

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
January 11, 2013**

PRESENT:

Aaron Pointer (Metro Parks Tacoma Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metro Parks Tacoma 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 (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Brynn Brady (Pierce County)
Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Tim Reid called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Jennifer Joly, Pierce County; Mark Williams, Pierce County; Roxanne Miles, Metro Parks Tacoma; Wayne Williams, Metro Parks Tacoma; and John Larson, Tacoma Weekly.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was moved by Anders Ibsen and seconded by Scott Heinze for approval of the agenda. The acting chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November's minutes held over from the December meeting pending a question from Lauren Walker, in her absence, were deferred to the February 8, 2013 meeting. Motion was moved by Scott Heinze and seconded by Anders Ibsen for approval of the minutes of December 14, 2012 as published. Acting Chair Tim Reid declared the motion passed.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Motion was moved by Karen Vialle and seconded by Anders Ibsen to elect current Vice-Chair Rick Talbert as 2013 Chair and Scott Heinze as Vice-Chair. Motion was approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY (METRO PARKS TACOMA)

Roxanne Miles Community Outreach Manager of Metro Parks Tacoma presented a summary report of a 2 phase economic impact research project. Phase 1 started in 2009 with Hebert Research Inc. and carried forward with Earth Economics and Metro

Parks Tacoma's own staff. The complete reports are available on the Metro Parks Tacoma website at <http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/>.

All outcomes from phase 1 are founded in facts from traditional research methodology to include 769 scientific surveys and data collection then vetted through IMPLAN Economic Modeling Software Valuations. The results are a measurement of Metro Parks' economic impact and value; validating the park system role in Tacoma's quality of life and economic prosperity.

The Surveys were conducted during 45 visits to 16 parks in August of 2009. Survey results calculate spending habits for a day at the park with Tacoma residents spending \$4,137,258 and non-residents spending \$18,062,218; figures exclude park admission if applicable.

Property values were assessed by reviewing property tax and home size within a 5 block radius of a park. (Incremental assessed value increase by residential square footage times parks in each area) for a total assessed value increase of \$9,985,814.

Karen Vialle asked if it was known if the city tax assessor uses parks as a factor. Roxanne Miles and Wayne Williams could not state for certain that they were not, but believed parks were not used as a factor. Ms. Vialle was sure that new and renovated schools would have a similar impact on property taxes.

Phase 1 total economic benefit to include spending by park users, incremental property tax increase and expenditures from the Metro Parks' 2009 general fund and capital improvement was a total of \$46,940,459.85.

Phase 2 began in 2011 with Earth Economics assigning dollar values to ecosystem goods and services provided by the Park District's natural capital as well as to the social capital associated with these parks and to the health and education benefits these parks provide to local community members and a broad spectrum of visitors.

Air purification by trees reduces toxins and Metro Parks Tacoma maintains 20% of the city's tree canopy providing \$259,000 to \$342,000 value of replacement systems to remove toxins and pollutants from the air.

Anders Ibsen reported the city recently met on this issue and is setting goals to move from providing 17-19% of the city's tree canopy to 30%. The city is working on a storm water credit program to encourage private dwelling owners to increase appropriate native tree planting. Karen Vialle said the school district would be interested in being involved in reforesting conversations in the future. Mr. Ibsen will see that both the school district and Metro Parks are included in upcoming foresting conversations.

Health cost reductions are difficult to tie to economic dollar; Earth Economics used the value of exercise and increased availability for residents near parks to assign health care cost reductions in adults at \$9.6 million. Social Capital the community contribution in volunteer hours and donations assessed at \$6.9 million and education opportunities within the parks district assessed at \$1.3 million. The combined phase 2 environmental, health and social/education benefit from Metro Parks Tacoma was assessed at \$26.8 million.

Phase 1 and 2 combined conservative assessed value of Metro Parks Tacoma is \$74,000,000 per year.

Tim Reid asked why the school district does not mandate field trips to Fort Nisqually and utilize historical educational properties for first hand learning. Karen Vialle and Scott Heinze acknowledged the wonderful opportunity, but that busing expenses and budget constrictions make field trips very difficult. Aaron Pointer wondered if the Rainier's ball club could again sponsor Tacoma School field trips to the fort or perhaps another source could be found.

Karen Vialle was very impressed with the presentation, information/data and the quality of work done by Earth Economics and felt government agencies should be doing more reporting of this nature.

Alisa O'Hanlon asked if the data could be broken down in detail by parks for strategic planning. Roxanne Miles reported that the data was itemized by park and park classification.

Wayne Williams stated that Earth Economics was working on an online self-assessment tool. Due to the interest in Earth Economics work and the desire to move forward in this direction with the city and school district, Mr. Williams offered to see if Earth Economics Chief Economist and Executive Director David Batker would be available to attend the February JMAC meeting.

Tim Reid would like to see a presentation on special populations and correlate the need for funding at the next meeting.

SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Due to the lack of quorum at the January meeting, no agenda was set for February.

Future Agenda Items

Manufacturing Skills/Training in Tacoma Overview (Tacoma School District)
Economic Development for City, County, Chamber, EDB, etc. (2013)
Earth Economics Follow-up Presentation (Tentative – March 2013)
Discussion of Agenda Items for 2013
World-Class Marine Education in Tacoma Follow-up Presentation (John Page, Tacoma School District)
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 Follow-up Report (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, February 8th, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.