



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 21, 2025**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Matthew Mauer, Vice President
Alisa Lee
Pete Reyes
REMOTE: Carla Santorno

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters 4702 S. 19th St.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 5:30pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

March 31, COW Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented; seconded and passed unanimously.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Marty Stump opened by explaining that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been under development over the past year and was now near finalization. He highlighted the importance of having a full five-member board seated by the end of 2024 to support the plan's significance.

Mr. Stump emphasized that this was Parks Tacoma first Climate Action Plan, shifting from the previous Environmental Sustainability Plan to a more strategic approach focused on carbon metrics and the agency's carbon footprint. This approach aligns with regional agencies and marks a transformative direction for the district.

Mr. Stump shared that district staff collaborated with the City of Tacoma as it updated its Climate Action Plan, with his personal involvement in a climate adaptation subcommittee. He stressed the district's goal of creating a model plan, with recent edits bringing that vision closer to fruition.

Erich Sachs reiterated the importance of linking the CAP to the district's Long Range Strategic Plan and CAPRA reaccreditation process. He emphasized alignment with internal plans and regional strategies.

Wayne Warrington provided an overview of the planning process, starting with the discovery phase in July 2023. This phase included internal and external stakeholder collaboration to identify barriers and develop a roadmap with actionable strategies. The writing phase occurred between September and November 2024, with refinements continuing into early 2025.

Staff commended the level of youth engagement & involvement of Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) students. Erich Sachs explained that workshops with students from SAMi, Foss High School, and Lincoln High School in June 2023 helped shape the plan. He noted that engagement continued in the fall, maintaining strong ties with teachers. Mr. Warrington highlighted two community meetings where families discussed the plan's impacts on their neighborhoods.

Wayne Warrington listed inputs informing the discovery phase: existing plans and data, internal and external interviews, sustainability surveys, and peer reviews. He emphasized how these inputs contributed to a comprehensive understanding of Parks Tacoma's environmental status and opportunities.

Wayne Warrington presented the 2019 emissions profile, totaling 9,700 metric tons, broken down into scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 (electricity), and scope 3 (waste, business travel). This data was used to align the district's strategies with city targets and peer benchmarks. He also presented the four focus areas that emerged from the planning process: Organizational Sustainability, Resilient Built Environment, Community Resilience, and Resilient Living Systems.

It was explained there are six climate action goals, including a 90% emissions reduction by 2050, with an interim target of 35% by 2035. Additional goals included reducing water consumption by 15-20% by 2030, achieving a 45% waste diversion rate, and reducing single-occupancy vehicle use through active commuting.

Wayne Warrington detailed adjustments based on Board feedback. Commissioner Mauer raised concerns about Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) and utility decarbonization, leading to a recommendation to prioritize PPAs over renewable energy credits (RECs). Commissioner Mauer proposed stronger language for the fleet electrification plan and suggested that all new buildings be electric by default, except in rare circumstances.

Commissioner Mauer suggested including a goal to eliminate single-use plastics in alignment with the Climate Action Plan and pointed out an unclear reference to Metro Parks on page 81 regarding the composting process.

The meeting concluded with a focus on fleet management and vehicle electrification. Staff and Board members discussed the challenges of upgrading older park maintenance facilities to support EVs and the ongoing need for gas-powered vehicles for longer trips and heavy-duty

tasks. Plans for more detailed vehicle replacement information in purchasing resolutions were also discussed.

Future proposed vehicle purchases are expected to last 15 years, though there's a push to shorten replacement cycles to 10 years to better align with sustainability goals.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary