

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
December 14, 2012**

PRESENT: Lauren Walker, Chair (Tacoma City Council)
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Karen Vialle (Tacoma School Board)
Scott Heinze (Tacoma School Board)
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 8:12 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Jennifer Joly, Pierce County; Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma; and John Larson, Tacoma Weekly.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was moved by Anders Ibsen and seconded by Aaron Pointer for approval of the agenda. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a brief discussion and comments by the chair, approval of the minutes of November 9, 2012 was deferred to the January 11, 2013 meeting.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

Randy Lewis began the presentation with the 2013 City of Tacoma Legislative Agenda. Metal theft is a big issue and something that the Tax and License and police departments have been working on with scrap dealers in Tacoma and Pierce County. A solution is being worked on that works for the businesses and addresses the problems that have occurred. There is a need for statewide activity, i.e. do not buy list, etc.

The McCleary decision is another important issue. The legislature needs to address this in a way that does not pick one district over another.

Under Environment the largest capital request going forward is to request some assistance dealing with the storm water obligations for both Tacoma and Pierce County which are Phase 1 jurisdictions. That request carries some costs that other jurisdictions do not have. There is a fairly innovative project at 84th and Hosmer which has the potential for a regional storm water facility that would allow for development to occur in the entire flat drainage basin. Aaron Pointer asked if the coal trains would come through

Tacoma along Ruston Way. Mr. Lewis replied yes. It was noted that this item be added as a future agenda item.

The Fiscal item deals with the Association of Washington Businesses feeling it is a good idea for the state to take over local business tax collection, the City does not agree. In 2012 the Legislature diverted local liquor excise taxes to the State. The cities would like to get back at least the growth of liquor profits. Tacoma's voters have repeatedly approved a .50 cent levy for the EMS program. That levy may be raised to .75 cents per thousand. There is talk of protecting the levy from erosion by placing it outside the one percent limit on taxes. The group of public facility districts across the state are looking at perhaps extending the state sales tax credit on public facility districts which would allow the city to refinance the convention center funds. The city is supporting implementation of Initiative 502 on marijuana. The city is asking the legislature to take a look at its tax breaks for businesses. Washington forgoes \$2.3 billion a year on revenue for tax breaks. There is an issue related to a court decision regarding fire hydrants. The courts have shifted this cost from the water utilities to a general government expense.

Under Neighborhoods there is a program of neighborhood clean-up and nuisance abatement. The city is supporting harmonizing the lien authority to be able to apply a lien against a property to allow the city to recover its costs in abating a nuisance. At this time the lien expires after two years and has very low rank as to whether the city gets reimbursed. Housing of offenders is another item that has been an issue in Tacoma and Puget Sound. A bill has been introduced that would limit the number of persons living in a particular home. On People's Pool, the city is seeking an appropriation of \$1 million from the state for enhancements to the pool to help meet energy efficiency and revenue producing opportunities.

Under Transportation there is a list of items to be funded including the completion of SR-167. The city is seeking changes to the transportation benefit district legislation to allow for councilmanic authority for a \$40 benefit district license fee, currently it is \$20. Support is continuing for street maintenance and utility for city government. Longer term issues include an eastside version of the STAR Center. There is feasibility work being done. Completion of SR-167 is also on the list. Another important project is the SR-509 completion. Tim Reid stated that he was confused about the leadership "vacuum" in Olympia especially on committees on the senate side and asked what was the realistic goal of actually getting projects done? Mr. Lewis replied that the fact that there is a split does not make things hard it depends on the people there. On the other hand the legislative process is designed to make it hard to get things passed. The legislature is only constitutionally required to pass the budget.

Nancy Davis reported on the 2013-2014 Legislative Agenda for Metro Parks Tacoma. Cross jurisdictional opportunities are projects locally working with all of our partners. The top priority in this biennium is Destination Point Defiance. There are a number of phases to it. The one concentrating on this year is called the Missing Link. That is getting Ruston Way Waterwalk into Point Defiance Park. Funding is being identified for it. That property is owned by the city and Metro Parks maintains it. Metro Parks has an inter-local agreement with the school district and they are interested in being a part of this because SAMI is located in Point Defiance Park.

Titlow Park has had major changes with some interpretive items, salmon and natural area restoration with expansion of the estuary/lagoon.

