



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
September 9, 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. 19th St, Tacoma WA 98405

STUDY SESSION ZEED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

ZEED conservation staff, Zach Hawn and Rachel Mueller were present to update the Board on the progress of ZEED conservation projects.

Rachel Mueller stated that ZEED became involved in fisher recovery efforts in 2010 when they helped rehabilitate two orphaned fisher kits at Northwest Trek. Rachel Mueller commented that Trek's animal care teams successfully cared for the kits until they were ready for release, with one being detected for up to six years afterward. The Board was informed that in 2017, ZEED renewed its commitment to fisher recovery through fundraising efforts, supporting the purchase of transmitters, aerial telemetry equipment, and chartering flights to track fishers in the South and North Cascades. Staff from various Trek and Zoo departments, along with community members, participated in aerial monitoring and data collection on translocated fishers. Several photos and maps of the fisher recovery work were shared with the Board. Additionally, ZEED has supported the translocation of fishers from Canada to Washington and has participated in ground monitoring through Cascades Fisher Surveys. Staff also shared that the staff across departments from both Zoo and Trek have been supporting the work.

Zach Hawn commented that the habitats of Northwest Trek support various wild bat species, including a large natural maternity colony. Mr. Hawn commented that in 2016, following the detection of the fungus causing white-nose syndrome in Washington, ZEED partnered with WDFW to monitor and salvage bats. Mr. Hawn noted that by 2017, they initiated annual Colony Emergence Counts to track colony size, roost locations, and species composition. The Board learned that in 2019, samples were collected to test for the fungus and on that same year, community engagement began with educational presentations. Mr. Hawn further commented that their findings revealed a large mixed-species maternity colony, which became the focus of the WNS Probiotic Project, aimed at helping bats survive WNS. Mr. Hawn stated that Trek/PDZA eagerly joined this initiative in 2019 to test a probiotic developed to combat the disease.

The Board learned that the project is now in its third year, testing a probiotic aimed at helping bats survive the effects of white-nose syndrome (WNS). Staff indicated that lab results have shown that the probiotic inhibits the growth of the fungus responsible for WNS. Mr. Hawn further noted that Northwest Trek is one of 10 sites across the PNW, including Canada and the U.S., participating in this trans-border study.

Several photos of the field work were shared with the Board including SAMI students and volunteers, and staff from various ZEED departments.

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 Mauer was appointed as acting clerk.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Following a brief introduction by Debbie Russell, Commissioner Ayala read a proclamation into the record honoring and recognizes September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. Chirs Lopez Moreno was recognized by the Board for his work as a partner and friend to Metro Parks helping the District to connect, engage, and build relationships with Tacoma’s Hispanic and Latino communities.

Chris Lopez Moreno addressed the Board and thank them for the honor. A group photo was taken.

WELCOMING WEEK PROCLAMATION

Following a brief introduction by Debbie Russell, President Smith read a proclamation into the record honoring and recognizing September 13th to the 22nd as Welcoming Week. Svetlana Konotopchik of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Ana and José Miguel Rojas of Esperanza Movil—key partners in developing and leading the Welcome Tours were thanked by the Board. Svetlana Konotopchik & Ana and José Miguel Rojas spoke to the Board about the valuable partnerships with MPT. A group photo was taken.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith made a motion to move the location of the September 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting to People’s Community Center; seconded and passed unanimously.

President Smith also noted she attended the Fort Nisqually 90th anniversary event over the weekend she then reread a proclamation from that event into the record recognizing the anniversary of the Fort.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**Zoo Liaison committee**

President Smith noted that this committee meeting was held earlier in the day. Agenda items of note included revenue and attendance updates, conservation work update, possibilities of the elephant exhibit space.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer stated that the council met on August 22nd. The meeting included a tour at McKinley Park to learn about the CHIP-In program at that site.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director commented on the following:

- CIC meeting scheduled for September 11, 2024 is cancelled.
- Following up on the emergency declaration for the boiler replacement at the Center at Norpoint; McDonald Miller has been selected as the vendor, cost proposal is \$ 250,407.00.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Written comments in opposition to the boat locker rate increase at the Boathouse were received from the following: Mark Carr, Wolfgang Pock, Larry Haaga, Lenny Leach, & David Leavens.

The following individuals were present at the meeting and commented in opposition of the Boathouse Boat Locker rate increases:

Zehedia Garrison, John Keizer, Scott Douglas, Sylvia Angelilly, Andrew Bean, Mark Carr, Steven Bock, Thomas O'Brien, Boots Salatino, Larry Leach, Emma Goshi.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C55-24: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR AUGUST 2024

RESOLUTION NO. C56-24: 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.P57-24: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA**

1. ELEMENTS OF EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$285,000 FOR BEYOND THE BELL PROGRAMS

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

Mark Knowlden commented that this purchasing item is requested for funding to support Beyond the Bell and Club B programs within the Tacoma Public School locations for the 2024-25 school year. He noted that Beyond the Bell started as a pilot program in 10 elementary schools and has since expanded to 37 elementary schools and 12 middle schools.

Discussion ensued amongst Board members and staff related to the funding for 2025. Mr. Knowlden explained that funding straddles the calendar year as it is based on school year calendar. Commissioner Mauer requested that in the future additional detail relative to funding is included in staff memos.

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. R58-24: GRANTING MAINTENANCE COVENANT AND EASEMENT ACCESS FROM METRO PARKS TACOMA TO CITY OF TACOMA FOR STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN PECK COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK**

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

Debbie Russell commented that the City of Tacoma has approved a permit for the new development of a synthetic sports field, including the stormwater system, at Peck Community Sports Park. She noted that Tacoma Public Schools is managing the construction of the project, in close coordination with Metro Parks staff. The Board was informed that the on-site stormwater improvements become part of the City's overall stormwater system, which must remain in compliance with adopted standards. Ms. Russell continued by stating that the maintenance covenant and access easement describes Metro Park's obligation to inspect, maintain and keep the stormwater system in good repair. Staff commented that the resolution also grants maintenance access to the City for inspection and maintenance purposes; and allows the City to conduct repairs or improvements in the event of an emergency.

Commissioner Mauer requested that maps be provided in the future with these sorts of resolutions.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R59-24: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING WASHINGTON STATE COMMERCE FUNDS FOR PORTLAND AVENUE PARK SPRAYGROUND AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT

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

Debbie Russell commented that this resolution accepts and appropriates a \$485,000 grant (\$500,000 less State Administrative Fees) from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Portland Avenue Park Sprayground, and further authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contract agreement for the awarded grant.

Staff commented that this funding will fund the design work for the project.

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

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members express appreciation for those members of the community that attended the meeting to express their concerns about the Boathouse.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary