



**MINUTES OF INTERVIEWS AND
THE REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 9, 2024**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President

Matthew Mauer

Rosie Ayala

REMOTE: Aaron Pointer

EXCUSED: Tim Reid

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

The interview session for filing of a Park Board vacancy of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Smith at 2:00 p.m.

The following Commissioner were present for the public interviews: President Smith, Commissioner Ayala & Commissioner Mauer.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The following candidates were publicly interviewed for the vacant Park Board seat:

Mary Louise Curry

Christopher Davis

Alisa Lee

Tiffany Mendoza

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 Ayala was appointed as acting clerk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Smith recessed the Board into executive session for 17 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective position in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(h).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith opened the meeting by emphasizing that tonight is particularly special as it marked Commissioner Pointer's final meeting with the Park Board, with his retirement taking

effect tomorrow. She acknowledged Commissioner Pointer's accomplishments dedication to teamwork, equity, and service, inspired by his experiences in sports, shaped his life of service. President Smith praised Commissioner Pointer for mentoring countless individuals and positively impacting the community, noting that, despite his humility and discomfort with such attention, his legacy is worth celebrating.

President Smith then recounted Commissioner Pointer's extraordinary life, from his athletic career, which included playing basketball with future NBA Hall of Famer Bill Russell, to breaking barriers as the first Black referee in PAC-10 football and an NFL head linesman. She also mentioned Commissioner Pointer's record-setting achievements in professional baseball, including hitting over .400, and his overcoming of racial challenges in the Jim Crow South. President Smith highlighted Commissioner Pointer's 24 years of service on the Park Board and his numerous accolades.

Commissioners Mauer and Ayala followed by acknowledging Commissioner Pointers service to the youth in the community.

To honor Commissioner Pointer's legacy, President Smith introduced a motion to name the new baseball field at Peck Athletic Complex "Aaron Pointer Field – Home of the Stadium Tigers," ensuring his influence will continue to inspire future generations; seconded and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pointer thanked the Board for their kind words and the honor of the field naming.

Director Elizabeth Bonbright representing the Tacoma School Board was then introduced. Director Bonbright honored Commissioner Pointer with at Whole Child Champion Award and thanked him for his service on behalf of Tacoma Public Schools.

Shon Sylvia thanked and recognized Commissioner Pointer for his dedicated commitment to community and youth in Tacoma.

NOMINATION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Commissioner Mauer nominated Commissioner Smith for the position of Board President; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Commissioner Smith nominated Commissioner Mauer for the position of Board Clerk; seconded by Commissioner Ayala.

Voting for Board Officers is schedule for the January 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Ayala commented that at the last meeting the committee recapped their 2024 work and discussed strategic plans for next year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Thresa Evans commented that she listened to the Park Board Interviews. She also noted a typo in resolution C78-24 and is supportive of the appointments being made to the Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Curt Mehlhaff expressed concern over the City Plans to close its senior centers. He urged the Boar to support programming for the seniors.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Mauer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Pointer and passed on a vote of 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C74-24: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION NO. C75-24: REVISING DECEMBER 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. C76-24: APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Commissioner Ayala moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Mauer and passed on a vote of 4-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. C78-24: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. TURF STAR WESTERN/WESTERN EQUIPMENT FOR EQUIPMENT AND GROUND SUPPLIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$678,071.43 (INCLUDING WSST)
2. PHOENIX PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DAILY PATROL, GATE AND RESTROOM CLOSURE, AND GARNERING VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH PARK CODE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550,00.00

Commissioner Ayala moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Hollie Rogge provided commented that the Turf Star item was initially submitted by the Parks & Recreation Department on August 28, 2023. The resolution authorized the order and payment of

heavy equipment for Meadow Park Golf Course over three years. While the resolution was approved and the equipment ordered, Ms. Rogge noted that the delivery schedule has since changed. Hollie Rogge explained that to align payments with actual delivery times, the Board needs to amend the delivery schedule and authorize payments for 2024 and 2025. Ms. Rogge emphasized that the total purchase order amount remains unchanged.

Hollie Rogge provided an update on the continuation of professional security services for Metro Parks Tacoma, noting that the current vendor contract, in place since 2020, is set to expire on December 31, 2024. Hollie Rogge explained that a replacement agreement has been finalized to ensure uninterrupted services starting January 1, 2025. Ms. Rogge stated that the new contract follows a robust RFP process, which identified the vendor as the best fit for the Parks and Recreation unit's needs.

