



METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

AGENDA

March 10, 2025

6:00 PM

District Headquarters

4702 S. 19th St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

Join Remotely

Via Telephone: 1-253-215-8782

Enter Meeting ID: 828 0447 5478

Participant ID: no ID needed just press #

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://metroparkstacoma-org.zoom.us/j/82804475478>

MEETINGS ARE RECORDED
AND MAY BE HEARD UPON REQUEST

COMMISSIONERS

ANDREA SMITH, PRESIDENT

MATTHEW MAUER, VICE PRESIDENT

ALISA LEE

CARLA SANTORNO

6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

"Park District meeting sites are accessible to people who require special accommodations, please contact 305-1091 48 hours prior to the meeting time."



Community comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance of the meeting in written form. Please submit written comments to the Board by 4 p.m. on March 10, 2025 by e-mailing them to jenniferb@tacomaparks.com Comments will be compiled and sent to Board members in advance of the meeting. Comments may also be left on voicemail at 253-305-1091 by 4 p.m. on March 10, 2025. Verbal comments will also be allowed during the meeting both in-person and remotely. To request to speak during community comments, please press the Raise Hand button near the bottom of your Zoom window or *9 on your phone. All speakers will have up to three minutes to speak.

MINUTES

1. (5-10) MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

SINGLE READING RESOLUTION

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

2. (11-14) **RESOLUTION NO. R11-25:** AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE 2025 OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE TACOMA PARKS FOUNDATION AGREEMENT
(Contact: Mark Knowlden, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation)
3. (15-18) **RESOLUTION NO. R12-25:** AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE 2025-2026 OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE ZOO SOCIETY AND THE NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION
(Contact: Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education)
4. (19-20) **RESOLUTION NO. R13-25:** SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 1, THE CITY OF TACOMA'S STREETS INITIATIVE II BALLOT MEASURE, IN THE APRIL 22, 2025 ELECTION
(Contact: Hunter George, Governmental Relations Officer)

FIRST READINGS:

(Requiring two readings for adoption)

SECOND READING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring two readings for adoption)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EVALUATE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR POTENTIAL APPOINTMENT TO ELECTIVE OFFICE

MOTION TO NOMINATE AND DISCUSS CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO PARK BOARD POSITION #3

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

March 17, 2025	Committee of the Whole	5:30 PM	District Headquarters
March 19, 2025	Capital Improvement Committee	5:00 PM	District Headquarters
March 24, 2025	Regular Park Board Meeting	6:00 PM	Center at Norpoint

*Remote Option meeting details can be found on the Metro Parks Website www.parkstacoma.gov

*Committee Meetings are subject to change - please check the Metro Parks Website, www.parkstacoma.gov for the most up to date meeting schedules.

PARKS
T A C O M A



**MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Matthew Mauer, Clerk
Carla Santorno

REMOTE: Alisa Lee

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

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

COMMISSIONER SWEARING-IN

Newly appointed Commissioner Santorno was administered the oath of office.

STUDY SESSION CITY OF TACOMA STREETS INITIATIVE II PRESENTATION

The study session commenced with Marty Stump, Chief Planning Officer of Parks Tacoma, introducing key guests, including Mayor Victoria Woodards, who provided opening remarks on Tacoma's Streets Initiative II. Mr. Stump highlighted the new Parks Tacoma strategic plan, which focuses on pathways, and emphasized ongoing collaboration with the City on past projects, including a current study aimed at enhancing public rights of way.

Mayor Woodards discussed the importance of the Streets Initiative, which builds upon the success of a previous 10-year levy. She stressed the need to address neglected areas of the city's streets, particularly arterials, multimodal roads, and residential areas. Mayor Woodards expressed confidence that the new initiative would benefit every neighborhood in Tacoma, citing lessons learned from previous funding initiatives.

Ramiro Chavez, Director of Public Works for Tacoma, provided an overview of past street improvements funded by two propositions in 2015. He shared the successful investment of taxpayer dollars to improve over 6,000 residential blocks, construct ramps, crosswalks, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Mr. Chavez emphasized the need to focus on deteriorating arterials and stressed the importance of maintaining streets to avoid costly reconstruction. He also highlighted the equity aspect of the initiative, noting that the city's highest-risk roads are located in areas with limited access to opportunities.

Mr. Chavez discussed a proposed infrastructure initiative, which will be presented to voters on April 22, 2025. The proposal includes an increase in taxes, with the utility tax rising from 1.5% to 2% and the property tax increasing from 20 cents to 25 cents per \$1,000 valuation. This new proposition will replace the previous 10-year levy with a permanent one. The initiative is

expected to generate \$540 million over the next 15 years, with an additional \$360 million anticipated from state and federal grants, totaling \$900 million for infrastructure improvements. The focus will be on enhancing arterials, multimodal transit, and residential streets, including improvements to 1,100 to 1,400 lane miles of arterials, 250 to 300 miles of sidewalks, and 100 to 170 miles of bicycle infrastructure. The initiative also designates 15% of revenue for pedestrian safety improvements, such as sidewalks, street lighting, and crossings, to support Tacoma's Vision Zero goal of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on the streets by 2035.

Ramiro Chavez outlined the criteria for selecting projects, emphasizing equity, accessibility, and public safety. He explained that the initiative would prioritize safe routes to schools and parks, as well as addressing high-risk corridors. The initiative is designed to improve safety, extend the life of existing infrastructure, and enhance overall mobility and accessibility.

Board members were informed about how the initiative supports infrastructure improvements, particularly arterials, neighborhood greenways, and Vision Zero. The three main project types identified were arterial projects connecting neighborhoods to business centers, neighborhood greenways aimed at improving pedestrian safety through traffic calming measures, and Vision Zero initiatives focused on reducing fatalities and serious injuries. The initiative also seeks to improve connectivity between schools, parks, and districts across the city.

Ramiro Chavez highlighted the progress made under the first initiative, including local employment and contract achievements. He emphasized the importance of partnerships with Parks to implement the plan, which prioritizes safety, accessibility, and sustainable infrastructure.

Councilmember Walker provided a summary of Tacoma Streets Initiative II, noting the successful completion of Tacoma Streets Initiative I, which met and exceeded its objectives. She emphasized that safety and accessibility, particularly through the Vision Zero program, have become fundamental principles in the city's planning. Councilmember Walker acknowledged Parks Tacoma as key partners and stressed the need for support from fellow elected officials to help inform the community about the initiative's significance. She also offered to address any technical questions and discussed upcoming campaign efforts.

The Park Board members raised several key questions during the meeting. They inquired about the context of neighborhood greenways, specifically how these projects would impact street design, accessibility, and incorporate traffic calming measures, as well as landscaping and tree integration. They also asked about coordination between city departments and non-city partners to avoid disruptions when multiple projects are being implemented, emphasizing the importance of early collaboration. Finally, they questioned how the city planned to meet its ambitious tree canopy goals, considering the lack of significant tree additions in the first five years, and how the streets initiative would contribute to achieving these goals, particularly through partnerships like tree-lined safe routes to schools.

President Smith directed staff to prepare a resolution for consideration for the next Board Meeting in support of the measure.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:05 p.m. President Smith read a land acknowledgement.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Smith noted that she and Commissioner Mauer were interviewed last week by the Zoo Society as they are working on a new strategic plan.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS**Advisory Councils Annual Meeting**

Board members Smith, Lee and Mauer noted their attendance at last week's annual All Advisory Council Meeting.

Active Living & Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Lee commented that she attended the council's monthly meeting, noting that the council discussed the Pierce County State of Play Report.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer reported at their meeting coming up later this week the council will be discussing the District's Climate Action Plan.

Business and Responsive Agency Advisory Council

President Smith commented that she attended this month's meeting. Agenda items included an update on the new budget tool and budget amendment process.

Tacoma Parks Foundation

President Smith stated that she attended the Foundation's Board meeting on February 19th. The operating agreement with the District was discussed in preparation for the Board's COW meeting on March 3, 2025.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

President Smith stated that JMAC was held on February 14th. Agenda items included a discussion related to potential impacts resulting from the new Federal Administration.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Commissioner Santorno was welcomed by staff.
- Northwest Trek Wildlife Park will be receiving funding through Woodland Park Zoo's Advancing Empathy Grant Program to continue the Nisqually Fellowship for the next three years. The grant totals \$277,000.

