

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
September 14, 2007

PRESENT: Connie Ladenburg, Chair (City of Tacoma)
Debbie Winskill, Vice Chair (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Victoria Woodards (Metropolitan Park Board)
Wayne Williams for Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Lorraine Wilson (Tacoma School District)
George Walk (Pierce County)
Mike Lonergan (City of Tacoma)
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Connie Ladenburg called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting participants introduced themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was asked that Wapato Park be added to the agenda. Debbie Winskill **moved for the adoption of the agenda as amended.** Victoria Woodards seconded. The chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Victoria Woodards **moved for the approval of the minutes.** Kurt Miller seconded. The chair declared the motion carried.

LEARNING SUMMIT

Chair Ladenburg reported there has been a meeting regarding the next steps. Also, there have been public meetings and a follow-up committee meeting. The meetings were on how the process can carry on outside of government.

Kurt Miller continued at one of the meetings there was discussion on how higher education could be a component. That discussion focused on two or three areas that could be worked on for the next year or so. Also discussed at the meetings were budget

issues regarding teacher training, math and science, and preparing students at the high school level for entering higher education.

Alisa O'Hanlon arrived at 8:07 a.m.

Tim Reid asked if there was feedback from the joint City Council/JMAC meeting from the City Council, the school board, or the park board. Chair Ladenburg replied there has been no feedback.

Alisa O'Hanlon stated she had asked a question of the higher education leaders, and they remarked how parallel the challenges are on the campus trying to get everyone aligned around the same goals and strategies. Also, job recruitment on the campus can be a challenge.

Kurt Miller shared with the Committee a presentation he had attended regarding new teacher training. Also, discussed at the presentation were different occupations that are open and the difficulty in filling them.

Wayne Williams reported on learning councils. He stated the thought was the regionalized community councils might not be the best model for learning. The learning councils are composed of selected representatives for a given area. He agreed that part of the problem is getting everyone aligned, and making the individuals part of the solution. Chair Ladenburg stated there are eight neighborhood councils in the City. There was discussion on possible work study groups in the different school districts and how the community councils or neighborhood councils could assist. Kurt Miller reported on a model program by Jeffery Canada that is being used in Harlem.

Tim Reid asked at what point the determination is made that one program is successful and another is not. What is the break even point and what is the target when one program is more successful than another. Kurt Miller replied it is under the best practices, promising practices, and practices that work. He gave an example of the street behaviors program that is not classified as the best practice or promising practice. Tim Reid asked when is it determined that no more money will go into a program. Chair Ladenburg replied the funders make that determination and there are reports to show the success of the program.

Debbie Winskill stated one thing that came out of the discussions was the need for mentorship, and parents are the best mentors for their children. The parents need to know there is assistance out there for them to help get their children into some of the programs and training that is available. Chair Ladenburg stated there is a need for children to have post high school education training and having parents as mentors could be something the councils could take on and identify as a need in their community.

Wayne Williams stated it was clear from the Summit feedback and the conversation cafes that another analysis was not needed. We know what the timely issues are and we

know what we want to do, the question is how. Another issue is leveraging resources that are available. The pilot programs and best practices are successful because they shift perspectives. How do we bring about change when change does not occur overnight? Chair Ladenburg asked the Committee members for feedback if they wanted to carry forward Mr. Williams' idea for further discussion. Tim Reid stated it could be incorporated into the after steps of the Summit and it would fit into the model. Kurt Miller stated the Committee could look at the model Lincoln High School is using and if it fits, build upon that.

LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

Wayne Williams handed out the Legislative Luncheon Report. It is scheduled for Friday, October 12 at Chambers Bay Golf Course. He stated everyone on the mailing list should have received a "Save the Date" card and asked the Committee members to review the mailing list for any additions or corrections. There have been confirmations from four legislators. Metro Parks will conduct follow-up calls on September 27 and 28.

Tim Reid asked why representatives from the federal office were not invited. George Walk replied on the federal budget level, the timing was bad; however, it would be a courtesy to invite them. Chair Ladenburg stated perhaps in the future there could be a separate meeting with the federal legislators.

Mr. Williams continued there will be an event tent, and handouts rather than a PowerPoint presentation. He stated there needs to be a decision as to who will collect legislative items, finalize the JMAC legislative agenda, assemble information and bring it to the luncheon. Also, the county should designate a facilitator. Tim Reid stated in the past, each leader talked about their legislative agenda in turn. Chair Ladenburg asked if what has been done in the past was the best way to present the information or was there a different way to make a presentation.