Swan Creek Park – Metro Parks is looking at having a trail head for the park for the cross county trail that is going in at 56th and Portland Avenue.

Metro Parks is looking at trying to acquire Browns Point Lighthouse. Also we would like to relocate the AtoN (aid to navigation) from Point Defiance Park.

People's Pool and the Eastside Community Center are not listed separately. On the capital improvement plan, we specifically call out both People's Pool and Eastside Community Center. If the feasibility plan puts us in a place where we can move on that this year then that would move up in priorities. There is on-going commitment to support People's Pool.

In the Federal area we have received funding for the STAR Center and are continuing to build-out the play area which will be funded more on a federal and private level rather than on a state level. Other pieces of specific legislation listed in this area have to do with getting children outdoors, more nutrition programs, etc.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a big area that has been used for some of the parks down on the waterfront. The city, county, and Metro Parks will be working to get the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Fund up to the \$90 million level because of the projects that are in there. Also, Metro Parks may go out for a capital bond in the next two to six years.

Aaron Pointer asked about the cooperation with the city and county for persons with disabilities and that there is a need for help in that area. Ms. Davis explained that Metro Parks recently lost some funding for working with adults with disabilities. The county has done more with youth. Metro Parks is going to try to continue the current level for the next year.

Jennifer Joly reported that for the County the number one priority is transportation revenue. For Public Records there is going to be a coalition type bill coming forward that would allow public agencies to take advantage of an amendment that was put forward related to correctional facility inmates so it is a pretty narrow bill.

The Growth Management Act has to do with an amendment to clarify that local governments found to be out of GMA compliance, remain eligible for state grant funding opportunities. It also relates to the timing of penalties.

Ashford Park funding is a county park where we are unable to open the amphitheater because of a turn lane mitigation that is required. The County is seeking \$400,000 to fund turn lane construction.

The North Dock Pier extension is at Chambers Bay. The pedestrian overpass was funded and this would go beyond that to allow for replacement of the dock. There are major environmental benefits to the project, i.e. replacing creosote pilings. It could also provide water based access for the upcoming 2015 US Open.

Karen Vialle reported that for the school district, the number one priority is basic education funding under the McCleary decision. Tacoma is the only school district in the state that funds all day kindergarten and we would like to have that picked up under basic education.

Transportation is another issue. It also helps promote choice. One issue now is we cannot afford to transport kids if they choose to go to another school. We have been buying bus passes however, with the Pierce Transit cuts it takes much longer for some kids to get to school, so we are looking for some direction and mitigation from the state. Early learning – we are the only school district offering free preschool. Right now about 60% of children are about two years behind the day they walk into school. Capital

Budget funding – we are looking for full funding for school construction budget match. We also would like to ask for modification on school remodeling funding to fund 100% for historic buildings. Right now it is only 75%. There are two major projects on the bond proposition that is going out in February. Stewart and McCarver are major remodeling projects. There is a kick-off on January 5, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at the STAR Center. Of interest to all is working on getting and increasing matching fund model that ensures partnerships for all of us, i.e. Eastside Community Center. We are going to ask for some language for innovative schools. The federal agenda is to push for re-enactment of the elementary and secondary school act. Another issue is funding for school lunches.

Chair Walker commented on the presentations and the good perspectives and that there were commonalities among the entities.

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

Tim Reid discussed the Sparks program funding needed to finish out the school year. Chair Walker replied that the City Council has not voted on this item.

Mr. Reid and Mr. Pointer reported that due to budget cuts Metro Parks will no longer provide the flowers, flower boxes, or hanging baskets as they have in the past.

SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Election of New Officers
- Economic Impact Study (Metro Parks Tacoma)
- Discussion of Topics for 2013

Future Agenda Items

Manufacturing Skills/Training in Tacoma Overview (Tacoma School District, Feb. 2013)
Economic Development for City, County, Chamber, EDB (Feb. 2013)
Transport of Coal through Tacoma
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Six Year Transportation Program (Anders Ibsen, COT)
Shoreline Management Plan Update (Brynn Brady)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma, Spring 2013)
Potential Collaboration on TV Broadcast Access
Use of City Facilities for School Board Meetings

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 11, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Note: Minutes for January to be taken by Metro Parks Tacoma.