



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
December 20, 2024**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Park District Headquarters, 4702 S 19th Street Tacoma, WA 98405

The special meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Park Board Commissioner Tim Reid who passed away on December 12, 2024.

President Smith read a land acknowledgement.

Commissioner Ayala was appointed as acting Clerk.

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2024 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Ayala moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Mauer and passed unanimously.

PARK BOARD VACANCIES

President Smith commented that following resignations of commissioners Pointer and Ayala a call for applicants in accordance with RCW 42.12.080 began on November 19th. At a public meeting on December 5th the Board nominated 4 nominees from the pool of applicants and the list was publicly noticed for 15 days. President Smith continued by stating that public interviews with 4 nominees were held on December 9th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with RCW 42.30.110 the Board recessed into executive session to discuss the qualifications of the candidates for 20 minutes.

**MOTION TO NOMINATE AND DISCUSS CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO
PARK BOARD POSITION #1**

President Smith moved to nominate Alisa Lee to fill vacant position #1; seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

President Smith began by highlighting the qualities of the nominee, noting Alisa Lee stood out in her application due to her deep appreciation for Metro Parks and her commitment to parks as essential spaces for social well-being. The Board noted the nominee's recent participation in the Active Lifestyles and Community Wellness Advisory Council demonstrated her dedication to staying informed about Metro Parks initiatives.

Commissioner Mauer echoed these sentiments and acknowledged the difficulty of the selection process, reflecting on his own experiences as a prior applicant. Commissioner Mauer emphasized the impressive qualifications of all candidates and expressed excitement about Alisa Lee's dedication and thoughtful contributions over the past year. Commissioner Mauer commented that he looks forward to her joining the Board and encouraged other applicants to remain engaged for future vacancies.

Commissioner Ayala noted appreciation for the advisory councils that participated in the interview process, providing invaluable community voices and perspectives that complemented the Board's evaluation of the candidates. Commissioner Ayala expressed gratitude for the candidates' enthusiasm and dedication to Metro Parks. It was noted that additional opportunities to serve, either through future vacancies or advisory roles, would arise within the next few months.

Being no additional comments the question was called to appoint Alisa Lee to fill the vacancy of Board position #1 and passed on a vote of 3-0.

The Board also paused to honor Commissioner Tim Reid, who passed away last week. A moment of silence was observed in recognition of his remarkable contributions. Commissioner Reid's tenure as a Park Commissioner spanned an impressive 28 years, beginning in 1996, making him the longest-serving Commissioner in the District's history.

Board members and Executive Director Shon Sylvia shared heartfelt stories about Commissioner Tim Reid's dedication and the profound impact he had on the Park District and the community. They celebrated his leadership, his hands-on approach to community engagement, and his enduring passion for parks and recreation. Specific anecdotes included his proactive involvement during the COVID-19 pandemic, his advocacy for building community partnerships, and his commitment to ensuring the park system met the evolving needs of citizens.

Doug Andreassen, Chair of the Business and Response Advisory Council, added to these reflections by expressing appreciation for Commissioner Reid's thoughtful contributions to discussions and his engaging demeanor during meetings.

In light of these discussions, the Board addressed the challenges posed by two additional vacancies. One vacancy resulted from Commissioner Reid's passing, while another stems from an upcoming transition as Commissioner Ayala moves to County Council. President Smith commented that per state law, these vacancies must be filled within 90 days. She continued by stating to facilitate this process, the Board has reopened the online application portal, which will remain available until both positions are filled. President Smith outlined key dates for the application and selection process, stating that applications will be reviewed in January, finalists

will be selected, and interviews will take place in February and March. Applicants who have already submitted their materials will remain under consideration and are not required to reapply.

President Smith continued by noting that a detailed schedule, including deadlines and interview timelines, will be published on the Board’s website and updated as needed.

Board members reiterated their commitment to maintaining strong leadership and continuing the legacy of excellence established by Commissioner Tim Reid. His contributions will remain a guiding force as the Board moves forward in selecting new commissioners to uphold the mission of the Park District.

Board members and Executive Director Shon Sylvia then recognized and thanked Commissioner Rosie Ayala for the time she spent serving on the Board, and wished her well in her new role as a member of Pierce County Council.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary