



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 22, 2019**

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

IN THE CHAIR: Aaron Pointer

PLACE: MPT Headquarters

FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Hanberg

STUDY SESSION QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Erwin Vidallon summarized the Q1 2019 by noting that the quarter finished positive despite the snow and wet February, ZEED attendance is exceeding 2019 budget targets to date, Meadow Park Golf Course rounds are exceeding 2019 budget targets to dates as well, and sales tax receipts are tracking closely to budget. Several general fund summary graphs were shown highlighting expenditures and revenues. Mr. Vidallon reviewed summary highlights of each department as follows:

Strategy & Governance:

- Favorable revenue variance generated primarily due to timing of Property Tax remittance.
- Expenditure savings generated due to vacancy of a budgeted full-time position, and for timing of invoice payments for Lobbyists.

Business & Innovation:

- Unfavorable variance in revenue resulting from Donations Foundation budgeted to B&I , but recognized in P&R.
- Combined overage primarily due to timing of salary-related expenses, including payouts to departing staff.

Parks & Recreation:

- Overall revenue earnings are unfavorable compared to projection.
- Primarily driven by earned revenues short of budget and less than expected subsidy payment from the City of Tacoma due to timing.
- Overall expenditures is favorable compared to projection
- Savings primarily from current vacant positions and timing of hiring new positions and timing of Services payments.

Planning:

- Savings generated primarily due to current position vacancies and timing of hiring of new position.

- Additional savings generated for timing of planned expenses in Supplies and Services.

Sales tax history was then reviewed.

Mr. Vidallon then highlighted each enterprise fund and noted the following:

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

- Zoo attendance through March was ahead of budget by approximately 38,000.
- Overall revenue earnings favorable compared to projection.
- Specifically, favorable results in Sales Tax, memberships and admissions earnings, and timing of Tacoma Schools billing (SAMI).
- Admissions outperformed budget by \$385,000.
- Memberships outperformed budget by \$381,000.
- Overall expenses favorable variance compared to budget.
- Primarily from timing of purchase of animal food and program and other supplies compared to budget.
- Favorable savings from vacant positions and timing of hiring new positions.

NW Trek:

- Trek attendance through March was ahead of budget by approximately 6,500.
- Overall revenue earnings favorable compared to projection.
- Admissions outperformed budget by \$44,000.
- Overall expenses under budget, and favorable savings from vacant positions and timing of hiring new positions.

Meadow Park Golf Course

- Golf Course attendance through March is ahead of budget, despite being closed 14 days in February.
- 2019 number of golf rounds highest total for March since 2005.
- Overall revenue earnings favorable compared to projection.
- Specifically, golf rounds and driving range have increased.
- 2019 is the best ever golf revenue months for both January & March since the Meadow Park's existence.
- Introduced TopTracer range technology at the end of March 2019.
- Overall expenses favorable variance compared to budget.
- Primarily from timing of purchase of Supplies and Services compared to budget.

Point Defiance Marina:

- Overall revenue earnings is unfavorable compared to projection.
- Favorable weather, fair to good fishing and an influx of new storage customers contributed to the revenue earnings.
- Boat and kayak storage at 90%, the highest occupancy rate on record for March.

- Upcoming salmon seasons have been scaled back drastically, which will adversely affect revenue in summer and fall.
- Overall expenses on schedule with spending plan.
- With drop-in salmon seasons careful watch will be needed to keep expenses in line.

Board members were reminded that they recently received a detailed capital update at last month's study session. Staff did highlight the 19-20 capital budget summary as \$54M in planned spending for the biennium from capital funds.

Sandra Eliason was then introduced to highlight the District's resource development efforts. Ms. Eliason commented on the trends of district-wide funds raised over the past 6 years. Total funds raised in 17-18 were \$17.1 M. Ms. Eliason briefly spoke about key performance indicators related to grants, sponsorships and corporate relations. She recognized new sponsors including Pepsi, Titus Will and CHI Franciscan.

REGULAR MEETING

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Grit City Carnivore Project with Chris Schell

Alan Varsik introduced Chris Schell of University of Washington Tacoma. Mr. Schell spoke about long-term research partnership that includes Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek, and Metro Parks Tacoma. He commented that through this partnership there is an interdisciplinary approach to study aspects of carnivore ecology and evolution. The purpose of the research is to study how carnivores are adapting in urban environments. Mr. Schell also noted the opportunities for citizen scientist to be involved in the research.

Board members commented positively on the project and inquired about getting local schools involved in the program.

Orcas Love our Rain Gardens Program

Mary Anderson and Rob Krehbiel were introduced. Ms. Anderson commented that Orcas Love Raingardens is a collaborative partnership between local government, public services including Tacoma Schools Metro Parks, Pierce Conservation District, Washington Environment Council, Defender of Wildlife, and Pierce County Environmental Services. Rob Krehbiel commented that the vision of the program is that all Tacoma Public Schools students and their families will have access to educational, interactive raingardens and will have opportunities to learn about the role of Green Infrastructure in protecting orcas. Mr. Krehbiel highlighted the education resources provided including classroom visits and free curriculum guides for educators.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Pointer commented on all the positive programs Metro Parks has in the community that continue to foster environmental stewardship and education.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Smith stated that agenda items included and update on the bronze bald eagle sculpture being fund by the NW Trek Foundation that will be part of the new bald eagle exhibit.

