



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

**June 26, 2019
5:00 PM
MINUTES**

Attendees: Commissioner Smith (Commissioner Hanberg's sub), Commissioner Baines
Staff Support: **Debbie Terwilleger**, Director of Planning & Development; **Marty Stump**, Deputy Director - Planning Department; **Tom Dargan**, Project Administrator; **Mary Kay Henley**, Planning Administration

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the May 29, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

Project Status

- Commissioner Baines asked about public safety and homelessness at both Rogers and Blueberry Parks. Marty will follow up on this.
- Commissioner Baines reported boulders at Steward Heights Park, meant to discourage parking along the road, are being moved. Marty will follow up on this.

Discussion Items

Point Defiance Park Loop Trail – 100% Design Development

- Tom presented the project's 100% Design Development plans prepared by the consultant (BCRA). He added we have a RCO grant tied to this project and we are currently in the project's comment phase. The project now includes viewpoints as reflected in the new title: Point Defiance Park Loop Trail & Viewpoints. Input from the earlier Parking and Circulation Study completed 2 years ago, along with public input influenced the current design.
- The Shared Use trail will connect to Wilson Way, the Roundabout, Mildred Street and other park amenities. It was emphasized that separating pedestrians and bikes from vehicular traffic is paramount. In addition, five viewpoints will be improved, along with striping around the outer loop.
- Tom presented an overview of the trail's connection points:
 - Loop Trail section - Pavement will be 10-12 feet wide with side gravel and plantings. A 5 foot buffer (raise median and/or planting) will prevent vehicles encroachment.
 - Crossover points and future shuttles
 - Wilson Way landing – Connections to the trail will include welcoming signage
 - Japanese Garden access – Great care is being taken where the trail crosses the access road.
 - Elevated walkways – It was explained these are in lieu of 'bridges' per RCO grant language. They will span sensitive areas without damaging natural terrain/trees. Marty mentioned we are looking into using PermaTrek material and including railing.

- Owen Beach – The right lane is for shared-use and the left lane vehicles. The new intersection at the entrance to Owen Beach was reviewed. The new two-way flow will ensure pedestrians won't have to walk into travel lanes.
- Mildred Intersection – The new trail will meander thru the trees, with a crossing that includes a traffic control signal. It will follow the power line easement.
- Park Avenue – There will be a widened of the sidewalk along Park Avenue, with landscaping down to the bowl. This landscaping will have a gentle slope and terraced rockery.
- Signage and Wayfinding – Concept signage was presented. It coordinates with Waterfront Phase 1 and the Point Defiance Park's standard signage color palette.
 - Commission Baines asked if people might create shortcuts down to the bowl. Tom pointed out the consultant has already addressed this with one gravel trail, others might be included.
- Tom presented an overview of the viewpoint improvements:
 - Vashon – The new path out to the viewpoint will not cross a roadway. Parking is being pulled away from the bluff. Parking on 5-mile drive will still be allowed. Marty added that by pulling cars back visitors will have more viewing space.
 - Commission Baines added the space will feel more like a park area and people might stay longer.
 - Dalco – Angled parking is planned
 - Narrows – This will primarily be restriping of the parking area.
 - Commissioner Smith mentioned she remembered the site's climbing structure that resembled a tree house.
 - Bridges – Parallel parking.
 - Commissioner Baines like the increase in space.
 - Gig Harbor – This site will require a large effort, mentioning the area lost to erosion. The old road will be turning into the pedestrian walkway. The restroom will be updated, with the picnic shelter remaining. The roadway will be pulled away from the bluff edge.
 - Commission Baines asked what the grey area on the graphic represented. It was explained this documents trees not being touched. He added that the improvements will make this a destination area.
- Additional comments:
 - Marty pointed out the South and North Zoo Spur Trails will enhance access to the zoo.
 - It was reported the project's estimate is currently higher than what was budgeted.
 - Tree removal was discussed. The consultant has identified 200+ trees, with emphasis on saving as many as possible. It was noted that 75% of the tree identified are less than 12" in diameter and for every tree lost, two will be planted.
 - We are consulting with the Puyallup Tribe on this and the Owen Beach project.
 - Contaminated soil will be cleaned up, with soil being tested right now.
- Tom highlighted the project's schedule; RCO Grant submittal the first of July, permitting in the fall, bidding late 2020, construction spring 2021, and completion December 2021.
- Both Commissioners like the direction of this project.

Titlow/Hidden Beach Improvements – Demo phase

- This project will be addressing critical needs, with focus on the former Tacoma Outboard Association (TOA) area. Marty explained we have bond funds available and will be applying for a RCO grant.
- Scope of work includes the demo of existing structures, septic field decommissioning, oil tank decommissioning, new security fencing, and new cautionary signage. Demo will include 6 buildings include the TOA building, restroom and shelter used by the Girl Scouts. The security fencing will be next to the railroad with cautionary signage.
- Tom explained we are considering barging in supplies noting the current bridge 5 ton limit. He added the City of Tacoma believes this is possible.
- The current bridge may be replaced in the future with a new pedestrian (and perhaps light vehicles) bridge. Marty explained this a necessary future improvement, noting the wood, settling and clearance are not up to code.
- Tom displayed sample signs i.e. hidden dangers, etc.
- Marty explained the first phase is shoreline restoration with more natural jetty structures. There won't be a boat launch, but an informal ramp for paddle up i.e. kayaks may be included.
- Commissioner Smith recalled a memory of seeing submarines in the area.
- The TOA structures were discussed. A hose bib is leaking, utilities and overhead power lines needing to be taken down, the old fire line is leaking and unreliable and need to be decommissioned. Metro Park's needs to consider the future cost of drinking water that will require a new water line.
- The project's timing was highlighted: bidding/Board June – July 2019, construction August/Sept 2019, and future projects 2020- 2021. Tom added the City of Tacoma granted us a shoreline exemption on this project.
- Commissioner Baines asked the length of the bidding process. Tom said it will be around three weeks because of the project's complexity. Bidding will include a pre-bid walk through and needs to be completed by October 1 for Fish and Wildlife.
- Both Commissioners like the direction of this project.

Meeting Adjourned