

STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2018

I've been thinking about government and society, and our role as citizens.

In its simplest form, governing is, "to conduct the actions, policies and affairs of an organization." An organization is defined as, "a social unit of people that is structured and managed to meet a need or to pursue collective goals." Organizations are foundational; building blocks of a community. Think libraries, city government, police and fire stations, churches and schools. Formed by communities who determine these services are essential and make the organizations viable by voting, funding, using or participating in the services offered.

In August of 2011, the community of Tukwila voted to create the organization of which we are attending the meeting of tonight – the Tukwila Pool Metropolitan Park District.

The TPMPD is not separate from the people who created it, the people who participate in the programs, the people who operate the pool, those ensuring the safety of the patrons and the cleanliness of the building, or even those who voted for the District but have never been inside the facility. The Tukwila Pool is an organization of the community of Tukwila. We serve our fellow citizens, residents and all those who participate in this organization.

Earlier this year, at our annual Board Retreat, the board members committed to outreach. To sharing the TPMPD mission and vision, our organizational purpose, to our community. We chose to do this to ensure that the TPMPD remains relevant and vital to current and new community members.

The TPMPD was established:

To provide a welcoming public aquatics facility managed in a fiscally-responsible manner with a focus on safety. We carry out this mission with a Board and Staff who are compassionate, inclusive and responsive to the needs of our diverse community, working to foster positive and life-long experiences with aquatic environments.

There is no deadline, no stop date for the Tukwila Pool. This is an organization created to serve the community in perpetuity. I am honored to have served as President this past year.

My fellow Commissioners continually model careful and intentional stewardship and engagement. They have made themselves available to assist me whenever asked, and even before being requested. I cannot thank you enough for your help. This year two positions will be up for election, or can I say "re-election"? I've also had the pleasure of working with our new Commissioner, Aaron Shipman, who has brought his talents, and family, to the pool. Aaron, thank you for your patience and great attitude. It really has been a joy.

The Operational staff of the pool is without equal. The Director of Aquatics Operations is a template of what an ideal manager should be, and is mentoring a young and enthusiastic group of assistant managers, who in turn are working with a vibrant staff of lifeguards, instructors and front desk personnel. Recently, our soon to be former bookkeeper accepted the pivotal position of District Administrator; I can only imagine what will be accomplished by this team. I am so excited for 2019!

Finally I want to acknowledge our "amazing" volunteers, including (of course), TPAC (Ivan, Jacque, Di and Sharon), the members and coaches of the Foster's Girls swim team (Go Bulldogs!), our recent sponsors, community members (Dave, Sheri) and drafted friends and family members - "volunteers by association," who are often seen at events, clean ups and most recently at our maintenance closure, helping out however they can - or been told to - (Ballie, Jay, Brice, Madie, Kobie, Alex... you know who I am talking about!)

Before closing I wanted to share a passage from Teddy Roosevelt's speech **Duties of American Citizenship**. He gave this speech in 1883 in Buffalo, NY while serving as an assemblyman. I offer this to you with sincere gratitude and recognition for your service in our community.

"of what I wish to talk of is the attitude of the American citizen in civic life. It ought to be axiomatic in this country that every citizen must devote a reasonable share of their time to doing their duty in the Political life of the community. No citizen has a right to shirk their political duties under whatever plea of pleasure or business; and while such shirking may be pardoned in those of small means it is entirely unpardonable in those among whom it is most common—in the people whose circumstances give them freedom from the basic struggle to make ends meet. ...A great many of our citizens rather view themselves upon being good citizens if they even vote; yet voting is the very least of our duties, Nothing worth gaining is ever gained without effort. You can no more have freedom without striving and suffering for it than you can win success without labor and effort, without self-denial and the display of a ready and alert intelligence. The people who say that they have not time to attend to politics are simply saying that they are unfit to live in a free community."


Ellen Bengler
12/8/2018