



NATURE & ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL JUNE MINUTES

Thursday, June 9, 2016
Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters
4702 S 19th St Tacoma, WA 98405
Board Room
5:30 PM

Date: Thursday, June 9, 2016

Attendees: Lauren Anderson, Liz Satterthwaite, Jessica Stone

Board Liaison: Commissioner Smith

Staff: Mary Anderson, Michele Cardinaux, Kristi Evans, Doreen Klaaskate

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM

May minutes were tabled due to lack of quorum.

BOARD REPORT:

Commissioner Smith informed the Council that the Tacoma Yacht Club lease had been approved. The lease is longer due to future capital improvements. This lease is also tied to market rather than the flat fee escalators in the prior lease.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT:

Michele Cardinaux told the Council that registration is open for Fall after school programs at area schools. The Pt. Defiance Visitor Center is open for the season. Pools, spraygrounds, and camps are in full swing. Progress continues at Pt. Defiance with the aquarium, learning center, and traffic and circulation study. There will be a free shuttle service from TCC to the Taste of Tacoma this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

Conservatory Master Plan Update

Kristi Evans, Project Manager, gave the Council an update on the status of the Conservatory Master Plan. There have been three public and five steering committee meetings. Written and online comments were also received. The original designs were reviewed and it was decided that preservation of the existing, smaller scale structure was preferable with an open slope, circulation around the building, and view corridors. Liz Satterthwaite inquired if additional staff would be needed. It appears more staff will be needed for the new facility. The final open house is scheduled for Thursday, July 21st where the final design will be presented. The new structure will have a cloud forest theme.

SAMI Project - Nature walks

Ruby Brownawell presented her senior project to the Council. She engaged three Bryant Middle School classes on a community nature walk at Pt. Defiance. Ruby lead the walk and had the group take notes on various plants along the way. She gave the group a pre/post tests to gauge what the group had learned.

SAMI Project - Submersibles

SAMI students Keshreeyaji Oswal and Carlos Sanchez described their project to the Council. They built a submersible device to test the effects of creosote pilings on Puget Sound. They used the submersible to study the species that adhered to the pilings and the number and type that adhered to concrete and steel pilings. They carried out their experiment at Boathouse 19 and the Pt. Defiance Marina Complex. They found that the creosote pilings had far fewer species. Jessica Stone asked about tidal fluctuations. Keshreeyaji stated that they minimized the variables as much as possible. He stated that the currents were the biggest challenge.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

There will be a group potluck at Wapato in August.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM