



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
April 23, 2018**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Clerk
Tim Reid
Erik Hanberg
EXCUSED: Jessie Baines

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: 4702 South 19th Street

FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Smith

STUDY SESSION 2017 YEAR END REPORT BUDGET/FINANCIAL UPDATE

Chief Financial Officer, Erwin Vidallon began the presentation giving a District-wide summary of all funds noting that year to date savings is \$2.2M. Mr. Vidallon reviewed several charts showing the sources of revenue and areas of expense for the District in 2017.

Within the general fund, he commented that overall revenue was under budget by 0.4%, in the amount of \$115,853. In the area of tax collection staff stated that property tax was under budget by \$66,236; sales tax revenue was over \$118,206. Mr. Vidallon also commented that City shared costs for maintenance MOUs under \$132,830 due to timing of the start of new MOUs. He further stated that General Fund expenses were under budget by 6.1% resulting in a savings of \$1,724,661. Savings was due in part to wages and benefit savings from vacant positions, supplies & services and expenses correlated to City shared costs for maintenance MOUs. There was a net savings of \$1,608,807 versus budget. Commissioners Reid asked about how net savings will be used. Staff indicated that staff will approach the savings with a balanced approach to react to community demand and putting some funding in reserves.

Within the area of the Zoo, reported attendance was 692,000 guests; which was under budget but attendance was over 5,443 over budget Zoolights. Sales tax collections exceeded budget by 4.8% and earned revenue \$164,000 higher than budget. Staff commented that Zoolights was successful with both attendance and revenue exceeding budget.

Mr. Vidallon commented that within the area of Zoo expenses, a major focus was on capital projects, planning (Aquarium, SAMI, Rocky Shores). 2017 expenditures were below budget projections primarily due to changes in staff & timing of hiring.

At Northwest Trek there were more than 212,000 guests (4th highest in NWT history); Trek exceeded budget by 2,590 visitors. Mr. Vidallon stated that attendance was noteworthy since there were no new exhibits this year. Revenue for Trek was reported as up due to sales tax collections exceeding budget by 4.8% but with earned revenue \$56,000 below budget. In regards to expense, expenditures were below budget projections primarily due to changes in staff & timing of hiring.

Point Defiance Marina figures were then reviewed. 2017 had a stable fishing season, with higher visitor volume resulting in increases of merchandise and gas sales. Boat rental, boat storage and boat launch revenue were all up over 2016. Expenses included start-up costs for kayak rental business and increase in part-time wages for shuttling boat launch customers to and from parking due to construction. The Marina also experienced unexpected expenses of \$24,000 for fuel system repair.

At Meadow Park Golf Course Mr. Vidallon reported that record setting rainfall lead to lowest February with overall 2017 golf rounds down 7.6% from budget. As a result, revenue was down 8.8%. Staff reduced expenses \$87,472 to help offset loss of revenue.

Several tables were shown outlining the capital funding and budget. Data was shown that detailed how Bond dollars were allocated within the major buckets of projects. Mr. Vidallon commented that the combination of projects associated with Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Regional Parks and Community Centers (primarily Eastside), represents approximately 85% of the total Bond funding. In addition, he indicated that the revenue data illustrates other funding sources for some projects, such as grants, state funding, city funding, and foundations /partnership donations.

Mr. Vidallon then briefly highlighted current economic conditions in the region and county. He noted that the population has been steadily increasing the past few years, and the unemployment rate continues to drop. Average home values and per capital income has steadily increased. Staff commented that the District will continue to be a fiscal conservative by strengthening cash reserves year over year.

Next steps include a potential budget adjustment and finalization of the the third bond issuance.

Commissioner Reid requested additional information on leveraged bond funds.

Commissioner Hanberg asked about the current cash reserves. Mr. Vidallon commented that currently reserves are at 22%. There was brief Board and staff discussion about the cash reserve policy of the Board. Commissioner Hanberg also request that Board members might have access to financial dashboards located on the District's intranet.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Smith at 6:00p.m.

