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**BUSINESS & RESPONSIVE AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

This Council advises and makes recommendations to the programs and operations of  
Metro Parks Tacoma concerning financial management and business practices.

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Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters Building  
4702 S 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma, WA 98405  
May 10, 2016

**Present:** Aaron Blaisdell, Su Dowie, Peter Kram, Dan Powell, Addy Tseng  
**Absent:** Jen Drake  
**Staff:** Brett Freshwaters, Julie Wilfong  
**Board Liaison:** Commissioner Baines  
**Guest:** Scott Bauer, Chris Goodman

**SUMMARY**

- A recruitment update was given.
- A presentation of the Meadow Park Golf Course Business Plan was reviewed with Chris Goodman.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The April 12, 2016 minutes were approved as written.

**RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

Aaron contacted several advisory council members whose terms were expiring to see if they would be interested in being part of this advisory group. Dan Powell also contacted a potential candidate, but she is unable to join at this time due to other commitments.

**DESTINATION POINT DEFIANCE UPDATE**

Coast Guard Tower is currently being relocated to the top of the Boathouse in Point Defiance Park. Construction to begin in a couple of months for various projects around the park.

**MEADOW PARK GOLF COURSE BUSINESS PLAN**

In 2015 Mead Park Golf Course (MPGC) turned a profit totaling \$24,000. This is the first time in over five (5) years they have made a profit.

MPGC will replace several golf carts and purchase a new rough mower and four (4) maintenance carts. MPGC has built a fleet of 60 golf carts, of which 39 will be replaced. Two thirds of the fleet will be electric carts. It was determined with the current collection of electric golf carts cost wise, it is better to replace the carts than to replace the batteries. The cost to replace the battery is about 25% of the value of the cart. New carts cost around \$4000 to \$5000. Carts are a good percentage of revenue.

During the last ten (10) years MPGC has had significant profit loss which resulted in the facility being down \$500,000 on working capital. The projections for 2016 and 2017 anticipate a positive net but they need to keep in mind the cost for staff is increasing. The golf market is very competitive and very tough. It also has various levels of pricing that is not consistent and there is currently a downward trend in golf facilities.

The 2014 Capital Bond has \$1.5 Million for Capital Improvements for MPGC. In 2015, the irrigation system was updated. They have a good control system that helps the course and is more efficient. MPGC uses water from an

aquifer so water costs are low. The biggest expense is on the electricity used to run the system. Currently there is about \$1 Million left for various projects.

MPGC wants to focus on more revenue generating ideas. Lighting the driving range has the potential to bring in customers in the fall and winter time. Tacoma Firs Golf Course will be closing down for six months and we can benefit from this. In addition to the lighting, there would be heating, a new ball wash station and teaching facility.

The lighting project would cost about \$180,000, MPGC would net about \$27,000.

The view of Meadow Park is that it is more of a teaching facility. We have programs with First Tee and work with the Special Olympics. We do a lot of community outreach and would like to get our story out to the public.

The long term sustainability for the facility is being discussed. Currently MPGC is operating with fewer full time staff than is optimal. There are several options the District is looking at. A group will be convened to discuss options.

MPGC is also looking to partner with the WA State Golf Association. They can reach more members with handicaps to come play at the facility. The facility also partners with Tacoma School District, Curtis High School and Charles Wright.

Some suggestions were given to Chris such as having a workshop with the high school students who practice at the facility to find out what would bring them back to the course when not practicing with school or look at other ways to provide programming that would capture the younger generation and be sustainable. Have a focus group with various groups to help suggest ways to enhance the experience here at the facility or to do a survey and find out from the public what the needs are for the facility.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

No financial update.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Water testing for lead around Metro Park. Testing was done at all community facilities and water fountains and the results showed lead well under the “safe” threshold at all locations.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2016, held at Metro Parks’ Headquarters Building.

#### **ADJOURNED**

The meeting ended at 8:53 a.m.

Approved:

Aaron Blaisdell, Chair

Submitted by: Julie Wilfong