Hollie Rogge outlined that the vendor would provide daily park closure and security patrol services for regional and community neighborhood parks. Responsibilities include daily patrols, gate and restroom closures, incident response, and fostering voluntary compliance with park code. Staff also commented that the contract also includes provisions for supplemental security guard/officer services to address emergencies or changes in operational security needs, with pricing reflecting average use over the past two years.

Hollie Rogge provided an overview of the proposed security services contract with Phoenix Protective Services, anticipated to begin on January 1, 2025, pending board approval. Hollie expressed gratitude to the current provider, Pacific Northwest Finest, for their commendable service during a challenging post-pandemic transition period. However, Phoenix Protective Services was selected through a competitive RFP process for their ability to offer enhanced services moving forward.

Ms. Rogge further clarified for the Board that the proposed contract includes a two-year initial term with two optional one-year extensions. She stated that the Board would authorize a maximum expenditure of \$550,000 annually, with pricing based on fixed hourly rates. This cap provides flexibility to address varying security needs, including daily patrols, park closures, incident response, and supplemental services for events or problem areas.

Daniel Mero, who led the RFP process, clarified that the estimated cost reflects a 5% increase from the previous contract and aligns with budget planning for 2025–2026. He explained that Phoenix was selected for their competitive pricing and additional benefits, including a 24/7 dispatch line and improved reporting and analytics.

Questions arose from Commissioner Mauer about the process of approving contracts with a maximum expenditure rather than a fixed amount. It was explained that for service contracts with variable scopes, such as security hours required, a maximum price approval is standard. The \$550,000 cap was based on historical service usage with a buffer for potential increases in demand.

Commissioner Mauer request that staff get back to him on the amount spent with Pacific Northwest Finest in 2024.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS****RESOLUTION NO. R79-24: ADOPTING THE 2025 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS FOR THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA**

Commissioner Ayala moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

Hunter George, Government Relations Officer, introduced himself and presented the 2025 State and Federal legislative agendas for the commissioners' consideration.

Hunter George outlined that the state legislative agenda is particularly robust this year, developed with input from staff, contract lobbyists, and various partners, including the Joint Municipal Action Committee, WRPA, the King County Play Equity Coalition, and the Trust for Public Land. He emphasized the dynamic nature of the legislative process and committed to providing updates throughout the session.

Hunter George presented the capital requests for the legislative agenda, noting their ambitious scope and emphasizing the importance of managing expectations. He explained that typically, four out of the five projects may move forward, with the fifth project potentially securing federal funding. The following was summarized by Hunter George:

1. 27th Legislative District Projects
 - Titlow Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement: Replacing the old wooden bridge leading to Hidden Beach.
 - Peck Community Sports Park: Completing the second field, restroom, and concessions building.
 - Titlow Park Rail Trestle and Lagoon Restoration: This project has federal funding potential, with several grant opportunities being pursued, including a NOAA coastal restoration grant with an April deadline. Representative Fey strongly supports this project and has visited the site.
2. 29th Legislative District Project
 - Portland Avenue Park Spray Park: A request for \$750,000 to complete construction. Representative Mena has committed to sponsoring this in the House, and Senator Conway is expected to support it enthusiastically. This project has strong potential for success.
3. 2nd Legislative District Project
 - Beaver Habitat Design at Trek: A \$300,000 request to begin design work. This is a carryover from last session, with strong support from Representative Barkus, who visited the site and was impressed by its conservation efforts.

Mr. George concluded the capital requests overview by reiterating the collaborative efforts behind these projects and the optimism for state and federal support.

Hunter George provided an update on several policy initiatives under discussion:

