

Active Lifestyles and Community Wellness Council
January 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call

Present:

Council Members Ron Harpel, Darren Campbell, Brian Looper, Michael Lafreniere, Emily Russell, Jennifer Wynkoop, Steve Wells, J. Preston Childs, Will Niemann-Ross, Meagan Kula and William Privett.

Staff: Commissioner Reid, Bob Houston, Joey Furato, Kodi Smith Doty

II. Review and Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes for the December, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

III. Program and Facilities Updates

- A. The opening festivities for the new field at SERA will be March 5 at 1:00.
- B. The Chili Chase run will be held at STAR on Feb. 15.
- C. There are 137 basketball teams participating this Winter.
- D. Youth Baseball registration begins shortly.
- E. Public meetings for the Waterway and Central Parks on the Foss are continuing, and the next will be on February 9.
- F. Consultants continue their work on the conceptual plan for the Wright Park Conservatory. Some educational and meeting space is planned.
- G. Ft. Nisqually is closed for about 2 months for remediation.
- H. Docks for human-powered boating are being placed at Wapato Lake. The lake remains unswimmable.
- I. Designs for the Brown's Point Lighthouse are preliminary and not yet public.
- J. Last year four parks were managed without pesticides and herbicides, and four more will be added this year. Electric blowers are being piloted in these parks, and emissions and noise are significantly reduced. However, battery life is about 30 minutes compared to four hours from a tank of gas. Crews utilize batteries in phased charging modes. Recharge of batteries is about 45 minutes. The electric blowers cost more than comparable gas blowers.

IV. Specialized Recreation Programs

A. Kodi Smith Doty provided a detailed overview of her sport, social and recreational programs for people of all abilities. She noted that some participants have been involved for 40 years, and there is a strong sense of family among the participants and their biological families and supporters. The ratio of participants (678 unique people in 2015) to attendance (almost 22,000 times in 2015) shows the Specialized Recreation community has significantly more repeat users than does the general programming. Graphs of revenues for 2015 and 2016 show involvement from City of Tacoma and Tacoma School District both years with the addition of Pierce County in 2016. There is strong support from Tacoma Yacht Club in sponsoring the Cinderella Ball and Holiday Cruise. Kodi explained that in unified programming, the younger programs involve siblings, friends, and family members, whereas the programs for older participants more likely include buddies from high school.

V. Old Business

- A. A survey of 641 respondents regarding the Mission Led Comprehensive Plan shows that 95% had attended a MPT activity or facility and 93% rated them either good or excellent.
- B. Michael noted that we have previously met with the Executive Director of the Foss Waterway Seaport to explore mutual interests and opportunities. Now the Seaport has met with Tacoma School District Administrators.

V. New Business

- A. Joey led a discussion of the use of crumb rubber on sport fields and the possible health effects associated with contact with the rubber crumbs. He provided a briefing paper from the Washington Department of Health summarizing what is known and what ongoing research and analysis is underway.

He noted that crumb rubber usage reduces the water needed for irrigation, reduces injuries from falls, recycled used tires, and eliminates pesticide and fertilizer use. All weather fields enable much greater use, and MPT considers fields at Heidelberg and Peck as likely next candidates. These positives are balanced with concerns about possible increases of cancer among athletes, especially soccer goalkeepers. Those concerns have been raised by the varsity women's coach at UW, among others, and there is legislation introduced this year in the State Senate to impose a moratorium on new crumb rubber fields in public facilities. The rubber crumbs have a ten year life, and their toxicity increases with wear. We discussed the life cycle of the rubber and asked where the used crumbs are disposed. We discussed the parallels with heavy metal contamination from Asarco, and suggested several approaches to community education to increase understanding of concerns and practical steps for minimizing possible adverse effects. Hand washing after an event and before eating should be encouraged, so it is important that bath facilities near the fields are open and available.

VI. Good of the Order

A. Next Meeting: Thursday February 25 at 6:30 in Main Conference Rm.

VII. Adjournment