# MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT SPECIAL
October 13, 2026

**CONVENE:** 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chair Kelly Von Holtz, Councilmembers Eileen Swarthout, Peter Agabi, Brandon Weedon, and Angela Jefferson.

Excused: Chair Joan Cathey and Councilmember Meghan Sullivan.

Staff: City Administrator Paul Simmons, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Finance Director Troy Niemeyer, Information Technology Director Lance Inman, Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Deputy Finance Director Nissa Musselman, and City Clerk Melody Valiant.

**PIONEER PARK PLAY STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT:** Director Denney talked about the history of the play structure at Pioneer Park. The original 1994 structure was destroyed by arson in 2000, replaced in 2001, and expanded with a swing set in 2008. Although the structure was unique for its all-natural cedar construction, the wood rotted over time due to sun, rain, and flooding.

For safety reasons, staff have piece-by-piece removed rotting elements during weekly inspections, leaving very few play features remaining. This depletion has led to numerous complaints from local families and children wondering why the premier park no longer has a proper playground. Director Denney requested approval to purchase a new play structure for a total of $536,180.

**MOTION:** **Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to approve the purchase of a new**

**Pioneer Park Play Structure replacement. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

Director Denney talked about the need for an additional administrative position in the Parks and Recreation Department and is requesting approval to hire one. This role was originally planned back in 2006 but was omitted from the initial 2026 budget. A single staff member is currently overwhelmed handling all counter activity, registration forms, and inquiries for tens of thousands of residents. Approving this position is critical to manage the immense workload, which also spans the golf, parks maintenance, and building maintenance divisions.

**MOTION:**

**Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to approve the Administration Position. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With there being no further business, Vice Chair Von Holtz adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.**

Prepared by Melody Valiant, City Clerk