



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
September 9, 2019**

PRESENT: Aaron Pointer, President
Tim Reid, Clerk
Andrea Smith
Erik Hanberg
Jessie Baines

IN THE CHAIR: President Pointer

PLACE: People's Community Center

FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Baines

STUDY SESSION: Continuity of Operations Plan

Erwin Vidallon opened the presentation by stating that the District has been working on updating its emergency preparedness efforts including meeting CAPRA standards, developing a COOP, developing campus-wide and facility COOP plans, and development of an emergency communication plan. Mr. Vidallon commented on the planning training, drills and exercises that have been taking place.

Mr. Vidallon then commented that the intent of a COOP is to ensure an organization can continue to perform its essential functions, provide essential services, and deliver core capabilities during a disruption to normal operations. He noted that effective contingency planning can minimize the impact on the District's mission, personnel and facilities. The COOP provides direction and guidance on how to get essential operations up and running within the next 12 hours of an event and then sustain operations for the next 30 days or until normal operations can be resumed.

Goals established for the District COOP outlined by Mr. Vidallon include:

- Establish procedures to execute mission-essential functions when an emergency threatens or incapacitates operations.
- Focus from the perspective of headquarters campus. COOP plans at individual Metro Parks sites will support this plan.
- Outline roles & responsibilities to activate the COOP, including situations that require the relocation of essential personnel.
- Developed in accordance with national standards and templates created by Pierce County Emergency Management, the State of Washington, and FEMA

Hunter George explained that the COOP for MPT headquarters addresses and identifies essential personnel, identifies alternative HQ locations and addresses critical activities that cannot cease. Staff work groups have recognized the following as critical activities:
Districtwide Essential Functions:

- Administer vital services that protect people & animals – especially dangerous animals

- Maintain life support systems & access to arterials and streets around parks, and make parks safe for the public if/when they need to set up camp because homes are unsafe
- Administer programs that support the delivery of vital services (payroll, contracts and purchasing, communications, IT, legal/risk management)
- Make community centers safe & accessible if needed
- Activate child-care or other services needed by the community

Next steps noted by staff include more and continual training, working with the City and County as they update their emergency plans, participating in the Regional Coordinating Committee.

Commissioner Reid suggested staff look into policies that may need updating that deal with Board quorums and executive director authority during emergencies.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by president Pointer at 6:00p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PEOPLES CENTER UPDATE

Marina Becker introduced Delia Flores, Center Supervisor and Adriane Kehinde-Lewis, Assistant Center Supervisor. The Board was informed that the center currently has 584 members and is currently running a successful Thrive Partnership with Jason Lee School. The Center is also partnering with the Puyallup Watershed Initiative to distribute free bike helmets. In September, along with the Rainbow Center, People's Center will also be co-sponsoring a job search event featuring local LGBTQ+ affirming employers and career prep workshops.

WELCOME WEEK PROCLAMATION

Hunter George and Abigail Vizcarra Perez commented the District will be participating in National Welcoming Week. Welcoming Week is a national movement in which communities gather to recognize and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of their foreign-born neighbors and community members.

As a way to celebrate Welcoming Week, MPT Employee Sheryl Blessing performed a native Hula, and MPT Employee Kanda Patton performed an African dance with her daughter. President Pointer read a proclamation encouraging all residents to build strong connections with their neighbors and affirm the benefits of a diverse community.

GREEN TACOMA/ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Mary Anderson introduced Mike Carey, City of Tacoma and Jordan Rash, Forterra. Both spoke about their agencies commitment to keep healthy green spaces in Tacoma. This year's Green Tacoma/ Arbor Day event will be held on October 12th. The event will include 14 different sites around the city. Mr. Carey and Mr. Rash recognized the Park District for their continued collaboration.

President Pointer read a proclamation recognizing October 12th as Arbor Day and Green Tacoma Day in the city of Tacoma.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Pointer read a letter from Doug McArthur thanking the District for creating a wonderful space at Dune Peninsula for the entire community.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS None**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- Marina Becker introduced the following new Parks and Recreation employees: Julian McGilverly, Jewels Jugum, and Koshawn Armstrong.
- Reminder that the Board meeting scheduled for September 23rd has been canceled due to lack of a quorum as Board members will be attending the NRPA conference.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michael Yoder representing Associated Ministries noted that his organization aims to provide resources and support to those experiencing homelessness. He commented that there must be a humane plan put in place prior to removing encampments from parks.

Liz Kestler representing the Puyallup Watershed Initiative commented that she is pleased that the Board has incorporated changes in recommended park code language based on feedback the Board received about multi-modal devices and bikes. She noted she supports the revised code changes and thanked MPT Board and staff for clearly communicating with the community.

Kristian Walker, Executive Director of Down Town on the Go thanked the Park Board and staff for their work on the code language changes around multi-modal transportation in parks.