- Hunter George was introduced and provided a legislative update including the following:
 - Legislative Session Update:
 - Policy cutoff has passed.
 - Fiscal committee cutoff is February 28th.
 - Two-week floor period follows; bills must pass their respective houses by March 12th.
 - Key Projects:
 - Portland Avenue Park Spray Ground Construction – Funding for completion in the 29th Legislative District.
 - Northwest Trek Beaver Habitat Design – Supported by Representative Barkus, a design grant in the 2nd Legislative District.
 - Titlow Pedestrian Bridge Construction – Priority project with a \$3 million ask; Representative Fey is working on securing funding.
 - Titlow Lagoon Expansion – Considered as a backup if the bridge project is not funded; grant competition expected to be fierce.
 - Federal Grant Update:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NIFWF) has encouraged reapplication for the Titlow Lagoon project after providing positive feedback on the previous submission.
 - High competition expected for this grant.
 - Policy Work:
 - DCYF Language – Ongoing discussions with Representative Mena on the language.
 - Land Leases Bill – Provides more flexibility for WSDOT, including potential developments at Pugnetti Park. Awaiting full House vote, with Senate challenges anticipated.
 - Property Tax Cap Proposal – Monitoring developments.
 - Bull Kelp as State Marine Forest – Bill has passed committee and is awaiting a full Senate vote.
 - Other Bills:
 - Grizzly Bear Conservation – Bill did not pass committee.
 - Open Carry of Firearms in Parks – Bill is awaiting a vote in the Senate.
 - Use of Animals in Traveling Acts – No concerns from the agency; bill is being monitored.

A handout with additional legislative detail was provided to Board Members.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Curt Mehlhaff shared his thoughts on considerations of individuals to fill the last board vacancy. Curt Mehlhaff suggested that the final board vacancy should be filled by a male to balance the Board's composition.

Bronwyn Clarke welcomed Commissioner Santorno, expressing excitement for her leadership and partnership with Tacoma Public Schools. Ms. Clarke shared her community endorsements, emphasizing the importance of building strong partnerships to address environmental and social issues.

Malachi Cabera congratulated Commissioner Santorno and emphasized the need for diverse leadership in government, highlighting the importance of female and minority representation. He praised the Board's thorough selection process, thanked the community for its involvement, and expressed confidence that the chosen candidate would be qualified and ready to serve.

Theresa Evans shared that her life, along with the lives of her family and everyone in the room and listening online, matters.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2025 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C8-25: MELANIE DRESSSEL PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. J2022-26 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO PEASE CONSTRUCTION INC.

RESOLUTION NO. C9-25: POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM SOUTH PACIFIC AQUARIUM TANK AND EXHIBIT IMPROVEMENTS BID NO. J2022-14 FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO PEASE CONSTRUCTION. INC.

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

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

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R10-25: APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARKS TACOMA AND TACOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10 FOR THE JOINT USE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MULTI-USE BASEBALL FIELD AT PECK COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK

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

Debbie Russell commented that over the past two years, these agencies worked together under an interlocal agreement (ILA) to fund and construct a multi-use baseball field at Peck Community Sports Park, with Tacoma Public Schools contributing \$5 million to the project. The field was completed, and its grand opening took place in January, named the Aaron Pointer Field, home of the Stadium Tigers.

Ms. Russell commented that the next step is finalizing the ILA for the joint operation and maintenance of the field, which will last for 10 years. Under this agreement, Tacoma Public Schools will have priority use of the field during the school year, while Parks Tacoma and the public can access it at other times. The Board was informed that Parks Tacoma will be responsible for general maintenance and security, with provisions for additional costs for tournaments or intensive events. The agreement also outlines scheduling, storage, and cost-sharing processes to ensure proper reconciliation between the two agencies.

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

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. The Board then entered into executive session for 30 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for potential appointment to elective office.

MOTION TO NOMINATE AND DISCUSS NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT TO PARK BOARD POSITION #3

President Smith moved to nominate the following candidates to fill vacant position #3: Sean Arent, Azaria Azene, Malachi Cabera, Bronwyn Clarke, Robb Krehbiel, Pete Reyes; seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

Qualifications of the slate were briefly highlighted by Board members.

It was noted that candidate interviews will be planned for the week of March 3rd.

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Mauer highlighted a historic milestone in Parks Tacoma over 100-year history: that the board now has a female majority for the first time. As the only male member, he expressed full support for the current composition and optimism for the future, regardless of gender.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Mark Knowlden, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation

SUBJECT: 2025 Operating Agreement with the Tacoma Parks Foundation

DATE: February 28, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This resolution authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an Operating Agreement with the Tacoma Parks Foundation for the purposes of operational and capital support.

BACKGROUND: Parks Tacoma is grateful for the independent 501(c)3 foundations that have and continue to support fundraising, advocacy, and education of our programs and places in the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Tacoma Parks Foundation
- W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Foundation
- Fort Nisqually Foundation

One agreement with a parks and recreation focus is an efficient means of operating and provides enhanced support for all associated organizations as the Tacoma Parks Foundation will:

- a) Provide essential fundraising/development functions in support of the Parks and Recreation programs, parks and facilities.
- b) Provide support for fundraising and development functions on behalf of W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Foundation.
- c) Provide support for fundraising and development functions on behalf of Fort Nisqually Foundation.

