



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

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President  
Rosie Ayala, Acting clerk  
Matthew Mauer

REMOTE: Aaron Pointer  
Tim Reid

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma District Headquarters, 4702 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St, Tacoma WA 98405

**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.

President Smith noted that Commissioners Reid and Pointer were attending remotely.

Commissioner Ayala was appointed as acting clerk.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** None

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Smith commented that there are several Co-Create to Recreate meetings coming up in September and October for the community to attend.

President Smith also noted she attended the Zoo Society Fundraising dinner.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioners Ayala commented that the council met last Wednesday. Agenda items included a presentation from Norinda Rosaria Yancey regarding the agency's equity efforts. She noted that the council is currently recruiting new members.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer stated that the council met earlier in August and held their annual potluck; their next meeting will be tomorrow.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director commented on the following:

- Debbie Russell introduced new employees Roland Heyne and Terry Jungman.
- A CIC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28 2024.
- End of Summer Blasts are happening at both Zoo and Trek this weekend.
- Meadow Park Golf hosted the 4th annual "Fore" Tacoma Golf Tournament, presented by the Korsmo Construction Company, benefiting the Asian Pacific Cultural Center This special event brought together community-minded business leaders from across Tacoma, raising over \$55,000 in support of APCC’s youth programs.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Heidi Stephens spoke in opposition to surplus and sale of property to the City for a future Fire Station #7.

Cathie Urwin spoke in opposition to surplus and sale of property to the City for a future Fire Station #7.

April Smith spoke in opposition to surplus and sale of property to the City for a future Fire Station #7.

Tod Sharon noted he wished to retrack the comments he made at the last Board meeting regarding the sale and surplus of the property for Fire Station #7. Mr. Sharon commented that there was not enough communication with community about the proposed plan for surplus of park property for the proposed new fire station.

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. C53-24:** APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

Commissioner Ayala 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**

**RESOLUTION NO. R54-24:** APPROVING THE TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS MASTER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

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

Hunter George commented that Metro Parks and Tacoma Public Schools first signed a master ILA in 2001, and a new version followed in 2013. He further stated that last year, that 10-year agreement was rolled over for one year to allow more time for discussion. Mr. George explained that the agreement expires August 31, 2024 and that the Tacoma School Board voted to approve the updated agreement on August 22, 2024.

Mr. George commented that this master agreement sets the structure for the inter-agency partnerships, and it sets the following overarching goals:

- Encourage joint use of facilities, grounds and staff for recreation and educational programming.
- Expand joint and cooperative capital ventures.
- Maximize use of public facilities and properties for community benefit.

Mr. George also noted that the agreement does not get into details of any particular program or project. Rather, specific program and facility agreements fall under this umbrella agreement as needed.

Commissioners stated they appreciated the walk through of the agreement at the last COW meeting.

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

## **SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. RR41-24: SURPLUS AND SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AT SOUTH END RECREATION AREA (SERA) TO THE CITY OF TACOMA FOR FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE STATION #7**

President Smith stated this resolution was moved and seconded at the June 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and a public hearing was held on July 8, 2024.

Commissioner Ayala commented on the themes she was hearing from community as this proposal was being discussed over the last year including, tree coverage, park access, and community communication. Commissioner Ayala commented that she appreciated the Fire Department representation coming to community meetings to answer questions about response times. She also noted that the District's Master Plan is committed to a 10-minute walk to a park goal for Tacoma. Additionally, Commissioner Ayala commented on the needs expressed by neighbors for improved medical and fire response services.

Commissioner Mauer thanked the community members who expressed concern over tree loss that may result from this fire station project. He commented that District's strategic plan will continue to drive the priority for tree canopy coverage and more access to green space. Commissioner Mauer expressed his commitment to push for tree replacement and acquiring additional park space in South Tacoma. Commissioner Mauer followed by highlighting the benefits of a new fire station in the neighborhood.

President Smith commented that Board and community conversations about this proposal began in 2032 and have been on-going. She noted that in addition to Board meetings, MPT Co-Create meetings included presentations from the Fire Department. President Smith commented that the District will be holding the City to a 2-to-1 tree replacement.

Commissioner Reid note that the area of the SERA site for this proposal is a small portion of the property.

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

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Ayala commented that she is interested in seeing more creative ways the District can continue to communicate with community.

President Smith commented she plans to attend the Cushman Street Fair on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33p.m.

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary