



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
October 15, 2018**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Clerk
Erik Hanberg,
Tim Reid
Jessie K. Baines, Jr.

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

September 17, 2018

September 19, 2018

Commissioner Hanberg moved adoption of the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Pointer and approved unanimously.

TACOMA TO PUYALLUP – COPENHAGEN COHORT TRIP

Kristina Walker representing Downtown on the Go began the presentation by talking about the use of bikes and walking across the nation. Ms. Walker commented that data from the National Household Travel Survey indicates that people of color are walking at significantly higher rates than the white community. She further commented that on average, Latino people are taking almost 50% more of their trips on foot than white people. When reviewing biking data, Native American, Alaskan Native, and Latino communities are the most likely to bike to work. Whites are just about in the middle, followed by Asian and African American community members. Ms. Walker stated that what is promising is that the highest growth in bike trips are with the communities at the lowest end of that commute rate. In fact, between 2001-2009, African American community doubled the percent of trips taken by bike.

Ms. Walker also reviewed a couple of slides highlighting personal income related to bike trips. Her data indicated that those with the lowest income are biking the most. Active transportation by age data shows that usage is fairly consistent amongst all age groups. Local data was also shared by Ms. Walker. She shared that In Pierce County (2013 data), bike commute rate at 0.3%, the walking rate at 2.7%, and the transit mode split at 3.5%.

Ms. Walker stated that the Tacoma to Puyallup Connection is imagined as a cohesive network of trails from Tacoma to Tahoma. Benefits in the area health, transportation, economic and property could be approximately over \$12 M if the spine of the trail was completed. It was noted that there is a good amount of community support coming from Metro Park Tacoma, the Port of Tacoma and the Puyallup Watershed Initiative. Currently to the west there is Thea Foss Esplanade & Ruston Way – these trails run through Downtown Tacoma and along the waterfront, connecting signature urban parks along the way. To the East of this missing segment,

is Puyallup Riverwalk & Foothills Trail.. However, Ms. Walker stated that if you wanted to connect these trails, and travel the 6 miles between downtown Tacoma and downtown Puyallup this is your only direct route: State Route 167/River Road – a 50 mph, five lane roadway, full of freight traffic with no sidewalks or bicycle facilities.

Ms. Walker remarked that two local non-profits focused on active transportation led the charge to move this project forward: the Puyallup Watershed Initiative’s Active Transportation Community of Interest and Downtown On the Go. They worked with Courban, a Copenhagen-based design collective, to collaboratively develop the plan for the Tacoma to Puyallup Connection MasterClass. The Board was informed that the Tacoma to Puyallup MasterClass is funded by the Scan|Design Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to strengthening the relationship and goodwill between Denmark & the U.S, and the Puyallup Watershed Initiative Active Transportation Community of Interest. Commissioner Hanberg is one of the members of the class, which began meeting in June.

Commissioner Hanberg and Ms. Walker commented on the system and cohesive network of regional bicycle connections in Copenhagen that allows for robust bike travel in the city. Many photos illuminating the well-planned infrastructure for bicycle transportation were shown to the Board. Things such as signage, road markings, traffic signals, intersection foot rails, bike parking, traffic gardens and tire pump stations. Commissioner Hanberg also showed multiple photos of outdoor and public spaces. The masters class also visited several recreational sites including floating parks, rooftop playgrounds, trampolines, community gardens, and swimming holes.

Commissioner Hanberg and Ms. Walker commented on next steps, which include continuing to build strong community support, significant planning and policy work, and potential efforts to tie in with upcoming or existing projects.

WATERFRONT PHASE 1 SAIL MOUND ART

Marty Stump commented that this presentation is in lieu of the CIC meeting that was canceled. Amy McBride, Arts Administrator for the City of Tacoma commented on the call for artists announced in July. Of the 16 artist that submitted proposals the selection review committee unanimously selected Nichole Rathbun. Ms. McBride showed several slides highlighting past work of Nichole Rathbun.

Staff noted that time line for the install is Spring of 2019.

Commissioners inquired about the revised Dickman Mill Artwork. Staff commented that the artist is going through the process of revising her concepts and ideas based on the feedback received.

Commissioners also asked about the status of the bronze statue for the Eastside Community Center. Staff commented that there has been work done with structural engineers. The statue is planed to be placed on ground level.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:

Jennifer Bowman, Secretary