Active Lifestyle & Community Wellness Advisory Council

Commissioner Reid commented will meet this Thursday at Dune Peninsula at 6pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Executive Director, Pete Mayer commented on the following:

- Tacoma Fire responded to a fire at Titlow lodge on Easter Sunday. Although the fire was contained there is damage including smoke and water damage. Restoration crews are on site and staff is working to reschedule rental.
- Two people became stranded on a cliff in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park late Sunday after trying to retrieve a dropped cell phone, according to the Fire Department. Crews were called about 10:20 p.m. to the Bridge's Viewpoint along Five Mile Drive. While trying to scramble down and get the dropped cell phone, both people became stuck about 70 feet below the viewpoint. A fire boat spotted the stranded visitors and notified a rope-rescue team, which took a half hour or so to pull them safely back up. Neither person was injured.
- Parks Appreciation Day is this Saturday, April 27th beginning at 9:00am. This Year's MPT official locations are: Alder wood Park, Charlotte's Blueberry Park, McKinley Park, Point Defiance Park, Wapato Park
- MPT Day of Service – 3 new opportunities for employees to contribute to the local community including: Restoration work at Oak Tree Park – April 27th, Beach survey and cleanup on the waterfront – May 18th, Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup near Northwest Trek – date TBD
- Park Rx Day - Family Health Festival at Point Defiance is Sunday, April 28, 11:00am - 4:00pm National Park Rx Day is a day celebrated across the United States to promote the growing movement of prescribing parks and nature to patients to improve human health.
- Marina Becker introduced the following new employees: Josh Mears, Michael O'Conner, Daniel Russell, Amy Boucher, Jan Bretana, Courtney Morris, and Benton Lefton.
- Staff is finishing up the Board bi-monthly memo which includes highlights about the wading pool at Portland Avenue and new leadership at KWA.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stephanie Smith commented that she is concerned about renovations by KWA taking place at the Portland Avenue Community Center that are eliminating meeting space. She also commented that KWA has not been responsive to her questions and concerns.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as amended; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed on a vote of 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C31-19: BROWNS POINT LIGHTHOUSE PARK FINAL ACCEPTANCE PUGET PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Baines and passed on a vote of 5-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R33-19: MASTER AGREEMENT FOR MISCELLANEOUS TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND WETLANDS/STREAM SERVICES CONTRACT AWARDED TO DAVID EVANS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

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

Marty Stump commented that this is a professional services agreement for a number of Metro Parks capital projects. The contract will extend from April 2019 through March 2021. He noted that the CIC reviewed this twice for the purpose of addressing MWBE concerns raised by the commissioners.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RR32-19: 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 REFUNDING BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000,000 TO REFUND CERTAIN OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS 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.

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

Erwin Vidallon introduced the District's Bond team. The Board was informed that this resolution authorizes the refunding of the 2010 Build America Bonds. Staff noted that District has an opportunity to refund outstanding Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) bonds originally issued in 2010. Staff commented that by refunding the 2010 bonds, the District would save taxpayers approximately \$2,000,000 in debt payments over the remaining life of the bonds.

Being no additional comments the resolution was moved to second reading on May 13th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Tacoma Green School Yards Plan

Joe Brady reminded the Board of the Park District’s strategic framework. Mr. Brady also commented on the Districts efforts to reach a goal of ensuring that every resident of Tacoma lives within a ten-minute walk to a high-quality park or green space. A map highlighting school facilities was then reviewed. This body of work will include geographically analyzing the spatial distribution of schools in the context of the current and expected gaps in service provided by Metro parks Tacoma. Staff will also collaboratively identify, prioritize and solve the necessary interagency policy gaps and operational roles between MPT and TPS as they related to the program. Mr. Brady indicated that staff will also need to identify supporting partners and identify and solicit philanthropic support from the community. Staff noted that they will also need to make a similar presentation to the Tacoma School Board.

Commissioner Hanberg voiced concern over the plan indicating that citizens may want the District to actually acquire additional property to meet the goals rather than using school yards. Commissioner Baines commented that this approach to provide more park space may upset some citizens as they may not see it as equitable.

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Hanberg stated that he recently held his daughter’s Birthday Party at the STAR Center.

Commissioner Hanberg commented he attend a Tacoma Reign game, noting that the future of soccer in Tacoma looks bright.

Commissioner Smith thanked staff member Andrew Austin for his legislative work. She also commented that on April 14th that several board members attended the Daffodil Boat Parade where they received comments about the ramps at the Tacoma Yacht Club.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary