

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee Meeting

March 9, 2012

PRESENT: Lauren Walker, Chair (Metropolitan Park Board)
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Debbie Winskill (Tacoma School Board)
Karen Vialle (Tacoma School Board)
Jack Wilson (Metropolitan Park District)
Don Meyer (Port of Tacoma)
Timothy Farrell (Pierce County Council)
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 Lauren Walker called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Mark Williams, Pierce County; John Links, Metro Parks Intern; Linda Villegas Bremer, City of Tacoma; Steve Knauer, Metro Parks; John Houck, Pt. Defiance Zoo and Aquarium; Dan Voelpel, Tacoma School District; Elliott Barnett, City of Tacoma; and Kathy Strange, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Tim Reid moved for approval of the agenda. Karen Vialle seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Reid moved for approval of the minutes of February 24, 2012 as published. Aaron Pointer seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

NONATTAINMENT OF AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Chair Walker introduced Kathy Strange from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Kathy began by outlining the points to be covered and explained that fine particle pollution mainly comes from burning different types of fuels. The pollutants are very small and are associated with many health problems including asthma aggravation, reduced lung function, as well as heart health issues, i.e. heart attacks and strokes. The standards for clean air were strengthened by the EPA in 2006 and are reviewed and updated every five years. Parts of Pierce County do not meet the federal health based standard for attainment. The ramifications for nonattainment include health problems, the high cost of healthcare, the stigma of non-healthy air, and business development

impacts. In December 2009 with the determination of being in nonattainment, the state and local agency needed to come up with a plan to show how emissions were going to be reduced, air quality improved, and how to come into attainment with the standard, so the clock is running.

Ms. Strange explained the percentage of different pollutants in the area and that during the winter months of December, January, and February the wood smoke pollution is at its highest.

Aaron Pointer asked if the stationary ships on the waterfront contribute to the pollution. Ms. Strange replied that the ships and industry in the tide flats area do contribute a small amount.

Ms. Strange continued that the community based Tacoma-Pierce County Clean Air Task Force was a very diverse stakeholder group with the task of brainstorming solutions to the issues and then evaluating the solutions. The task force met from May to December of 2011. The Task Force recommendations of strategies for non-wood stove smoke sources included: adopting the California clean car standards to produce better engines, the federal diesel rules to produce cleaner fuels and engines, the International Maritime Organization Emission (IMO) control area – large ocean-going vessels would be required to have lower emissions, rail lines and different cargo handling equipment would be retrofitted.

The recommendations of strategies for wood stove smoke included: enhancing the enforcement of wintertime burn bans, continued education and outreach in addition to enforcement; and exemptions for citizens who need the wood stoves the most. The Task Force recommended removing older, uncertified wood stoves; however, there would need to be assistance available for those residents who are low income and where wood stoves are the only source of heat.

Don Meyer asked where the approximately 24,000 wood stoves were located. Ms. Strange replied that it included the entire nonattainment area not just the South Tacoma area.

Debbie Winskill asked if there was an estimate on how many households had wood heat as the only source of heat out of the 24,000. Ms Strange replied that there was some information based on the US Census questions putting the number at .3% of households. However, under State rules, the definition for adequate source of heat is 70 degrees three feet off the ground. If a person has another heat source in the home but cannot reach 70 degrees three feet off the floor that is an adequate exemption. The PSCAA is working to develop a program to exempt those who truly have that issue.

Ms. Strange reviewed the comments received from the public outreach and open house meetings that were held. The PSCAA board of directors adopted the task force recommendations with the exception of the registration of all wood burning devices.

Chair Walker asked about the date to reach attainment. Ms. Strange replied that it is five years after designation which would be December 2014. Cities can seek extensions so it could go to 2017. The hard stop is 2019.

Tim Reid asked about the number of monitoring devices. Ms. Strange replied that there are three permanent devices - one in South Tacoma, one in the tide flats, and one in Puyallup South Hill. There are several temporary monitors as well as mobile monitoring. Mr. Reid asked if topography was an issue and Ms. Strange replied that it was.

Mr. Reid asked about the penalty for not reaching attainment. Ms. Strange replied that if there is failure to submit a plan, under the Clean Air Act, federal highway funding can be sanctioned.

PT. DEFIANCE PARK AND ZOO UPDATE

Jack Wilson began by explaining that in 2005 there was a year-long centennial celebration of Pt. Defiance Park. In 2011 the Park received an award from the American Planning Association recognizing it as one of the ten great public spaces in America.

Mr. Wilson introduced Steve Knauer, Director of Park Operations. Mr. Knauer explained that the planning effort began in 2005 and continued over a three year period. The plan broke the park down into three areas: the waterfront area, the attraction zone, and the forest. The concept plan adopted set the longer term framework to engage more detailed planning. The plan began to be called Destination Point Defiance. Preservation and utilizing of the park history is one of the key primary drivers. The four businesses that Metro Parks operates under are nature and environment, culture and heritage, active living and community wellness, responsive agencies. Visitor experience is important as well as parking and accessibility.

Mr. Knauer continued that there are new plans for the Attraction Zone. Ft. Nisqually has a new master plan. The Pagoda reconstruction is under way and will be completed in the fall. The lodge is being turned into a visitor center and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday there will be a free shuttle running through the park.

Mr. Knauer introduced John Houck who reviewed the 20 Year Zoo Master Plan. The principal focus is to replace the oldest building on site which is the North Pacific Aquarium. There would be new location for the aquarium which would be a 38,000 square foot aquarium costing approximately 35 to 40 million dollars.

In the lower area of the zoo, the polar bear exhibit would be remodeled. The Rocky Shores exhibit would be moved. The Pacific Rim exhibit would have new animals added to the exhibit. With the move into the new aquarium, the former aquarium site would be remodeled for a South American exhibit. The primate collection would be increased and well as tropical breeds added.

Mr. Knauer continued with the Forest Zone. There are trail upgrades as well as plans to replace the water main through the park. In the Waterfront Zone the theme of lodging and hospitality are important. There is a lot of activity with Point Ruston and Peninsula Park and Tacoma Yacht Club. The Tacoma Yacht Club has plans for a 2 million dollar remodel to their facility. The Point Ruston promenade is under construction and will be completed later in 2012. There are preliminary plans to extend the promenade into the park. Mr. Knauer explained the future plans for the Waterfront Zone. The next steps would be to finalize the real estate development, funding options, lease basis, capital investment, etc.

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

Karen Vielle reported that the Tacoma School District did receive the designation by the State as the first State Innovation Zone covering all the schools.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Update on Gang Assessment Project (City of Tacoma)
- Update of Port of Tacoma (Clare Petrich)

Future Agenda Items

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, April 13, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Note: Minutes for April to be taken by Tacoma School District.