FISCAL IMPACT: Collaborating with and supporting the foundations will have a positive fiscal impact on Parks Tacoma through the solicitation of philanthropic dollars and services for the benefit of Parks Tacoma programs, capital projects and services. Exhibit agreements provide further clarity on the financial expectations of all parties involved.

- A. The Tacoma Parks Foundation agreement provides the following funding:
 - a. Parks Tacoma will pay TPF:
 - i. A base annual allowance of \$720,000 for development services including major gifts, grants, capital projects and endowment. In return, the Tacoma Parks Foundation will pay to Parks Tacoma a value equal to or greater than 1 times return on Parks Tacoma payment in 2025.

- ii. Up to \$150,000 for administrative support, organizational development, annual audit, and liability insurance.
- b. In addition, TPF will make distributions from the Eastside Community Center Progaming Endowment, the Zena Linnik Fund, and Scott Funds via the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation up to \$1,165,000
- c. The Tacoma Parks Foundation and/or Conservatory Foundation via the Tacoma Parks Foundation will pay to Parks Tacoma for the benefit of the Seymour Conservatory:
 - i. All restricted funds received during the year to underwrite such activities of SEYMOUR CONSERVATORY as may have been mutually agreed upon
- d. The Tacoma Parks Foundation and/or Fort Nisqually Foundation via the Tacoma Parks Foundation will pay to Parks Tacoma for the benefit of the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum:
 - i. All restricted funds received during the year to underwrite such activities of Fort Nisqually as may have been mutually agreed upon.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, contact Mark Knowlden, Interim Parks & Recreation Director at (253) 255-2487 or mark.knowlden@tacomaparks.com.

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. R12-25

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE 2025
OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE TACOMA PARKS FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, Parks Tacoma continue to honor the uniqueness and independence of each of the foundations; and

WHEREAS, one agreement with the Tacoma Parks Foundation is an efficient means of operating and will provide enhanced support for Fort Nisqually and W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Foundations; and

WHEREAS, the Tacoma Parks Foundation is committed to providing on-going support of the capital and program needs for Parks Tacoma including Fort Nisqually and the W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma has a formal operating agreement with the Tacoma Parks Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the current agreements expired December 31, 2024; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate operating agreements for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that the operating agreements with the Tacoma Parks Foundation is not renewed by the end of the specified term (December 31, 2025), the agreements shall automatically roll over into a month-to-month arrangement, with all terms and conditions remaining the same

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma held on _____ 2025.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Clerk

PARKS
T A C O M A



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education

SUBJECT: Authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate operating agreements with both the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation

DATE: February 24, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Staff recommends the Board of Park Commissioners approve a resolution to allow the Executive Director to negotiate the operating agreements and associated exhibits, for the 2025-2026 biennium with both the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation for the purpose of providing continued operational and capital support.

BACKGROUND: Parks Tacoma is grateful for the independent 501(c)3 foundations, the Zoo Society, and the Northwest Trek Foundation, that have been strong partners in supporting our on-going efforts in conservation, education, and long-range strategic objectives within the Zoological and Environmental Education Department.

The Agreements focus on the following goals:

- Effective and efficient collaboration and communication including additional community insight and advice
- The responsibilities of Parks Tacoma to the foundations including resources to support professional fund raising and operational staff support for both the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation
- The responsibilities of the foundations to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, including financial support of operational and capital needs.

As a result, Parks Tacoma enjoys more capacity to awaken a connection to Wild Life to everyone in the Pacific Northwest. These relationships provide broader ability to enhance resources available, as well as, strengthen connections with the Tacoma community. The agreements are specific to, and align with, the 2025-2026 biennium. The agreements clarify the legal responsibilities, terms, individual roles, and processes of those involved.

FISCAL IMPACT: Collaborating with and supporting the foundations will have a positive fiscal impact on Parks Tacoma through the solicitation of philanthropic dollars and services for the benefit of programs, capital projects and services. Exhibit agreements intend to provide further clarity on the financial expectations of all parties involved.

Both the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation are committed to contributing to Parks Tacoma a value equal to or greater than 2 times return on Parks Tacoma payment each year.

- A. The Zoo Society agreement provides the following:
 - a. Annual support of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium initiatives for animal welfare, field conservation, community programs, staff development, internships, capital equipment, and capital projects with the minimum amount of \$2,275,000.
 - b. Parks Tacoma will pay the Zoo Society in 2025 20% of the gross revenues from the sale of all general membership categories, up to \$400,000 (paid in 4 quarterly payments of \$100,000); in 2026 15% of the gross revenues from the sale of all general membership categories, up to \$300,000 (paid in 4 quarterly payments of \$75,000); for development services including major gifts, grants, capital projects and endowment.

- B. The Northwest Trek Foundation agreement provides the following:
 - a. Annual support of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park initiatives for conservation programs, program accessibility, internships, and capital projects with a minimum amount of \$550,000
 - b. Parks Tacoma will pay the Northwest Trek Foundation \$275,000 (paid in 4 quarterly payments of \$68,750) for development services including major gifts, grants, and capital projects.

It is recognized by all that these agreements are executed during highly unusual, dynamic, times that will likely necessitate adjustments during the time of this agreement. Exceptions will need approval from Parks Tacoma the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundations Executive Directors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological and Environmental Education at alan.varsik@pdza.org or (253) 404-3634.

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. R13-25

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE 2025-2026
OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE ZOO SOCIETY AND
THE NORTHWEST TREK FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation are committed to providing on-going support of the capital, conservation and program needs of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma appreciates the work of our two independent 501c3 foundations, the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the current agreements expired on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma wishes to continue to partner with the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate operating agreements for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that In the event that the operating agreements with the Zoo Society and the Northwest Trek Foundation are not renewed by the end of the specified term (December 31, 2026), the agreements shall automatically roll over into a month-to-month arrangement, with all terms and conditions remaining the same

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma held on _____, 2025.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Clerk

PARKS
T A C O M A



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Hunter T. George, Policy & Government Relations Officer

SUBJECT: City of Tacoma Prop. 1, supporting the Streets II ballot measure

DATE: February 25, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Park Board requested a resolution supporting the City of Tacoma’s Streets II ballot measure on the April 22 ballot.

BACKGROUND: On December 17, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution 41588 to send the Streets II measure to the ballot on April 22, 2025. Proposition 1 continues – and increases – funding for street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements. If approved, the measure levies a 2% utility tax on natural gas, electric and phone utilities, and it increases the regular property tax levy by 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. A separate 1/10 of 1% sales tax was already renewed by the City’s Transportation and Benefit District.

This measure is a renewal and extension of a program authorized by Tacoma voters in 2015. Over the past decade, this program has enabled the Public Works Department to complete over \$397 million in critical infrastructure improvements over a 10-year period. Including grant matches and partnerships, City staff estimate spending over \$900 million over the next 15 years if Prop. 1 is approved. The City targets improvements to 1,100-plus arterial lane miles, 250-plus sidewalk miles, 130-plus miles of bike infrastructure, and to maintain 5,200-plus residential blocks.

RCW 42.17A.555, according to the state Public Disclosure Commission, permits elected boards, councils and commissions to “express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view.”

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no direct fiscal impact to the park district.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information please contact Executive Director Shon Sylvia at 253.305.1072 or shons@tacomaparks.com or Government Relations Officer Hunter George at hunterg@tacomaparks.com.

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. R13-25

**SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 1, THE CITY OF TACOMA’S STREETS INITIATIVE II
BALLOT MEASURE, IN THE APRIL 22, 2025 ELECTION**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma (Parks Tacoma) recognizes that well-maintained streets and safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure are vital to ensuring equitable access to parks, recreational spaces, and community amenities; and

WHEREAS, the original Tacoma Streets Initiative (Streets Initiative I), passed in 2015, successfully invested in resurfacing residential streets, repairing potholes, installing school crossing beacons, enhancing pedestrian crosswalks, and constructing and upgrading sidewalks and bike lanes, many of which improved access to parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the expiration of Streets Initiative I in 2025 presents an urgent need for continued investment to maintain and improve Tacoma’s transportation infrastructure to ensure safe, accessible, and sustainable mobility for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Streets Initiative II will directly support Parks Tacoma’s mission by facilitating improved safe routes to parks and recreation spaces and facilities, thus promoting active, healthy lifestyles for all Tacoma residents; and

WHEREAS, by strategically investing in streetscapes, greenways, and rights-of-way the City can further its goals of enhancing urban tree canopy, improving stormwater management, and creating safer, more enjoyable public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Parks Tacoma has previously partnered with the City on key sidewalk and connectivity projects under Streets Initiative I, demonstrating the value of inter-agency collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Parks Tacoma acknowledges that failing to approve this measure would result in declining roadway conditions, increased safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists, and diminished access to parks and community resources; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma expresses support for the City of Tacoma’s Streets Initiative II program and urges Tacoma voters to approve the ballot measure in the April 22, 2025 special election to ensure ongoing investments in safety and accessibility for all.

The forgoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____ 2025.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Clerk