2022 financial audit.

ADJOURN

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

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary