
**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.

Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters Building
4702 S 19th Street, Tacoma, WA 98405
September 13, 2016

Present: Aaron Blaisdell, Su Dowie, Don Golden, Dan Powell, Addy Tseng,
Absent: Peter Kram
Staff: Brett Freshwaters, Julie Wilfong
Board Liaison: Commissioner Baines
Guest: Johnny Mojica, Jose Gorospe

SUMMARY

- An update on Destination Point Defiance was given by Brett Freshwaters.
- A Membership Update Presentation was given by Jose Gorospe.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 a.m.

MINUTES

The July 12, 2016 minutes were approved as written.

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Brett Freshwaters introduced Johnny Mojica of Earth Economics. Johnny was invited to attend the BRAAC meeting to see what the Advisory Council is about. A review of Mr. Jeff Albers application was also reviewed by the council. Aaron Blaisdell reached out to several individuals who were completing their terms on other councils to join BRAAC.

DESTINATION POINT DEFIANCE UPDATE

In the Waterfront Phase I Project, the landscape of the triangle area has started to transform the look of the park. Dirt is being moved onto the peninsula and the new park is taking shape.

The Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be reimbursing Metro Parks for the work around the yacht club basin based on the agreement signed with Metro Parks. This work will be done during phase one of the project, but the work has not started yet.

Construction has started on both the new Education Learning Center and aquarium in Point Defiance Zoo.

The Traffic and Circulation Study is underway. The first public meeting will be held on Thursday, September 29th and everyone is invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jose Gorospe, manager of all the community centers under Metro Parks has started to review the membership and rate structure for Metro Parks. Prior to managing all the community centers, the centers were split between two managers overseeing two centers each. He had found there was no consistency with the rates.

As the pool at People's Community Center has been re-done and with the new Eastside Community Center coming up, this was a good time to look at the rates currently in place.

We are considering adding new categories for Young Adult (18yrs – 29yrs), corporate memberships, and a District-wide membership that could be used at all facilities.

The rate structure will be based on the amenities offered at each facility. As each facility offers different amenities, it did not seem reasonable to have the same membership rate for each location. An example would be the Center at Norpoint has a full gym, ball courts and full size pool for members to use. But at STAR Center, members must use the pool at Mt. Tahoma High School, in addition this facility does not have ball courts. So the pricing will differ.

One of the questions asked is whether the restructure was a focus on cost recovery or to provide access to a constant revenue stream. Jose stated it was a little of both. STAR Center is a highly subsidized facility while the Center at Norpoint is anticipating to make \$150,000 in profit. Metro Parks' needs to look at cost recovery as the maintenance budget for each facility is under a different department and not in Recreation which takes in the revenue.

One of the drivers for revising the membership and rate structure is the construction of the new Eastside Community Center. The amenities need to drive the rates, not the geographic area. Understanding that not all individuals or families could afford to pay the full membership cost, Jose would like to encourage the use of scholarships to make up the difference. Scholarships are available to the community and this helps subsidize the cost of membership for those who can't afford the full rate.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financials not reviewed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016, held Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters in the Main Conference room.

ADJOURNED

The meeting ended at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Aaron Blaisdell, Chair

Submitted by: Julie Wilfong