

---

**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  
4702 S 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma, WA 98405  
March 14, 2017

**Present:** Jeff Albers, Aaron Blaisdell, Su Dowie; Don Golden, Peter Kram, Johnny Mojica, Dan Powell

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Tara Dunford, Julie Wilfong

**Board Liaison:** Commissioner Baines

**Guest:** Hunter George, Noreen Plum, Mary Tuttle

**SUMMARY**

- An update on the Tacoma Outboard Association was discussed.
- A presentation on youth activities, program partnerships and scholarships was given.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MINUTES**

The February 14, 2017 minutes were approved as written.

**RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

An introduction of the BRAC Council was given to Noreen Plum, a potential candidate. Noreen is a Certified Public Accountant who previously worked in Kitsap County and is currently working for a firm in downtown Tacoma. She is looking to get involved with the community. She had worked with United Way in Kitsap County and started researching the United Way of Pierce County site and found Metro Parks for a volunteer opportunity.

**DESTINATION POINT DEFIANCE UPDATE**

No update was given.

**TACOMA OUTBOARD ASSOCIATION (T.O.A.) UPDATE**

Aaron Blaisdell had asked for an update on the Tacoma Outboard Association (TOA) and the bridge at Titlow Park. Hunter George stated TOA moved out of the building in December and Metro Parks is starting a Master Planning process for Titlow Park and will include public participation. Hidden Beach will be an area the Master Plan will focus on. With TOA no longer occupying the building there is no traffic on the bridge, which will need to be replaced. Currently only vehicles 5000lbs. or less can cross over the bridge. A website has been created to help with the Master Planning called [titlowparkvision.org](http://titlowparkvision.org). Announcements will be posted for the public and the website will include public surveys.

Su Dowie had mentioned the building and its proximity to the water would fall under shoreline zone and if the Master Plan calls for a replacement building in this area, keeping the existing building may be beneficial. Hunter George commented the building will not be demolished and Metro Parks has secured it while it is unoccupied.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES, PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each program area offered by Metro Parks is very diverse in term of offering and the scope at which it meets the need of the public. The programs also offer different services for adults and youth. Mary Tuttle mentioned it may be best to bring in a specific program and do an in depth presentation.

Currently Metro Parks' largest partnership is elementary sports program in 35 schools. The program consists of soccer, basketball and flag football. The program will expand to include volleyball for 4/5 grades and offer golf through the First Tee program in the fall of 2017. One of the guiding factors for programs is through the Mission Led Comp Plan (MLCP). The YMCA are in 7 school sites and the Boys and Girls Club are in 3 school sites.

Commissioner Baines wanted to hear more on the partnership and if we are looking to expand in a certain area. Mary commented Metro Parks has a partnership for service with Summit Charter School located near Freight House Square. Summit Charter School is a high school that draws mainly from Stewart and First Creek and services the eastside of Tacoma. Metro Parks has been selected as the provider for mission led activities that include outdoor adventure, arts and swim lessons. Students are transported to the People's Community Center for swim lessons. Metro Parks will have a 125% cost recovery for this partnership.

Starting in fall 2017, the Tacoma Public Schools will launch a new innovative middle school called Thrive and will be based on the human body built to move 12 miles a day. It will be a fitness and sports school and will have treadmills, bicycles. Martial arts and swim lessons. Jason Lee Middle School will be the site for the new school. Metro Parks will provide martial arts and swim lessons for the school at People's Community Center. Tacoma Public Schools will look to expand and include a high school so students from Thrive will continue through this innovative program. Metro Parks envisions students who have been through the swim program will start to receive junior lifeguard training during 9<sup>th</sup> grade and at 10<sup>th</sup> grade can be hired by Metro Parks as lifeguards at People's Community Center.

Peter Kram asked the following questions; Is there any historical data about fitness now? Are we establishing a baseline with the current students? What metrics will we have? And what will be the rise to see what will change? Mary responded the Tacoma School District will be responsible for data collection in progress and change. Metro Parks will be monitoring student progress through a report card. As for the metabolic data, Metro Parks will not handle this process as we do not employ physicians.

Aaron Blaisdell commented there are opportunities within Metro Parks to employ students in the summer and for different programs that can be measured through the system. Commissioner Baines also stated it was a great idea to have students enter an apprentice program and after they graduate employ students at different facilities.

Peter stated in a broader picture of physical activity participation what is the outcome of students in five years. What is the output to show what they are doing for physical activity? As adults, will they carry on with physical activity. It would be a great measure to have data.

Su Dowie asked if Metro Parks swimming program was linked in with the YMCA's program? Their initiative is to have all kids learn how to swim by the time they graduate high school. Mary Tuttle responded Metro Parks' swimming program is aligned with USA Swimming rules and regulations and different from the YMCA. The YMCA is based on member service and Metro Parks is based on community.

Mary mentioned scholarships are offered to the community and is made available throughout all programs.

Johnny Mojica asked what other districts around the nation is Thrive modeled after and do they have data to show if the program is successful? Mary Tuttle responded there are no other districts nationally with this model, this is the first of its kind. Also, the Science and Math Institute (SAMI) is the only school that is situated in a forest/park. Similar schools are in metropolitan areas and students are bused to a forest/park setting.

Su Dowie asked, how does Metro Parks keep kids safe? Mary Tuttle stated national background checks are done on employees and volunteers. Metro Parks does not partner with the YMCA to other organizations to do background checks.

Peter Kram asked when would staff be able to report back on the programs? Mary Tuttle responded the programs will begin in fall of 2017 and go through summer 2018. Peter requested staff should report back after at the end of the project and inform the council on what was successful or not about the program.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

No report was given.

### **MEETING SUMMARY AND FOLLOW-UP**

Su Dowie wanted an update on the Art in the Park program with Metro Parks. Mary Tuttle responded Metro Parks has an art committee and public art plan in place. There is an art flow chart that will be sent to the committee to see how the process for art is handled.

Aaron Blaisdell would like to hear about the membership program at STAR Center facility and how it is working 6 years later.

Commissioner Baines would also like to hear from staff about the STAR Center. He thinks of it as a community center, but feels staff think of it as a rental facility. He would like to see a financial report on the center and get a better understanding of what the vision is and how it provides community center services.

Julie Wilfong will follow up with Tareena Joubert and request a presentation in June. Council agreed June meeting should be held at the STAR Center.

Su Dowie would like more information on the legislative update. Hunter George will provide the update. This will be set for a May presentation.

The council would also like an update on the CFO recruitment in April.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017, held at Meadow Park Golf Course.

### **ADJOURNED**

The meeting ended at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Aaron Blaisdell, Chair

Submitted by: Julie Wilfong