

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
April 11, 2008

PRESENT: Debbie Winskill, Chair (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Connie Ladenburg (Tacoma City Council)
Jake Fey (Tacoma City Council)
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debbie Winskill called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee members introduced themselves. Also in attendance were Martha Anderson, City of Tacoma, Community and Economic Development Department; Mike Combs, Director, Public Assembly Facilities; Stuart Young, BCRA.

Guests: Ginny Eberhardt, West End Neighborhood Council; Dee Margeson; Dale Yeager; Maureen Booth, Delong neighborhood; John Larson, Tacoma Weekly.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following items added: *Get Smart Tacoma and Superintendent Search updates.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Reid moved that the minutes of March 21, 2008 be approved. Kurt Miller seconded. The minutes were approved as published.

GET SMART TACOMA

Kurt Miller provided the Committee with an update. Get Smart Tacoma met with the Complementary Learning group from the Tacoma School District. Complementary Learning is bringing the community into the schools. There was a group that went to Harvard in December to present a conference on complementary learning. Get Smart Tacoma and Complementary Learning are combining forces and are in the concept stage.

Debbie Winskill asked since JMAC is part of Get Smart Tacoma, who is participating. Kurt Miller replied that as representatives of JMAC, himself, Connie Ladenburg, and Victoria Woodards report back to the Committee. Right now there is nothing to report. Tim Reid replied that the subcommittee is moving forward and meetings will be scheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Kurt Miller reported there have been two days of interviews with four different candidates. The school board will be reviewing input from community comment cards.

19th & TYLER SITE

Martha Anderson began the presentation by stating that the City's Economic Development Department has been asked to take the lead on coordinating the work effort and to advise JMAC this is not a master plan. BCRA has been hired to work with the City through June and a scope of work and map of the site was distributed. The scope includes a series of stakeholder meetings, an envelope study for site intensity, overall site analysis plans, and a final report with narrative. At this time, the process is in the first stages and there have been preliminary meetings with the Public Assembly Facilities staff, Metro Parks, and Tacoma School District. A community meeting with a mailing to all property owners will be scheduled in the near future. Neighborhood Council groups will be invited as well as other interested parties, i.e. Booster Club, Cheney Stadium season ticket holders, etc.

Mike Combs stated that at this time, the City is fact-finding and gathering information. Kurt Miller asked what this phase is going to be called. Stuart Young replied it is a discovery phase. Tim Reid suggested that since it is a large piece of property and a lot of owners and municipalities are involved, perhaps the public process should take in an area larger than 1,000 feet of the site. Also, there will be concern from the citizens regarding Snake Lake. Martha Anderson replied she will ask the City's Community Relations office to assist with a website and press releases. Tim Reid stated that even though the City is taking the lead, there should be coordination with the other municipalities. Connie Ladenburg suggested another group to add besides the Neighborhood Councils, is Green Tacoma Partnership. Another issue to release immediately is Snake Lake will not be impacted by this process.

Stuart Young stated that the City is conducting an Open Space assessment. An area of major concern is the woods south of the Metro Parks Headquarters building, an area of approximately 16 acres. It was stated perhaps there would be an opportunity to enhance the area for public use, i.e. roads and trails, etc.

Jake Fey asked if there was going to be outreach to more sports and/or recreation oriented groups to look at opportunities to provide a skating/hockey facility. Suggested contacts were Tacoma Wheelmen, mountain bike clubs, and a hockey organization. It was stated Metro Parks would have lists of contacts.

Tim Reid asked if there was a deadline for a decision. Stuart Young replied that initially there was an estimated date, but the process has been slowed down. Right now it is a brainstorming session and conceptual phase. There may need to be rezoning for some uses, as well as parking and traffic issues to resolve.

Debbie Winskill asked about the availability of the Foss and Heidelberg fields. Mike Combs replied there is a parallel track. He stated enhancement plans for Cheney Stadium will move forward. Connie Ladenburg stated that the school district would like assurance there would be replacement fields, if they were to give up their fields. It was stated it would be good to speak with the Foss High School athletic director.

Connie Ladenburg stated when the concept was originally discussed, the thought was this would be a live-play environment much like live-work downtown, so residential living would be part of the concept. As the process moves forward, residential living impacts on the property would need to be looked at. At this point, the site is not zoned for multi-family housing. Stuart Young stated that part of the challenges of this site is traffic circulation. Kurt Miller asked if BCRA had looked at a parking garage. Perhaps the school district and City can go together on a parking garage for the Foss students and for Cheney Stadium.

Kurt Miller stated that the Boy Scout headquarters staff has expressed some concern and asked if someone could meet with the executive. Martha Anderson replied yes.

Tim Reid asked if BCRA was going to report back with an overlay or basic plan of what the site could look like. Stuart Young replied the first step is to have these types of conversations to understand where the process should go.

Alisa O'Hanlon asked if BCRA has spoken with the City's planners about the City's Comprehensive Plan. It appears what is possible on the site is taking on the characteristic of a mixed-use center. Mr. Young replied that could be part of the narrative of the report.

There was discussion on what the public meeting could entail. There could be smaller meetings with more groups as opposed to one large meeting. It was also suggested there be one large geographic meeting to take citizens ideas and concerns. It was suggested the public information office and planning department for the school district be contacted. Nancy Davis stated the communication division for Metro Parks should also be involved.

Kurt Miller asked if there would be meetings with stakeholders before the next JMAC meeting. Martha Anderson replied yes, the process will keep moving forward.

There was discussion on Heidelberg Field and the scheduling and use of the field. It is scheduled through Metro Parks and both the middle schools and public teams use the field.

Chair Winskill asked for public comment from the guests. Maureen Booth stated she lives in the Delong area and would like to see the open space, habitat, wetlands, and ancient madrona trees preserved. Stuart Young replied that BCRA's efforts would reflect what the business stakeholders have said that are important. The Open Space Plan has not been completed.

Chair Winskill stated the next meeting will be on Friday, May 9 and it will be the quarterly meeting that includes the CEOs. At that time, BCRA will return with another presentation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nancy Davis distributed a copy of the Metro Parks newsletter. The South Tacoma Community Center did receive additional funding. The total is approximately \$10.2 million, and about half the funds needed for the whole site. Tim Reid stated that Metro Parks is partnering with the Boys and Girls Club. At the next JMAC meeting Ms. Davis will have a graphic with a timeline. Also, the design phase will begin in the next several months.

Connie Ladenburg asked about the City's role in this process. Nancy Davis replied that she viewed the project as similar to the pool at Stewart Heights where all the entities had a stake in building the community resource. It was a good example of governments working together to create the resource. Metro Parks is hoping it will be a collaborative effort between similar partners and there will be more discussions.

DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

Demographics Study - It was noted there will not be time to discuss this item at the next meeting. During this discussion, Kurt Miller mentioned the proposed all day kindergarten in Northeast Tacoma that begins next year. It will mean extra classrooms at the three elementary schools which will impact how many students can be brought in from the new development.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

- *19th & Tyler Site – Discovery Phase*

SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 248. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Note: Minutes for May will be taken by City of Tacoma.