Commissioner Hanberg moved to excuse Commissioner Baines; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

RESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented that she threw out the first pitch representing the District at the Rainiers game last weekend.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Art & Culture Advisory Council

Commissioner Pointer commented that the committee met on April 17th. At that meeting Amy McBride from the City of Tacoma spoke about the City's public art process and selection criteria. The committee also discussed equity of art distribution throughout the city.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Hanberg commented that at the last committee meeting the group toured Dune Peninsula and the Wilson Way sight.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

President Smith commented that at the last JMAC meeting the agenda included an update on the RFQ for Click! The committee also heard some details on the Pierce County Opioid Summit.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Marina Becker recognized Janet Bissell on the occasion of her retirement from the District in the Recreation Department after 23 years.
- John Houck recognized Wil Waddell on the occasion of his retirement from Point Defiance Zoo. Mr. Waddell began working for the zoo in 1986.
- Last weekend’s Parks Appreciation Day had a great turn out with 641 volunteers.
- Tacoma City Marathon is running through Point Defiance Park and along Ruston Way this Sunday, April 29th.
- Boating community meeting is set for this Friday with representatives attending from several boating and fishing organizations.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Linda Sliva commented on an easement proposal on property next to Stewart Height Park which is close to her home. She noted she has met with Metro Parks Staff about the issue. She commented that Metro Parks Staff and the Tacoma Housing authority were not interested in buying the property. She urged the Board to consider buying the undeveloped portion of property that borders the park.

Stephanie Smith commented that she has been meeting with community organizations about the potential partners for taking over Portland Avenue Community Center. She noted that these partnerships are more in line with community expectation and do not include housing. Ms. Smith also commented that First Creek Neighborhood has 20 of derelict properties in the city. In addition, she commented on the Frist Creek Action Planned that was developed and adopted by the city in 2013.

Luetta Patton distributed a packet of historical documents related to Portland Avenue Community Center. She then commented on her family’s history and local ties to Tacoma. Ms. Patton then stated that the RFPs for the Portland Avenue Community Center were not specific enough.

Wolf Patton commented that he is serving a member on the Portland Avenue selection committee. He noted his concern regarding low-income housing and loss of green space at the Portland Avenue site. He stated that he is rejecting all three proposals received.

Cynthia Fleppa commented that her child attends the Waldorf School. She noted that the school is looking to relocate and feels they could be successful in the Portland Avenue Community Center. She further commented that the Center site should not be used for low-income housing.

Paula Van Pul commented that there is a species of woodpecker on the Eastside, which is on the endangered species list. She noted that its habitat would be disturbed if there was developed on the Portland Avenue Community site. She spoke of her concern for future low-income housing being brought to her neighborhood. She commented that there are plenty of other spaces within Tacoma for low-income housing.

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Pointer and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

CONSENT AGENDA None

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. PW36-18: BILLY RAY MEMORIAL PROJECT ART SERVICES CONTRACT AWARD TO JASMINE BROWN

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Rebecca Solverson, Arts Administrator for the City of Tacoma stated that the selection committee for this project has unanimously selected Jasmine Brown. She showed several examples of Ms. Brown's work and noted she is an eastside resident.

Commissioner Pointer commented on the great work that Ms. Brown has done in the past.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. PW37-18: BROWNS POINT LIGHTHOUSE PARK CONTRACT AWARD PUGET PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION, INC. BID NO. J2018-05

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Debbie Terwilleger commented that this project involves site work and improvements to provide a paved parking lot and ADA-accessible sidewalks down to the north beach area. She commented five bids were received and Puget Paving was the low bid.

