



**MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Matthew Mauer, Clerk
Alisa Lee

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Park District Headquarters, 4702 S 19th Street 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

Debbie Russell introduced the proclamation by commenting that several parks in Tacoma have been named after local black leaders who made significant community contributions. Honorees include Bob Maguinez (youth sports advocate), Helen B. Stafford (civil rights leader), Judge Jack Tanner (first Black federal judge in the Pacific Northwest), Senator Rosa Franklin (first Black woman in the Washington State Senate), Edna Travis (Hilltop community leader), and Aaron Pointer (former Parks Tacoma commissioner and athlete). These dedications reflect the city's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, aligning with the 2024-2030 Parks Tacoma System and Strategic Plan.

President Smith then read the proclamation into the record in honor of February as Black History Month and renewing the District's commitment to uplifting Black history as well as investing in Black futures within our community.

STAFF RETIREMENT

Scott Clarke was honored by the Board and staff for his 36 years of service to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Mr. Clarke addressed the Board and thanked the District.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith noted the change in the agenda numbering system and the updated title of Vice President replacing Clerk.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**Active Living & Community Wellness Advisory Council**

Commissioner Lee commented that she attended the council's monthly meeting, noting that the council is continuing to recruit for new members.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer reported that the council met on January 28th, where he provided an update on the Board vacancy status. The agenda also covered the council's work plan, the District's Climate Action Plan, and the Advisory Council Policy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- A rare Malayan tapir calf was born on February 2nd, marking only the second tapir birth in the zoo's 120-year history. The calf will remain behind the scenes until spring, depending on the weather.
- The failing timber bulkhead near Anthony's Restaurant at Point Defiance Park has been successfully replaced. Concrete was poured to restore the sidewalk, with curing expected to finish by February 12th, after which the walkway will reopen.
- Conservatory Staff will participate in the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival in Seattle, showcasing a custom display. The event offers promotional exposure and the opportunity for judged awards.
- Fort Nisqually received the Digital Publication Award from the Heritage League of Pierce County for its Indigenous Voices Podcast.
- The Tacoma Nature Center has been integrated into the Regional Parks Division to align with other attractions and expand its programs district-wide.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Curt Mehlhaff urged the Board to discuss how the District is addressing senior services following the City's decision to close its centers and emphasized the importance of communicating these efforts to the public.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Mauer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Lee and passed on a vote of 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C5-25: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION NO. C6-25: APPOINTING ROBERT ROVAIL TO THE BUSINESS AND RESPONSIVE AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Commissioner Mauer moved adoption of the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Lee.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 3-0. President Smith thanked new advisory council appointees.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P7-25: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR PARKS TACOMA

1. ASSOCIATED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR BULK FUEL (RESALE & OPERATING) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000 (INCLUDING WSST)

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

Mark Knowlden commented that this a resolution for purchasing bulk fuel used at the boathouse marina for resale, and the golf course. He noted that the selected vendor holds a state contract, eliminating the need for an RFP, and has provided reliable service in the past. Mr. Knowlden stated the boathouse aims for a 20% markup on fuel while remaining competitive with market prices. He further noted that this purchase does not include fuel for the District’s fleet, which is managed separately through Petro Card and WEX.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

EXECUTIVE SESSION EVALUATE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR POTENTIAL APPOINTMENT TO ELECTIVE OFFICE

Before entering executive session, President Smith provided an update on the vacancy process, noting that interviews for vacant position #2 were held on February 7th.

The Board then entered into executive session for 20 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for potential appointment to elective office.

MOTION TO NOMINATE AND DISCUSS CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO PARK BOARD POSITION #2

President Smith moved to nominate Carla Santorno to fill vacant position #2;seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

President Smith explained her reasoning for nominating Carla Santorno, as well as for recommending the four individuals interviewed for the position. She emphasized that the group was selected for their strong community partnerships and their understanding of how Parks Tacoma is financed. She noted that while all four candidates had impressive backgrounds, Carla Santorno stood out due to her strong network of partners. President Smith also expressed gratitude for the applicants, highlighting the talent and passion within the 19-person pool. She noted the continued importance of the upcoming interviews for the remaining seat and looked forward to learning more about other candidates.

Commissioners Mauer and Lee reflected on the process, agreeing that any of the last four candidates could have contributed positively. However, Carla Santorno's interview, community support, and experience at Tacoma Public Schools made her the top choice. The Board emphasized that each seat was considered individually, and the remaining candidates should not be seen as less qualified, with the goal being a cohesive Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Mauer requested staff plan a future COW meeting for the purpose of discussing senior services.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary