**Tacoma area Commission on Disabilities**

AGENDA

Friday, DECEMBER 11,2020 – 4:00-6:00 PM

Remote Online Meeting Via Zoom

WELCOME

4:00 Call to Order /Roll Call

4:04 Ice Breaker – *“****This is a time of many comforts during the winter season, which might include viewing Christmas, Hanukah or winter solstice lights, a favorite meal or dessert, a warm blanket, a family gathering, building a fire, a favorite holiday song, or some other comfort. What is one of your winter comforts?”***

4:12 Adoption of Agenda/Additions/New Business

4:15 Acceptance of the Minutes from November 2020

4:18 Public Comment

4:23 Welcoming of our new commissioners Tony Hester, Aimee Sidhu and Kristy Willet. Question for new commissioners:

*What is one thing about you that might surprise people*

*or be unexpected?*

4:30 Diane Powers is the first Chief Equity Officer for the City of Tacoma (2015-2021) and will retire at the end of January. Commissioners have asked Diane to join us so that they can express appreciation. Diane is invited to share any reflections followed by a chance for commissioners to share their appreciations and/or memories.

4;50 Councilmember Beale and discussion of International Building Codes and ADA

5: 10 Elliot Barnett. Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services

* Mr. Barnett’s introduction followed by a request: Would love commissioners to provide policy input on the nexus between our housing growth strategy, and the particular needs of people with disabilities.
* We’re looking to broaden housing options to include more mid-scale housing types. Right now, most of the City’s housing land supply is set aside for single-family detached housing only. This limits supply and drives up costs.
* In revisiting those rules, how can we best serve people with disabilities? Are there opportunities? Concerns?

5:30 Concerns around Pierce County Council’s efforts to disband the Pierce County Tacoma Health Department and upcoming vote. See attached statement from the Mayor Woodards and Catherine Ushka who chairs the Pierce County Tacoma Health Department Team. Final vote scheduled for December 15th at Pierce County Council.

***Does TACOD want to take any form of a statement or action?***

5:40 Chair and Vice Chair Reports Todd Holloway/Krystal Monteros

5:45 **Liaison Report – Office of Equity & Human Rights – Abbreviated**

**Lucas Smiraldo**

1. Accessible Taxi—Contract is being finalized.
2. Welcoming of new commissioners and continuation of new terms for Commissioners O’Catherine, Monteros and Parson and arrival of new Commissioners Sidhu, Willet and Hester.
3. Public Works subcommittee plans outreach to neighborhood councils in December and January. Will decide soon on location for ribbon cutting ceremony.
4. COT and TSD Advisory Group—Second Meeting Report (Dylan O‘Catherine chaired , Krystal Monteros and Luke Byram attended)

5:50 Julian Wheeler—Report from Pierce County

5:55 PM Committee Reports—Currently active committees

* **Accessible Taxi—**Rebecca Parson, Lukas Barfield, Krystal Monteros, Todd Holloway—(***Report Integrated Into Liaison Report Above***)
* **Public Works**—Advisory Meeting Report—Tony Caldwell and other members including Richard Smaby, Krystal Monteros and Luke Byram. (***Report Integrated Into Liaison Report Above***)

**5:57 PM**

* **Emergency Management—**Todd Holloway

Sub Committees:

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| City-Led Project Liaisons | Commission Projects |
| Emergency Mgmt – Todd Holloway with Ute Weber | Accessible Taxi – Rebecca Parson, Krystal Monteros, Lukas Barfield and Todd Holloway |
| Public Works – Tony Caldwell, Richard Smaby and Krystal Monteros, with staff Gail Hines | Effective Communication: Tony Caldwell, Luke Byram and Todd Holloway |
| Employment – Dylan O’Catherine and Luke Byram |  |
| IT/Website – Lukas Barfield, and Luke Byram |  |
| City Events Commission/CEC – Krystal Monteros and Luke Byram | Committees*Education and Access Subcommittee will soon form* |
| Anti-Stigma Campaign –James Williams, Krystal Monteros, Dylan O’Catherine | Closed Captioning in Public Establishments – Todd Holloway, Luke Byram, Dylan O’Catherine, Krystal Monteros |

5:58 Invitation for community input

5:59 New Business or Good of the Order

6:OO Meeting Adjourned

**Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Committee Minutes**

 Zoom Remote Meeting Hosted in Tacoma, WA 98402

Friday, November 13, 2020

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| **Call to Order** | The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. |
| **Commissioners Present** | Luke Byram, Krystal Monteros, Lukas Barfield, James Williams, Richard Smaby Todd Holloway and, Dylan. O’Catherine and Anthony Caldwell |
| **Commissioners Absent** | Rebecca Parson  |
| **City Staff Present** | Lucas Smiraldo |
| **Guests Present** | Julian Wheeler, PCAC, Councilmember Walker, Councilmember Hines,Tony Amin Hester, PCAC |
| **Adoption of Agenda** | A motion was made by commissioner Smaby and seconded by Commissioner Byram and carried to accept the COD meeting agenda of November 13, 2020.  |
| **Acceptance of Minutes** | A motion was made by commissioner Smaby and seconded by Commissioner Parson and carried to accept the COD meeting minutes of October 9, 2020. Commissioners took turns checking in sharing their favorite memory “on wheels” |
| **Public Comment** | There was no public comment. |