There was brief Board discussion related to percentage for the arts for this project. Staff noted there is \$3800 set aside for the art portion.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. PW38-18: POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM ROCKY SHORES ELEVATOR IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT AWARD R.C. ZEIGLER, INC. BID NO. J2018-04

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Debbie Terwilleger commented this item was reviewed at the April 11th CIC meeting. She noted that two bids were received for this project. She noted that the elevator has been out of service for over a year. Commissioner Hanberg commented that this issue should have been taken care of much sooner. Staff commented that there are very few companies that do this sort of work and wait times are long.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. R39-18: POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM ASIAN FOREST SANCTUARY SOLAR PROJECT ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$50,000 FROM TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES EVERGREEN OPTIONS GRANT

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Alan Varsik commented that this grant funding will fund solar panels for the Asian Forest Sanctuary Exhibit. Matching funds will come from the Zoos operating funds.

Commissioner Pointer commented favorably on the solar project.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. R40-18: EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$30,000 FROM THE GREATER METRO PARKS FOUNDATION FOR THE BILLY RAY MEMORIAL

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Debbie Terwilleger commented that this resolution accepts and appropriates \$30,000 from the Greater Metro Parks Foundation for Eastside Community Center art construction and installation. She noted these funds are from private donations.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

RESOLUTION NO. R41-18: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$749,000 FROM THE MARGARET A. CARGILL FOUNDATION FOR THE WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Alan Varsik commented that this is the largest philanthropic gift the Zoo has received for empathy for animals.

Zoo Community Engagement Coordinator, Craig Standridge provided additional detail on what the grant will fund. Mr. Standridge commented that this grant will fund a partnership with Arlington Elementary. The grant will allow for program & curriculum development and delivery, all weather clothing, greenhouses, staff, storage and technology to work with the school students and families to promote empathy towards animals and connect families to the natural area in their community.

Board members commented positively on the partnership and program.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR35-18: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000,000 TO CONSTRUCT, EQUIP, RENOVATE, ACQUIRE, AND MAKE CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITIES OF THE DISTRICT AND TO PAY CERTAIN COSTS OF ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL LEVY OF TAXES TO PAY THE BONDS; AND DELEGATING TO THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE FINAL TERMS OF THE BONDS UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH HEREIN.

This resolution was moved and seconded at the April 9th regular Park Board meeting.

Being no additional comment, the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Baines being excused).

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LINK LIGHT RAIL IMPACT TO WRIGHT PARK

Marty Stump commented that the Link expansion will pass by Wright Park. A map showing the expansion project was reviewed. He pointed out the vertical elements needed for overhead wiring for the Link, which will be located behind the curb on Division Ave. Mr. Stump stated that the Overhead Catenary System delivers power to operate to light rail street cars. He stated that the OCS pole locations accommodate underground utilities and are spaced to balance the electrical load shared along the alignment. It was noted that the existing banner poles located on Division Ave in front of the Burger Bar will be relocated to the east of North 1st Street outside of Reinhaus Restaurant.

Commissioner Reid briefly commented about the unexpected storm water issues that resulted on Stadium Way the last time work was done in that area. Mr. Stump commented that the District is not expecting those sort of issues to occur or to adversely affect the park.

Rebecca Solverson commented that Pierce Transit does have its own process for the public art portion of this project.

NEW BUSINESS DISTRICT WEBSITE

Hunter George commented that the District will be improving its website. He stated that mobile/tablet usage on the Metro Parks Tacoma website hit a tipping point in 2013 which means that more people now use a mobile device to access the District website than a desktop computer and the number of mobile users continues to rise. Mr. George stated that currently 89% of registrations are completed on line with 60% of those being done with a mobile device. He discussed the fact that lost revenue is resulting from the lack of compatibility of the District site on mobile devices.

Next steps include an RFP on April 28th with the intent to have a new website launch next year. Mr. George commented that at this time cost is estimated to be \$150,000 plus.

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioners Reid & Pointer commented that he attended Parks Appreciation Day at Titlow Park. They commented on the great volunteer work at that location by employees of Comcast.

Commissioner Hanberg commented on the Earth Day event he attend at the Nature Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Being no additional commented the Board recessed into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss potential litigation.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary