



NATURE & ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL THURSDAY, February 8, 2018 MINUTES

MPT Headquarters Boardroom
4702 S, 19th Street
Tacoma WA, 98405
5:30 PM

Attendees: Anthea Aasen, Brett Johnson, Pam Ketzner, Ken Campbell, Maggie McKeown, Liz Satterthwaite, Liz Collins, Luis Yanez, Bailey Wood

Staff: Michele Cardinaux, Mary Anderson, Marina Becker

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM

Minutes: January 11th meeting minutes were approved as written.

Board Report:
No Board Report

Staff Liaison Report:
Michele C. Updated Council on:
The impending construction and detours associated with the roundabout at the Pearl Street entrance to Pt. Defiance. There will be a public meeting on February 10 to discuss and gather public input on the roundabout, traffic circulation, and improvements at Owen Beach and volunteer opportunities at the park. It will be held in the Environmental Learning Center from 10am-2pm. In partnership with Tacoma Public Schools a free event will be held at the STAR Center on March 11, 3-7pm. The event is called Winter Wonderland, and will feature activities, sports, dancing and the movie Frozen. The event is geared for students with disabilities and their families. She also provided a progress update on all the capital projects currently active.

Biodiversity Corridors:
Elliot Barnett, City of Tacoma Long Range Planner, and Shannon Brennan, City of Tacoma Environmental Specialist, both from the Permit and Development Services Department presented on the City of Tacoma Open Space Corridors Project. Elliot and Shannon are working with the Planning Commission to bring more protection to the City's biodiversity Corridors through regulation. The City wants to ensure connectivity and mitigation sequencing when considering permits for development in these corridors. City staff are trying to minimize the impact to Metro Parks efforts to restore habitat in appropriate ways in these spaces and will consider expanding the size of restoration areas allowed without staff review. Several council members and staff had questions for Elliot and Shannon. MPT will work closely with the City staff to identify other impacts to park operations and implementation of

existing habitat management plans. The council was invited to send comments and/or a letter to the planning commission, or reach out directly to Elliot or Shannon.

Pt. Defiance Park Ranger Program:

Mary Krauszer, the Point Defiance Park Ranger, gave an overview of the Ranger Program. Mary provides programs and interpretation of the flora and fauna at Pt Defiance Park, she provides leadership for the volunteer Park Watch and works with Ruston Police and Tacoma Police to educate visitors on park rules and regulations. Her programs include a Junior Ranger Program and park ambassadors that help deliver programs from the Point Defiance Visitor Center during peak season. MPT will be adding a second Ranger soon and will begin to expand services to Ruston Way and the new Peninsula Park this year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mary Anderson gave a brief description of the University of Washington Livable City Year project taken on by 12 landscape architecture students. The project explores connectivity between 4 gulches and the Ruston Way Waterfront. They may be available to present their final projects to the group at a March 8th NEAC meeting. The work plan will be modified to see the student presentations in March and Have the Pt. Defiance Tour on April 19th if we can get everyone scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.