BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

August 14, 2019
5:00 PM
MINUTES

Attendees:  Commissioner Hanberg, Commissioner Baines
Staff Support:  Marty Stump, Deputy Director - Planning & Development Department; Kristi Evans, Project Administrator; Mary Kay Henley, Planning Administration

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the July 31, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

Project Status
- Commissioner Baines asked for an update on land acquisitions. - Marty will report back at a future meeting on active land acquisitions and funds spent to date.
- Commissioner Baines asked if we have moved forward with a feasibility study for a parking garage at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Marty reported it hasn’t been scoped or fully funded yet. He added more conversations need to take place around this topic.
- Commissioner Hanberg asked for an update on Tacoma trails. Marty reported we recently met with City of Tacoma representatives to discuss multiple trails along Shuster Parkway and Ruston Way. He added that the Point Defiance Loop Trail was discussed with City of Tacoma in regards to overall integration with City of Tacoma active transportation planning and possibility of future supplemental funding. Hanberg suggested this would be a good future Board study session topic. Marty will pull together a comprehensive report to share.
  o Commissioner Baines asked is we will have lighting along the pipeline trail. Marty said that based upon his current understanding these multipurpose trails are lighted with the possible exception of the section of pipeline trail that skirts the First Creek campus. Commissioner Hanberg stated that lighting on commuter trails should be adopted as one of our standards.

Discussion Item
First Creek Community Space – Design Development Review
- Kristi explained that Metro Parks is collaborating with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) on the new First Creek Community Space. TPL is responsible for installing the play equipment, pathways, site furniture and landscaping estimated at $200,000.00.
- She explained the property is owned by Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) and is leased to MPT within the footprint of the Eastside Community Center. Once an agreement is signed with TPL, Metro Parks will have full ownership and maintenance of the site.
- Kristi shared an aerial view of the project area. The project’s goal: create a safe space for local youth to gather, socialize and play. She added that TPL has already conducted a public outreach campaign including two events at ECC, gathering information on teenager
needs. The project has also been vetted internally, with comments currently being reviewed.

- It was reported that TPL had to scale back the project, eliminating things like the picnic tables. Marty reported we are in discussion with the City of Tacoma to see if they are interested in contributing to this project, i.e. bike racks, enhanced trail space.
- Site fencing was discussed, mentioning a shorter chain link fence (in the range of 3’-4’ height) is being considered.
  - Commissioner Baines asked the purpose of this fencing. Kristi reported it is to protect the public from vehicular traffic. A recent incident involving a child running into the street was mentioned. Commissioner Hanberg stated that as a parent he would have more concern about traffic load and speed of road vs proximity.
  - Marty said we are referencing ASTM guidelines for playground safety, adding fencing should be looked at site by site. He added that staff recommended this site should have fencing, but there still is time for additional conversations. Commissioner Baines pointed out that older children are less likely to run into traffic.
  - Commissioner Baines asked why the Arlington Playground is fenced off and locked to the public. Marty explained that school principals typically have latitude on how to secure their sites. Marty will research and have conversations on how to make them more accessible to the public.
- TPL is the project lead and is in the contract phase right now, with expected completion by spring or winter of next year.
- Commissioner Baines additionally asked if Portland Avenue Park had plans for a spray ground. Marty reported work items are planned to start during 19/20. It hasn’t been scoped yet, but we are targeting by the end of this year. Items being discussed include replacing the old wading pool with a spray ground, upgrading the restroom to incorporate mechanical/filter room for spray ground facility, parking lot resurfacing and additional spaces. Marty added the community has provided input through public survey but that additional input will be beneficial, with an overall sketch study to explore near-term as well as long-term improvement options.

**Action Item**

**First Creek Community Space – Approving and Agreement for Construction of a Community Play Space by the Trust for Public Land**

- This resolution authorizes Metro Parks to enter into an agreement for the installation of play equipment, pathways, site furniture and landscaping estimated at $200,000.00 at First Creek (Eastside Community Center) by The Trust for Public Land (TPL) as a donation to Metro Parks Tacoma. Kristi explained it will be a health-focused playground to complement the new center.
- The property is owned by TPS and is leased to MPT within the footprint of ECC. Once the agreement is signed, Metro Parks will assume maintenance and management responsibility over the improvements installed under this project. TPL is receiving funds for the project through a Kaiser Permanente grant.
- Kristi noted TPS has gone through our design and review process and will be managing the construction.
• This item was accepted for moving forward to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Rehabilitation – A&E Contract to SHKS Architects

• This resolution authorizes a contract with SHKS Architects to provide construction plans, permits and construction administration for the W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Rehabilitation (State Heritage Grant Improvements) in the amount of $230,155.
• Kristi reported of the 19 applicants for the state heritage grant totaling $750,000, Metro Parks was #1 and selected. Grant funds will cover improvements within the existing conservatory including mechanical, heating, water misting, cracks in the foundation, and copper gutters.
  o Commissioner Hanberg asked if the copper might be stolen. It was reported we haven’t had copper stolen before and it is located up high, but a concern worth further discussion.
• Kristi reported the historically accurate façades will blend in with the existing structure and be made out of a composite (non-wood) material. Doors will have ADA accessible mechanics and at least one ADA parking space will be added.
• Kristi reported SHKS were selected by sole source because of their project’s background. Commissioner Hanberg asked if this will lead to any problems, noting the laps of 4 years. Marty reported their selection is consistent with our purchasing policy, noting the continuation of work verbage in their earlier contract.
• Commissioner Hanberg asked about the negative figure under public art reference in the project’s budget. Marty explained this is how all capital project’s 1% art fund contributions are reported.
• Kristi noted that the conservatory will be closed during construction and that information will be distributed to the public well in advance. It was noted that per grant requirements, the project needs to be completed by 2021. The conservatory’s last event will be May 30, 2020, with construction starting June 2020.
• Both commissioner reported the plans look great.
• This item was accepted for moving forward to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

Additional Discussion Items

• Commissioner Baines asked about swing/slide maintenance of bark/engineered fiber at our sites, noting bark is being kicked out. Marty reported Park Maintenance has a safety schedule in place. He noted that rubber surfaces, like at Wright Park, do show signs of wear that is typically superficial, and that manufacturers have struggled to provide rubber products that hold up to weather and wear. We continue to look at options.

Meeting Adjourned