

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee Meeting
Quarterly Meeting
February 24, 2012**

PRESENT: Tim Reid, Chair (Metropolitan Park Board)
Lauren Walker, Vice-Chair (Tacoma City Council)
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)
Debbie Winskill (Tacoma School Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Karen Vialle (Tacoma School Board)
Scott Heinze (Tacoma School Board)
Jack Wilson (Metropolitan Park District)
Carla Santorno (Tacoma School District)
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)
Timothy Farrell (Pierce County Council)
T.C. Broadnax (City of Tacoma)
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Brynn Brady (Pierce County)
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Reid called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Mark Williams, Assistant for Pierce County Council Member Rick Talbert.

Chair Reid introduced Tacoma City Manager, T.C. Broadnax and began the briefing on the history of JMAC. He explained that JMAC was a joint effort of different municipalities to discuss issues that overlap boundaries and responsibilities. JMAC meets monthly and the various CEOs attend quarterly.

Debbie Winskill continued with Tacoma School District. There are 295 school districts in the state. Tacoma is the third largest district and has about 4,800 employees. In Pierce County there are fifteen school districts. The budget is about \$320 million per year. There are five comprehensive high schools, three specialty high schools, nine middle schools, and thirty-six elementary schools. The state pays about 65% of the operation of the schools, about 30% local levy, and also federal funding.

Clare Petrich reported on the history of the Port of Tacoma. In 1918 a port district was created. The Port of Tacoma has been in existence since then and is its own independent municipality with taxing authority. The Port owns about 2,000 acres in the tide flats. There are three major port areas in the United States and Seattle-Tacoma is the third largest loading center that serves mostly freight shipping coming in from Asia. Most of the tenants operate their own terminals and there are almost 200,000 jobs

related to the activities of the Port. There are five elected commissioners. Ms. Petrich cited an example of how JMAC has worked between the Port and the Park District by collaborating on a map or information for the public and/or visitors indicating where the waterfront access points are.

Tim Farrell stated that Pierce County covers an area from Mt. Rainier to the Gig Harbor Peninsula. There are 815,000 residents and 400,000 reside in unincorporated Pierce County. Some of the county is moderately urban/suburban and a lot of it is rural. Currently, counties do not have as much legislative leeway as cities do when it comes to revenue sources. The city and the county have been working well together. Mr. Farrell continued that his district covers 30-40% of the City of Tacoma.

Chair Reid reported that Metro Parks is the oldest and largest park district in the state. There are five elected park commissioners and a budget of about \$90 million. Throughout the city there are about 2,700 acres of park. This includes a zoo and aquarium in the same location, and Northwest Trek. The parks in the city are very high on the citizens list of quality of life issues. In 2005 there was a bond issue of \$85 million for capital improvements. That was leveraged through partnerships and matching funds to \$126 million and are about three quarters of the way through completing all the capital improvements. Revenue sources include a portion of the property tax, generated revenue, and also one half of 1/10th of 1% of the sales tax in the county for operation of the zoo and Northwest Trek.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Tim Farrell moved for approval of the agenda with the following change: the Gang Assessment Report was deferred to the April 13, 2012 meeting. Karen Vialle seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Lauren Walker moved for approval of the minutes of December 2, 2011 and January 13, 2012 as published. Aaron Pointer seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012

Chair Reid nominated Lauren Walker as Chair of the Joint Municipal Action Committee and called for approval. The Committee members signified approval.

Lauren Walker moved to nominate Pierce County Council Member Rick Talbert as Vice-Chair. Anders Ibsen seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF EASTSIDE POOL

Jack Wilson began with a brief history of the pool and stated that it is a three way partnership which includes Metro Parks, Tacoma School District, and the City of Tacoma and would like to extend the partnership by adding the port and the county. The school district owns the property and in 1982 leased the property to the city to build a swimming pool. The city secured block grant funding for the construction then Metro Parks entered into a three way partnership and interlocal arrangement for its operation. The funding breakdown is 50% city, 25% school district, 25% park district, and funding to include the cost of operations, programming, maintenance and its capital repair. Metro Parks is into 30 years of a 40 year lease. The long term issue for the partnership is Gault is no longer serving as a school. There are opportunities and challenges to determine the future of the pool as well as the school. Recently, the park district

responded to concerns regarding the condition of the pool and allocated \$141,000 to advance a capital repair scope and to date about \$40,000 has been completed. Mr. Wilson continued there is a request out from the park board for the school district and the city to participate per the lease arrangement with regards to the capital repair. Karen Vialle asked what was the total budget per year for operation of the pool. Mr. Wilson replied he was not sure but would find out.

Tim Reid stated that the park board president sent a letter to the school board president and the mayor outlining the issues that needed repair. At this time, there has been no reply to the letter. Mr. Reid distributed a copy of the letter and Lauren Walker and Karen Vialle stated they would discuss the issue with their respective entities.

Aaron Pointer asked if the gymnasium at Gault could be included in discussions about repairing the pool and making the facilities available for use by eastside residents. A comment was made that there were infrastructure issues with the building. Chair Walker asked when Gault was closed; was there discussion on how to get school children in to take swimming lessons. Debbie Winskill replied no. Chair Walker asked if children were bused from other schools to take swimming lessons. Ms. Winskill replied no. The comment was made that the Gault pool is very important to the community.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alisa O'Hanlon stated that even though the tone of the session has been cuts, the revenue projection was more favorable than expected. Annually, the city normally receives about \$4 million from the state and the House proposal is to cut the liquor sales profits that go to public safety and cut other revenues that go towards local public safety. In return, the city would be given local revenue options, different sales tax options, but there would be fewer funds for local operations.

Chair Walker stated that the capital budget with all the projects comes out on February 28, 2012. Nancy Davis continued that Metro Parks has two capital projects the Star Center and the Titlow Park estuary and the capital budget usually comes out last. Also, Metro Parks is trying to have language inserted in the jobs bill for park projects.

Jack Wilson reported that on the federal level, a bill is being advanced to remove all funding for non-motorized facilities. It may be removed from the transportation bill. Also under threat is funding for land and water conservation.

Evette Mason reported that there is \$3 million for SR167. SR167 runs into Fife and into the Port of Tacoma. Integral to the transportation infrastructure is SR509 and I-5. It is important to keep the focus on the SR167 route because it is vital to the Port's commercial transportation. Ms. Mason continued that the another issue is the air/wood stove bill.

Chair Walker explained that the city is in a nonattainment area for wood smoke and the area covers a portion of Pierce County, the port, and the city. One of the worst areas is in South Tacoma. It is expensive to switch out the wood stoves. If attainment is not reached, the city will not receive the federal transportation funds. The city needs to reach attainment by 2017.

Ms. O'Hanlon noted that there are other areas in Washington state that are pushing the threshold. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is very active in assisting the city reach attainment. Brynn Brady commented that there is no other area in the nation that is in nonattainment due to wood smoke. Ms. Winskill commented that wood stoves are a sole source of heat for many residents in the south end. Aaron Pointer asked if realtors were encouraging the installation of gas heaters in new construction rather than

wood stoves. Chair Walker replied yes. Mr. Reid asked how often is the city out of compliance. Ms. O'Hanlon replied that it is mostly in the winter depending on the weather. Ms. Vialle commented that the geographic location is one problem. As well as the dust in the air that comes from traffic primarily on unpaved roads. Mr. Reid asked if the problem of asthma would fall into the Pierce County Health Department's purview. The answer was yes it does.

Ms. Mason commented that there are impacts now for businesses that would like to expand or for new businesses coming into the area in regards to the equipment that needs to be installed to control emissions. It is making the area noncompetitive and the businesses are locating to different areas.

Karen Vialle reported that for the school district, the House budget appears to have kept the reduction or elimination of levy equalization which is \$6.1 million. In Tacoma there is low assessed valuation and the state has equaled that out for districts that have higher tax rates. The other major bill has been the teacher evaluation bill which is a four tiered evaluation system. The charter school bill is dead for this session; however, an application was submitted to the state to ask for the entire Tacoma School District to be a zone of innovation.

Mr. Pointer asked if the schools were making progress as far as junior high sports. Ms. Vialle replied yes. Scott Heinze replied that there is an engagement component to extracurricular activities and not just athletics but creating a culture of excellence where state championships are won. There are incredible talents in the district that need to be nurtured and have expectations set.

Brynn Brady reported that the county is also watching the budgets which do not appear favorable at this time especially for the rural counties. Ms. Brady shared a question that was asked of the counties regarding what is the thought about maintaining all the current revenue streams that the state provides and give up the liquor profit sharing. One issue is the funding for criminal justice and another one is public health funding.

DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Clare Petrich explained that she was a member of the El Jadida, Morocco Sister City committee and had viewed a film from that country as part of the Sister City Film Festival. She extended an invitation to JMAC members to come to her home that evening to meet the film maker and to see how the sister cities program works.

Tim Reid asked about Occupy Tacoma. It was stated that there are signs for the parks and the city on operational times so the police have the authority to say the people need to vacate by dusk. T.C. Broadnax reported that a meeting that took place was very peaceful and cordial. The state is going to extend its time and courtesies and hopefully people will move out peacefully.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Update on Nonattainment of Air Quality (Puget Sound Clean Air Agency)
- Update of Pt. Defiance and Zoo Master Plan (Metro Parks)

Future Agenda Items

Update on Gang Assessment Project – April 13, 2012

Report on Ruston Way, Point Ruston and the Esplanade (City of Tacoma)

Potential Collaboration on TV Broadcast Access

Brainstorm Future JMAC Meeting Topics
Update on Mapping and Signage of Public Access to the Waterfront
Use of City Facilities for School Board Meetings
Follow-Up on Bus Loading and Unloading at Stadium High School

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 9, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Note: Minutes for March to be taken by City of Tacoma.