Alisa O'Hanlon stated last year, the Mayor officiated over the welcome and introduction. Then four or five joint issues were presented, then perhaps two or three individual issues. Tim Reid stated he liked the approach where the joint issues are presented first, then individual issues are emphasized. Victoria Woodards asked if that was the most effective way. Lorraine Wilson stated that organizing and presenting issues with a team approach requires a lot of advance planning. Chair Ladenburg stated she could see there was collaboration and joint efforts to come together and support each other. Lorraine Wilson continued it would be valuable to have all jurisdictions in one place at the same time. Tim Reid stated it is a good idea to have one on one sessions within the groups. Alisa O'Hanlon gave an example of last year the notion of this is what is being presented to the legislators, but what priorities do the legislators and representatives have. There was not much exchange or discourse, but it was included. Victoria Woodards stated it should be part of the agenda.

Chair Ladenburg stated the county should designate a facilitator. There was discussion on possible candidates.

Victoria Woodards stated the county does not have a budget to pay for the luncheon. There was discussion on funding and sponsorship.

Mike Lonergan arrived at 8:52 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Victoria Woodards reported the legislative agenda passed with one amendment. There was discussion on joint issues, and a draft agenda, and issues to be brought up at the study session.

WAPATO PARK

Tim Reid reported there was an article in the newspaper regarding the south end spending about \$200,000 for a short term fix for the lake. The big issue is how did it get from a pristine lake to a catch basin for runoff. The lake can be treated, but it has turned into a holding pond with algae growing. He stated Metro Parks is going to try and clean up the lake and eliminate the source of the runoff and the City and the state will be asked to help.

Chair Ladenburg stated the pollution is caused from runoff and the three sources are the catch basin, the Tacoma Mall, and the Department of Transportation. The City does have a diversion in place so not all the storm water runs into the lake and catch basin but when there are heavy rains, the overflow runs into the lake. She stated the alum treatment lasts 5-10 years and costs \$200,000 per treatment. Tim Reid stated this treatment has been successful in Seattle's Green Lake. Chair Ladenburg continued Wapato Lake used to be spring fed, but over the years with the urbanization, the water has been diverted. The process of flushing the lake was discontinued due to the cost. Even with the alum treatment, the lake could not be used for recreation. Metro Parks has plans to fix up the entire park not just the lake.

Chair Ladenburg shared she was working with Public Works on rain gardens or bioswells. They are individual systems where water is diverted into a natural filter system such as plants and grasses to drain into the ground. Perhaps the Wapato watershed area could be used as a pilot area to develop bioswells or rain gardens. Would Metro Parks have funding or be aware of any grant money for such a project. There was discussion on the watershed boundaries and the water in the aquifer not being compatible with the water in the lake.

Alisa O'Hanlon stated the health department has a program dedicated to natural yard care and are looking for a neighborhood to pilot a program, like one in King County. The Wapato watershed would be ideal. Tim Reid asked if the neighborhood homeowners

volunteered for the program. Mike Lonergan stated in the Community Based Service areas, they are giving away fertilizer and weed control products that are not damaging to the environment. Also, there are educational pamphlets and signs to go along with environmentally friendly yard care and materials.

Tim Reid asked how do you answer the question to the citizens and homeowners of why the Department of Transportation isn't helping since they are part of the problem. Chair Ladenburg replied there have been conversations regarding the DOT becoming involved in the process. Victoria Woodards replied this is being added to the legislative agenda. Tim Reid stated the DOT has a catch basin at Snake Lake to divert and filter the runoff from Highway 16. Mike Lonergan stated there is a bioswell by the Narrows Bridge to prevent runoff. Tim Reid continued Metro Parks will be asking the City and DOT to partnership to help alleviate the cause of the problem. In the mean time the lake will be treated. There was discussion on possible planning for the next 3 – 4 years of trying to work on solutions for the other pollutants, and forming partnerships to address the problems.

MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

Mike Lonergan reported on a series of meetings regarding interest in the Historically Underutilized Business program, and the LEAP apprenticeship program within the City. At one of these meetings interest was expressed in coordinating a joint effort with JMAC. One item discussed at a meeting was performance bonding assistance for small companies. Another was empowerment zones or renewal community where apprentices could be recruited from. He stated JMAC was mentioned, because of the Get Smart Tacoma learning summit and the idea of membership, internship, and apprenticeship coming up again and again. He asked if this would be of interest to JMAC, and if someone from the policy level should come and talk to the Committee members. It was suggested this item be added to the November agenda.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Apprenticeship Programs
- Learning Summit
- Legislative Luncheon Debrief

SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING

Chair Ladenburg stated the regular meeting of October 12 will be canceled. The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in the 11th Floor Conference Room. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Note: Minutes for November will be taken by Metro Parks Tacoma