1. Local Government Operations
 - Pugnety Park: support for the Washington State Historical Society’s request to take control of Pugnety Park, a move that is strongly supported by the city of Tacoma and Metro Parks.
 - Property Tax Cap and Simple Majority for Construction Bonds: increased attention on these issues this year, which could provide local governments with more management flexibility.
 - Filling Commission Vacancies: concerns about a recent law extending the time required to fill vacancies. The team is exploring potential amendments to streamline the process.
2. Youth Access and Community Support
 - Special Olympics Partnership: efforts to collaborate with the school district to secure funding for the Special Olympics, expanding youth access to sports.
 - State Commission on Youth Access to Physical Activity: support for the creation of a state task force to study ways the state can enhance youth access to physical activities, with a focus on gathering data for future policy actions.
 - Streamlining Childcare Licensing: After a year-long work group with the Department of Children, Youth, and Family Services, progress in reducing administrative burdens for childcare licensing, though further work is needed to address access expansion.
3. Environmental Protection
 - Bull Kelp Marine Forest Designation: a proposal to designate bull kelp as the official State Marine Forest, an initiative that aims to raise awareness about its importance in the ecosystem, with support from schools and local organizations.
 - Net-Zero Goals: Hunter mentioned that a Climate Action Plan will soon be presented, which will emphasize the need for state support to meet net-zero goals.
4. Community Partnerships
 - Tacoma Schools and Port of Tacoma: ongoing efforts to secure funding for the completion of the Skill Center at the Port of Tacoma, aimed at enhancing workforce development in the region.

Hunter George then outlined several key policy priorities including:

1. Local Procurement Flexibility: desire to streamline laws and regulations that create barriers for local procurement, aiming to retain public dollars within the local community while maintaining accountability.
2. Public Health and Safety: City of Tacoma's urgent request for continued funding to maintain emergency shelter beds, stressing the importance of supporting the city's efforts to prevent the closure of these vital shelters.
3. Industry Alignment: success of the community schoolyard project, noting that the Trust for Public Land and the King County Play Equity Coalition are advocating for a statewide expansion, seeking \$10 million in funding.

4. State Grant Programs: ongoing efforts to secure \$150 million for the Wildlife and Recreation Program, acknowledging that \$120 million would still be considered a success given the state's financial concern.
5. Federal Policy: concerns regarding potential cuts in federal funding, especially for preservation efforts, and emphasized the need to monitor and defend critical policies such as the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
6. Advisory Councils' Role: Advisory Councils, which are eager to assist with policy initiatives, and noted that they will be kept updated and asked to help sign on to bills when necessary.

Staff and Board members then briefly discussed upcoming opportunities for meeting with legislators being planned through WRPA and WWRC in February.

Being no additional comments that question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0.

RESOLUTION NO. R80-24: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING A CASH DONATION FOR THE COSTS OF ACQUISITION OF THE PROBST PROPERTY AT SWAN CREEK PARK

Commissioner Ayala moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Debbie Russell reported that the Board is accepting and appropriating a cash donation from Mr. Clifford Probst and his family, which was previously committed in a resolution from February. She noted that as part of the resolution authorizing the purchase of 8.6 acres at Swan Creek Park, the Probst family pledged 5% of the appraised value of the property as a cash donation to the Park District. The donation will be allocated to the District's capital budget and will reimburse a portion of the acquisition cost, which was funded by the 2014 bond.

Debbie Russell also shared updates on the property's future. She stated that the Park District plans to improve and restore the site, which is high-value northwest evergreen forest land, by removing structures, conducting environmental remediation, and beginning work with consultants. She noted that Mr. Probst, a lover of parks, declined to attend the meeting but is likely enjoying a game of pickleball at the Eastside Community Center. His generous donation reflects his appreciation for the Park District.

Board members acknowledged and thanked the Probst family.

Being no additional comments that question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0.

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR81-24: AMENDMENT TO THE 23-24 DISTRICT BUDGET

Commissioner Ayala moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

Libbi Lovshin discussed a proposed amendment to the 2023-24 biennial operating budget, specifically related to the Boathouse Marina. She explained that due to unexpected costs from a king tide and a freezing of the fire suppression system, the Marina incurred approximately \$170,000 in unplanned expenses in 2023. This resolution seeks approval for both a revenue

appropriation and an expenditure authority transfer from the general fund to the boathouse enterprise fund. The total interfund transfer would be approximately \$571,000 for revenue and \$540,000 for expenditures, bringing the budget into balance. Ms. Lovshin also clarified that while the \$170,000 was caused by the king tide and fire suppression issue, there were additional unanticipated costs during the biennium that contributed to the need for this budget amendment.

Commissioner Mauer requested additional information about the costs not related to the King Tide damage and repairs

President Smith then moved to suspend the rules to allow for the second reading and voting on the resolution to take place during the meeting; seconded and passed unanimously.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0.

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR73-24: ADOPTING THE 2025-2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET

President Smith noted that following two public hearings the resolution was moved and seconded at the November 25th regular board meeting.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Ayala thanked Commissioner Pointer for all his years of service.

Commissioner Pointer commented on how much he enjoyed the work of being a Park Board commissioner.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary