



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
September 23, 2024**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Peoples Community Center, 1602 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, 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 Mauer was appointed as acting clerk.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**PROCLAMATION HONORING INNOVATIVE CHANGE MAKERS**

Following a brief introduction by Antonio McLemore, President Smith read a proclamation into the record honoring Brian Gatewood and the Innovative Change Makers Organization for their work with youth in the community.

Mr. Gatewood addressed the Board and thanked them for the honor and opportunity to work with MPT to serve the youth in Tacoma. A group photo was taken.

**PARKS CHAMPION AWARD**

Following a brief introduction by Hollie Rogge, Brith McGrath, MPT Advisory Council Chair recognized the Tacoma Public Schools Curriculum & Instruction Department for the partnership in developing the initiative for free field trips to MPT location which is serving approximately 16,000 students. Jennifer Crump representing TPS addressed the Board and thanked the District for the continued partnership.

Sean Arent was then recognized as a Parks Champion for his work as a volunteer park steward of Swan Creek Park. Ms. McGrath noted Sean's knowledge about native plants and their ecosystem as well as his relationships with community on the Eastside.

Board members thanked all individuals being honored.

PROPOSITION 1. CITY OF TACOMA PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT FOR FIRE FACILITIES, FLEET AND OPERATIONS FACTS AND INFORMATION

Hunter George introduced Interim Fire Chief Sionna Stallings-Alailima.

Chief Alailima provided information how the TFD is currently funded including property tax and with EMS being funding separately by a levy capped at \$.50/\$1000 of assessed property value. Chief Alailima continued by noting that this measure would support improvements to TFD facilities, fire apparatus, essential equipment, and new staffing to improve overall response capacity and firefighter safety.

The Chief commented that the levy would increase the regular City of Tacoma property tax levy by \$0.65/\$1,000. This would generate approximately \$30M per year that is dedicated to the Fire Department to cover both existing and new expenses.

The chief stated that if this levy is approved, the average Tacoma homeowner (with a house valued at \$450,000) will pay \$25 more per month. The election is on November 5, 2024.

There was a brief discussion amongst Board members to if the TFD if passed by voters would impact any of MPT property tax capacity. Staff noted there is capacity under State Law at this time and would not affect MPT's collection.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Smith commented that staff has taken the public comments made related to the increase in fees at the Boathouse under advisement. President Smith noted that rates have not been raised since 2010, and the initial increase will go forward as planned on October 1, 2024. She commented that future increases are still being discussed.

President Smith noted that she, Hunter George and Shon Sylvia recently met with the new City Councilmember Sandesh Sadalge.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

### Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala stated that the council last met at Fort Nisqually and discussed fall programming.

### Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Ayala noted that at the last meeting there was presentation on the TFD levy and a presentation around climate justice.

### Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer commented that the council is meeting tonight.

### Business & Responsive Agency Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented that the council met on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff presented information on the comprehensive IT policy under development.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mark Knowlden sitting in for the Executive Director commented on the following:

- Copies of the System and Strategic Plan were distributed.
- Marty Stump was introduced and announced that the contractor who won the bids for sports court improvements at Verlo and playground installation at Ferry withdrew from both projects. The Board was informed that since only one bid was received for each, both were reopened for bidding. Verlo was prioritized, receiving four bids after a one-week posting. Mr. Stump stated that the play equipment for Ferry has been delivered, and staff are working to expedite the contract process to complete the asphalt work before weather conditions become unfavorable. Mr. Stump also commented that he rebid for Ferry opens on October 2, and updates will follow as the projects progress through these challenges.
- Hannah Fields representing the Tacoma Parks Foundation was introduced. Ms. Fields informed the Board that the Foundation has submitted a grant application to the Boeing Employees Community Fund, seeking \$240,000 to upgrade the kitchen at People's Center. She also noted that the Foundation has received a \$25,000 private award that is going to be used to update the teen center at People's Center.
- CIC meeting scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> is canceled.
- There will be a COW on September 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the District's Climate Action Plan.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS** None

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 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** None

**PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. R60-24:** SUPPORTING CITY OF TACOMA PROPOSITION 1 PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT FOR FIRE FACILITIES, FLEET AND OPERATIONS

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

Hunter George reminded the Board of the facts and information presentation given earlier in the meeting. He stated that under state law government resources cannot be used to advocate for or against ballot issues, however elected bodies are allowed to vote to take a position.

Board members expressed support for the levy.

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

Following the vote Commissioner Mauer motioned to directed staff to draft a similar a resolution in opposition of I-2117 for Board consideration at the next board meeting; seconded and passed unanimously.

**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None

**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**BOARD COMMENTS** None

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03p.m.

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President

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Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary