
**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
November 8, 2016

Present: Jeff Albers, Aaron Blaisdell, Don Golden, Johnny Mojica, Dan Powell,
Absent: Su Dowie, Peter Kram
Staff: Brett Freshwaters, Julie Wilfong
Board Liaison: Commissioner Baines
Guest: Mary Tuttle

SUMMARY

- An update on the new Eastside Community Center presented by Mary Tuttle.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

MINUTES

The October, 2016 minutes were approved as written.

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

No recruitment update was given.

DESTINATION POINT DEFIANCE UPDATE

No update was given.

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

The new Eastside Community Center is a project that has been several years in the making. One of the catalysts for the center is the youth violence that has occurred on the eastside of Tacoma. Outreach was done with the eastside community residents asking them to identify the needs for the area. One of the highest priorities identified was a new community center. In addition, needed services were identified as health, recreation, educational and learning programs.

Metro Parks Tacoma, the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools and the Tacoma Housing Authority began meeting to discuss the opportunity for a new center. In addition the Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound and the Greater Metro Parks Foundation have also partnered with the agencies. The center will be located on the First Creek Middle School campus. The budget for the new center is \$30 million.

The new center will offer many programs such as sports, aquatics, fitness, visual arts, and performing arts. Metro Parks is being very thoughtful on youth programs. Metro Parks understands the trends in fitness and arts change quickly and will try to incorporate the latest trends into the programs. For example, a current popular trend in visual arts is digital production. As a result, the new center will have a recording studio for youth to access and learn through programs.

The new facility will not be able to accommodate every single program, so Metro Parks will be leveraging its partnership with both First Creek Middle School and the Boys & Girls Club to be more effective and robust to meet the needs of the community. The Boys & Girls Club will operate after school programming in the new center and will also provide snacks and meals to students. We also hope to utilize the kitchen at First Creek Middle School for

culinary classes. Currently this is being discussed with the School District. First Creek has two gyms and we are anticipating using one of the gyms for programming to complement programming at the center's gym.

The new pool will not be used for competition. It will be 20 yards, with a deep end and will have swimming programs. The pool may be used for swimming lessons through the school in the future. There is currently a pilot program that will be starting in January at People's pool that will be utilized by Jason Lee Middle School for swimming lessons that will become part of the school curriculum. This is another example of leveraging our partnership.

The \$30 million cost is funded through several sources, including up to \$10 Million from MPT bond funds, \$5 Million from the City of Tacoma, \$1.7 Million from the State, \$2.5 Million is anticipated from the sale of Eastside Pool and Portland Avenue Community Center, \$3-5 Million from New Market Tax Credits (NMTC), \$3 Million from donations and potential additional funds from the state. This is the most complex project Metro Parks has done with both budget and partnerships.

Budgeting for operating costs continues to be a challenge and Metro Parks must balance the needs of maintaining current assets and programs while paying for new assets coming online in the next biennium.

FINANCIAL REPORT

We are currently working on the 2017-18 budget and forecasting the 2016 end of year results.

General Fund expenditures are down, we anticipate a savings of \$500,000 to \$1 Million at the end of the year.

The collection of property tax received in October was on budget. This is about \$14 Million per year. We receive Property Tax twice a year in April and October.

Northwest Trek has had a great year and have already exceeded their annual attendance budget. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's attendance has tailed off for the year due to construction around the park. Point Defiance Marina Complex is doing well overall and Meadow Park Golf Course did not hit the budget for rounds but held back expenses.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2016, held at Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters building located at 4702 S. 19th Street.

ADJOURNED

The meeting ended at 8:50 a.m.

Approved:

Aaron Blaisdell, Chair

Submitted by: Julie Wilfong