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| ***New Business******Guest Presenter******Guest Presentation*** ***Reports******Chair******Liaison******PCAC******Good of the Order******Adjournment*** | None.Councilmembers Walker and Hines held an extended discussion to understand the priorities and concerns of the commission. Councilmember Walker is on the Pierce Transit Board and concerned about more accessible services for residents including those with disabilities. She is particularly interested in the accessible taxi work the commission is championing at the moment.Councilmember Hines works in the Tacoma School District and is concerned for access for students including those with disabilities. He believes that upgrades in instructional design will help every student. Both councilmembers have children.Several commissioners spoke about their priorities.* O’Catherine: Would like to change the way we interact with youth with disabilities so as to invite less singling out and more belonging. Can we change the way these youth are initially viewed and can open whole new ideas in the workplace.
* Monteros: Went through childhood in wheelchair and had significant emotional impacts based on the way she was treated. These emotional impacts definitely affected her academic progress. Students need to be listened to more.
* Williams: Accessible taxi is a top priority. Also more work needs to be done to provide childcare at work places for women.
* Councilmembers shared that work is being done in this area by the city in affiliation with anchor institutions including the University and Health Care industries. Jessica Knickerbocker is leading a pilot program for the city.
* Byram: Shared concerns around the intersection near Jefferson Elementary and the need to create a signal for those with disabilities at the intersections of 13th and Stevens. Can we partner with Tacoma Schools on this? Councilmember Hines would like to follow up on that issue.
* Holloway: Billions of CARES money available. Can we use some of those federal dollars for the community?
* Caldwell: Want to schedule a public works celebration event, a ribbon ceremony. Also is working to build partnerships with Associated Ministries, and NCS and CED in the city and several staff have joined in subcommittee meetings.
* Monteros and Barfield: Interested in issues that intersect race and disability with criminal justice. Encourage that we receive input from people who speak different languages other than English in our city.
* Smaby: Promote greater outreach sp that people with disabilities are heard.
* Hines: Developing neighborhood planning and a mixed use center.
* Barfield: Brought up issues of access for medical cannibas and wants city to weigh in. Look at things from perspective of harm reduction. II 81: decriminalizing of hallucagens Initiative 109: Harm reduction.

Chair Holloway will submit a written report to commissionersVice Chair Monteros is joining up with Disability Rights Washington in a consulting role.Lucas Smiraldo offered his report:1. Accessible Taxi Feasibility study will be under contract and that contract is in process currently.
2. Interviews for new candidates and existing commissioners was completed and our existing commissioners all responded in ways that impressed the council panel. We will also be welcoming new commission members at the next meeting and each candidate moving forward had a personal stake and interest in moving the needs of people with disabilities forward.
3. Mr. Smiraldo invited Commissioner O’Catherine to share more from the joint TACOD/TPS meeting. This body will be working on an instructional video for a broad cross section and also include specific “asks” to move forward the needs of youth who have disabilities and learning differences.
4. Lucas invited Commissioner Caldwell to share an update from the Public Works subcommittee. Areas of current focus:
* S. 38th and J and Pacific Ave.
* Pacific Ave to McKinley,
* 19th and Union
* Commissioner Caldwell suggested that our ribbon ceremony focus on J. Street to Pacific Ave and McKinley.

Both Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Hester invited commissioners to next PCAC meetingCommissioner Caldwell implored members to wear a mask.The meeting concluded at 6:03 PMThe next meeting will be held at its regular time on Friday, December 11th. |

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 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Dec. 8, 2020

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 **Mayor Victoria Woodards and District 4 Council Member and Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Chair Catherine Ushka
to Bring Forward Resolution Inviting Pierce County Council to Enter Discussion on Public Health Services**

***--Proposed Resolution to Oppose Pierce County Council Ordinance Number 20-136 Dissolving Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department--***

TACOMA, Wash. – At this evening’s Tacoma City Council meeting, the Tacoma City Council will consider a resolution brought forward by Mayor Victoria Woodards and District 4 Council Member and Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Chair Catherine Ushka. The proposed resolution will invite the Pierce County Council to enter a discussion on how to best provide public health services to city and county residents. The proposed resolution also opposes Pierce County Council’s proposed Ordinance 20-136 which would terminate the interlocal agreement between the City of Tacoma and Pierce County and dissolve the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

General information about the City’s response to COVID-19 will continue to be made available on [the “What’s Going On” section of the City’s website](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/whats_going_on/coronavirus). Information about COVID-19 is available at [TPCHD.org/coronavirus](http://www.TPCHD.org/coronavirus).

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