

**Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**November 13, 2015**

**PRESENT**

Catherine Ushka, Tacoma Public Schools - Chair  
Erik Hanberg, Metro Parks Tacoma – Vice Chair  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Kurt Miller, Tacoma Public Schools  
Anders Ibsen, City of Tacoma  
Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County  
Rick Talbert, Pierce County  
Clare Petrich, Port of Tacoma

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Catherine Ushka called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were guests: Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma; Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma; Mark Lauzier, City of Tacoma; Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma; Anita Gallagher, City of Tacoma; Sean Egan, Port of Tacoma; Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma; and Denise Rakas, City of Tacoma.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Connie Ladenburg moved to adopt the agenda. Kurt Miller seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Clare Petrich moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2015. Connie Ladenburg seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

**COMBINED LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Hunter George, representing Metro Parks began the presentation. He reported Point Defiance Park will receive the bulk of the bond monies of \$6.7 million. It will go towards the loop trail, Owen Beach improvements, and an off-leash dog park. The City received \$2.5 million for the roundabout. Metro Parks will be showing designs for the eleven acre park on the peninsula.

Mr. Hunter continued the State gave Metro Parks \$1 million towards the Eastside Community Center project to be built on the campus of First Creek Middle School. There is an open house scheduled for November 18, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Tim Reid asked about the partnerships. Mr. Hunter responded that Metro Parks is working with Tacoma Schools, City of Tacoma, the Tacoma Housing Authority, the Health Department, the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA. Also

funding strategies are being worked on. Erik Hanberg commented that there will be two indoor pools at the facility.

Mr. Hunter stated that Nancy Davis has retired and Andrew Austin has been hired and starts on December 1, 2015.

Kurt Miller reported on a meeting held regarding Blueberry Park and the encampments that have been cleared out. How does the school district move forward since there is metro parks property next door? The city is interested in helping with the cleanup of the encampments. The property will be not built on due to the wetlands. There was discussion on the wetlands, security, cleanup, credits, and wetlands inside the city, Roosevelt Park, as well as long term plans for open space, etc.

Clare Petrich asked if the agencies had a list of properties that are available that are being looked at for mitigation sites. Rick Talbert stated two years ago the county went through the process of identifying and cataloging various properties acquired through condemnation, tax, and wetland mitigation. Tim Reid stated that metro parks prepared an inventory for the economic report; however, the inventory needs to be reviewed and updated. Ms. Petrich asked for a copy of the list of properties along with contact person.

Erik Hanberg suggested for a 2016 work plan to discuss these parcels that many of the agencies have that need to be remediated or transferred.

Clare Petrich, representing Port of Tacoma introduced Sean Egan who reported on the legislative agenda. It is a little more complicated as much of the work being done at the port is being encompassed within the Northwest Sea Port Alliance. The port is continuing work around remedial auction grants. The largest source of the revenue is petroleum products. The funds are used to acquire contaminated properties, remediate them and put them back into productive use. The legislature is putting back funds that will be used for ongoing cleanup of port properties.

Kurt Miller asked about the transportation portion that included transportation issues outside of the Port of Tacoma. Mr. Egan replied that the legislative session has been a good one for the port. There are about \$3.3 billion worth of investments throughout the State of Washington that benefit the movement of cargo through the Northwest Sea Port Alliance properties. The biggest item in Pierce County is the completion of SR 167. Clare Petrich stated that the port is grateful and pleased with the work the City of Tacoma has done to complete the Port of Tacoma road.

It was stated there may be a one day seminar in Tacoma in March or April, 2016 to discuss the movement of oil trains traveling through Tacoma. Tim Reid asked about the funds the beltline receives each time the oil trains come through Tacoma. Randy Lewis replied that the beltline collects an 8% gross earnings tax. Tacoma Rail does receive money transferring oil trains from the main line tracks to the port facilities. Sean Egan stated that US Oil is not a port tenant. Clare Petrich stated there are 5,000 acres in the tide flats and the port owns 2,500 acres.

Catherine Ushka, representing Tacoma Public Schools reported on the draft legislative agenda. Local levy authorization has been on the cutting block for a number of years which would significantly reduce revenue. TPS has talked with the legislature regarding public schools and innovative schools having the same flexibility that charter schools do to meet local needs. Limit the number of charter schools in the districts. Kurt Miller stated that the Charter Commission is shutting down. Chair Ushka continued TPS would like to require charter school accountability and transparency through public records and public meeting laws.

Clare Petrich asked about the duties of the Charter Commission and what happens when it is shut down. Mr. Miller responded the Charter Commission oversees the charter schools. Chair Ushka replied the Charter School Commission is made up of appointed individuals that oversee performance measures, etc. Mr. Miller stated according to the Supreme Court ruling the Charter Commission is going out of business; however, the charter schools are still in place for the current school year.

Randy Lewis, representing City of Tacoma discussed funds that are important for cleanup including air emissions cleanup. The legislature did not address the issue of bridges that are very costly to replace. The state no longer has grant programs to help fund the bridges. The Puyallup River Bridge has six sections and is almost 100 years old and will cost approximately \$120 million to replace. It is a very long bridge that crosses over main line railroad tracks, the Puyallup River, and it is Tribal property. It has taken about ten years to piece together \$40 million to replace the first two sections of the bridge. There are also other bridges across the state that will be very expensive to replace.

Erik Hanberg asked if the \$40 million needed to be spent by a certain time. Mr. Lewis replied that it does and that there is a motion before the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board in November to ask for one more year on part of the funds that have already been obtained. Also there are negotiations with the Puyallup Tribe for air rights.

Clare Petrich asked about the design level. Mr. Lewis replied that the first segment is at design and ready to go and could break ground sometime in 2016.

Mr. Lewis continued regarding K-12 education – the City has been very supportive of the school district and has fully funded McCleary. Two years ago the City Council added language that to fund McCleary new revenue would be required to meet the requirements of the court decision.

Connie Ladenburg, representing Pierce County reported that Tiffany Spears has been hired as the new governmental affairs person for the park district.

The WSAC is supporting a lift on the property tax of 1% which is one area of possible new revenue.

Pierce County is also interested in the number of mental health treatment beds at Western State hospital. The patients have been sent to private providers rather than Western State which has worked very well.

Public records – the state auditor has sent out a survey to local governments to report on the impacts of public records, i.e. how many staff does it take, how much time does it take, what is the cost, etc.

A question was asked about the county headquarters. Ms. Ladenburg replied that it lost.

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

Kurt Miller stated that next fall there will be a youth summit in regards to brain development and positive development. There are several organizations working together to bring in experts to discuss how to understand what a teen and young adult is going through with regards to brain development. The summit will be geared toward community and not providers.

Clare Petrich inquired about extending another invitation to the Puyallup Tribe to join JMAC. Erik Hanberg asked about a personal invitation. Ms. Petrich replied that has been done. Mr. Hanberg suggested the school district prepare a letter on behalf of the JMAC chair to send to the Puyallup Tribe.

Kurt Miller announced this meeting was the last JMAC meeting he would be attending and thanked the committee members for their support. The committee members expressed their appreciation and let Mr. Miller know he will be missed.

## **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Puyallup Watershed Initiative – Erik Hanberg

USGA Report out – January 8, 2016  
Report on Youth Summit – February 12, 2016  
Open Space Property Inventories – February 12, 2016  
Invite CEO of Pierce Transit

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Continue Mental Health Conversation  
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.  
Economic Development Growth and Impacts  
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals  
Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates  
Technical College and City of Tacoma)  
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)  
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

## **NEXT MEETING**

December 11, 2015 Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 11 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Municipal Building. Minutes for the December meeting are to be taken by City of Tacoma.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.