City Council Member Keith Blocker recognized staff from the Park District and the City for the collaborative work on the recommended changes to park code. He further noted he sits on the City's CVS committee and expressed the importance of advancing the changes in code so as to increase public safety.

Michael Mira Director of the Tacoma Housing Authority commented that the THA highlighted four main interests and values to be considered as it relates to camping in parks : concern for the campers; troublesome behavior of campers in People's Park and the effect on THA staff, clients and visitors, and neighboring business and residents; developing case law; and concern for the parks and their unique value. Mr. Mirra stated that the THA will lend conditional support for the proposed changes to the park if alternative shelter or camping locations are identified

Greg Walker commented that he is an ordained minister in the community and frequently visits Wright Park and People's Park. Mr. Walker spoke in opposition of the suggested language in park code that will eliminate the use of tents and structures with walls. He further noted that the individuals experiencing homelessness are not a threat. Mr. Walker commented that he cannot support the language as written until safe shelters can be provided.

Al Radcliff commented that he is opposed to the proposed park code language change that prohibits structures and tents with sides. He commented that without a four sided structures individuals will not have a safe space to sleep.

Jo Davies commented that she is part of the 8th & I Neighborhood. Ms. Davies thanked the District for the collaborative approach with neighbors to maintain the park. She stated that lately she has seen tents at night, along with needles in the park. Ms. Davies commented she is supportive of the park code resolution but urged the city to work on finding alternatives spaces for these individuals to camp.

President Pointer commented that the District must try something to alleviate public safety concerns in parks.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hanberg moved to adopt the minutes as amended; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed on a vote of 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C57-19: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR AUGUST 2019

Commissioner Hanberg moved adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Reid.

Being no additional comments the consent agenda passed on a vote of 5-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. PW58-19: CENTER AT NORPOINT RE-ROOF CONTRACT AWARD TO QUEEN CITY SHEET METAL & ROOFING, INC.

Commissioner Hanberg moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Reid.

Marty Stump commented that this contract is for a new roofing system at the Center at Norpoint. Mr. Stump commented that there were two responsive bids for the project. He further commented that there was one unresponsive bidder who has submitted a letter of protest. Legal has reviewed the letter and is recommending the bid selection move forward as planned.

Being no additional comments the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R59-19: RECOMMENDING THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL APPROVE REVISIONS TO TACOMA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 8, PUBLIC SAFETY, PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 8.27---PARK CODE

Commissioner Reid moved adoption of the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Baines.

Pete Mayer reminded the Board that the Tacoma Municipal Code regulates the park code that regulates conduct in all public parks within the City of Tacoma. Mr. Mayer commented that the changes being recommended to park code align with philosophy adopted by the District to encourage voluntary compliance and education of the park rules.

Staff then summarized the substantive changes to the following:

8.27.030 Definitions, 8.27.050 Permits- Generally, 8.27.085 Smoking and vaping in parks prohibited, 8.27.130 Molesting or feeding animals, 8.27.165 Moorage buoy and float regulations, 8.27.180 Use of certain equipment, 8.27.200 Vehicular and Micromobility Device standards, 8.27.205 Entrance Fees, 8.27.210 No Structures in parks; exception 8.27.215 Parking fees,

8.27.220 Opening and Closing hours, no use of parks when closed, exceptions, 8.27.251 Authority to adopt a code of conduct, 8.27.255 Violators may be required to leave park.

Staff then summarize the community outreach strategies used to gather and solicit community feedback on the proposed revisions. Mr. Mayer then showed several slides illuminating the key themes resulting from the survey and public comments received.

The next key dates for the Park code include first reading at the City Council on September 24th, with second reading scheduled for October 1st.

Commissioner Hanberg commented that his support for this resolution is conditional based on finding alternative spaces and shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness.

President Pointer commented that the District cannot wait to do something to address safety issues in parks now, and he is supportive of the resolution.

Linda Stewart representing Neighborhood and Community Services for the City of Tacoma commented on the number of shelter beds available and the resources offered to homeless individuals. It was noted that there is wait for beds at times but first time individuals seeking shelter will not be turned away.

Commissioner Reid thanked Ms. Stewart and her staff for the continued efforts. He commented that parks will continue to be a space where all are welcome.

Gary Walker commented that he is in opposition to the tent regulations proposed in the code. He commented that there are not viable alternatives for homeless individual including couples.

A written comment submitted to the Board by Mr. Ryan Speir in support of the drone language in the code was entered into the record.

Being no additional comments the consent agenda passed on a vote of 4-1 (Commissioner Hanberg voting no).

Shon Sylvia commented that City staff, TPD and MPT have spent lots of thoughtful time on this issue and noted that MPT will continue to play a supportive role in helping to identify alternative solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness.

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioners Smith and Baines commented positively on the Dune Peninsula Concert and Downtown to Defiance event last weekend.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary