



NATURE & ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY MINUTES

Thursday, May 12, 2016
Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters
4702 S 19th St Tacoma, WA 98405
Board Room
5:30 PM

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016

Attendees: Lauren Anderson, Ryan Dicks, Joey Henderson, Leslie Ann Rose, Liz Satterthwaite, Luis Yanez

Board Liaison: Commissioner Smith

Staff: Mary Anderson, Marina Becker, Michele Cardinaux, Doreen Klaaskate

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM

April minutes were approved.

BOARD REPORT:

Commissioner Smith informed the Council about the many, ongoing projects at Pt. Defiance. The new dirt contractor will be moving approximately 300,000 cubic yards of dirt. About half of the dirt will be used within the park itself. Any dirt hauled off site will be clean. The aquarium and school projects are currently under construction also. Metro Parks has hired a Park Ranger.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT:

Michele Cardinaux told the Council that an open house will be held May 18th to update the public on the progress of the proposed ESCC. The open house will start at 6 pm at the Salishan Family Investment Center. A revised design has been developed for the WW Seymour Conservatory. The District is currently testing water for lead at all applicable sites. A totally kids race will be held at Wapato Park on May 14th. The second phase of Swan Creek Park is under way including the expansion of the mountain bike area. Ryan Dicks suggested marketing the District's Sustainability Plan at farmer's markets.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

Beehives at Pt. Defiance

Max Mayo, a senior at SAMI, gave the Council information regarding his Genus Apis senior project. Max stated that L'Arche Farms donated the first 30,000 bees for the project. Max feels this is an important project to expand to other locations since Colony Collapse Disorder affects at least 30% of all hives. Max explained that bees are much the same as livestock in that they require constant upkeep. Michele Cardinaux commented that the Tacoma Nature Center has an observation hive.

Swan Creek Park Update

Mary Anderson told the Council that Swan Creek at 290 acres, including a salmon bearing creek, is a hidden gem in the City of Tacoma. The updated master plan included extensive public outreach. The Gathering Place at the northern end of the park includes a re-furbished picnic area, community garden, and a food forest. Tree removal has been kept to a minimum. The endangered Torrey Peavine can be found inside the park. Programming of the location continues to increase with a campfire program scheduled this summer at the Gathering Place. Also planned are a "Salmon Saturday", three large biking events, and the Beast Mode Challenge at the end of July. A farmer's market may be in the future also. Luis Yanez commented that the Washington Trail Association has done extensive work in the park.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None at this time

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM