

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
September 13, 2013**

PRESENT: Rick Talbert, Chair (Pierce County Council)
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Debbie Winskill (Tacoma School Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Don Meyer (Port of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Jennifer Joly (Pierce County)
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rick Talbert and called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Kurt Miller, Tacoma School District; Mark Williams, Pierce County; Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma; and Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Debbie Winskill moved for approval of the agenda with the addition of a discussion on coyotes. Anders Ibsen seconded the agenda as amended. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Debbie Winskill moved for approval of the minutes of July 12, 2013 and August 9, 2013. Aaron Pointer seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

EASTSIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma began the presentation stating that there are four stakeholders looking at the feasibility of putting a community center within the east side. Phase I is being completed which includes the inventory and planning and site location. To date there have been interviews with the stakeholders. ARC Architects met with the school district, Metro Parks, City of Tacoma, and Tacoma Housing Authority to discuss the types of programs and activities each would like to see for the site. Different locations were looked at and criteria was created for those locations, i.e., adjacent to other public spaces, square footage, etc. Stewart Middle School is under consideration as well as Boze Elementary School. There is a need for an aquatic facility within the area so Gault and the Eastside Pool were considered. Gault Middle School was also considered from a geographic perspective. First Creek High School was considered, however, there is an issue with the wetlands. The Army Reserve is on

the same footprint as First Creek and is adjacent to the Tacoma Housing Authority. There are ample amounts of space located on this site.

Portland Avenue was discussed as community members had inquired about it. The space was looked at as part of the criteria; however, the space does not have anything on it as part of a permanent campus. The Tacoma Housing Authority asked Metro Parks to look at one of their sites partially tucked within Salishan. There were concerns about whether the facility would be open to the public versus only to be seen for that population and for that neighborhood to use. Chair Talbert asked about the location. Nancy Davis replied that it is a wooded area off Portland Avenue closer to 38th Street.

Mr. Sylvia continued that next month there would be one preferred site with a possible alternative. Metro Parks will share with JMAC what the entire program looks like and those findings. There has been work with a sub-contractor to assist with the market analysis as well as a demographic profile. Phase II is about all the costs, developing a business plan, how to look at sustainability which is part of the report scheduled to be presented to JMAC in December. Phase I is almost completed. There is a partner forum and open house with the community scheduled for October 2, 2013. The cost analysis will be finished between October and November and then start with design concepts. Part of the request is to look at funding strategies, what partner groups could look at the capital side as well as the on-going maintenance. The final report will be finished and presented in December. Mr. Sylvia offered to make individual updates to the various boards in January, if requested.

Tim Reid asked about the policy makers meeting to provide input and discuss the proposed locations. Mr. Sylvia replied that the recommendation will be coming out, but as a group there could be a meeting in January. For now utilizing JMAC, even though the Tacoma Housing Authority does not have a member on the Committee, members can update their respective boards and colleagues and a separate meeting will be held with the THA leadership. There was discussion on staff liaisons reporting to the various boards and having study sessions to present the key milestones and recommendations to each board. Aaron Pointer asked about a timetable. Mr. Sylvia replied that the report is due out in December, so there would be separate presentations to the various boards in January, 2014.

Don Meyer asked about the role of the Puyallup Tribe in the project. Mr. Sylvia replied that the Tribe may have funding to assist with some infrastructure and they have been included in discussions on what type of space and services they would need.

Debbie Winskill shared that she felt that Boze was too far on the edge of the school district and the city and perhaps another geographic location would be better. Also, Gault does not have any bus lines running near it and it has sustained water damage which would be costly to repair. Chair Talbert shared that Stewart Middle School is not on the east side and there may be concerns within the community with that location.

Chair Talbert asked about the number of parking stalls. Mr. Sylvia replied that it is City code according to the size of the structure. If there is a site where shared parking can be utilized, the parking facility would be reduced.

DISCUSSION ON COYOTES

Kurt Miller reported that coyotes have been seen in Northeast Tacoma as well as in other parts of the city and it is becoming a real problem with sightings of them around the schools and sometimes growling at people. A community forum was held recently

and testimony was given about the coyote impact and citizen concern was very high. Washington State Wildlife representatives also attended the forum and stated they did not have the funding or the resources for this problem. The USDA receives funding to take care of these types of issues. There are seven levels a coyote goes through in how they interact with humans. There are several packs of coyotes and they are at level 4 meaning they are not afraid of humans. There is evidence of coyote activity near Meeker Middle School. One suggested solution is extermination of two or three of the coyotes. They are highly social animals and if two or three disappear they go back into hiding. That was suggested by the USDA so the school district was approached to pay for it. The answer was no; however, the district is willing to clear away the brush by the school. One of the next steps is to talk with the city and possibly the county to see what assistance or programs are available. The homeowner's association has discussed raising money; however, there are legal issues because the coyotes are on private property. Debbie Winskill asked if the homeowner's association or Neighborhood Council could raise the funds and go to the USDA to contract it out. Anders Ibsen replied that the neighborhood councils can give grant monies primarily for capital projects, however, community groups can also be assisted and he will check with staff. The estimated cost is \$5,000. There was discussion on contacting staff at the various entities to explore possible programs and options. Chair Talbert asked if there were any federal or state restrictions on extermination. Mr. Miller replied that the USDA has rules and regulations that it follows and it has the authority to exterminate.

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

Aaron Pointer reported that this December both the Washington State University men's and women's basketball teams have a home game in Pullman. An effort has begun to try to get those ball games, both the men's and the women's teams, to play in the Tacoma Dome in 2014.

Debbie Winskill reported that on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. there is a football game at Lincoln High School between Lincoln and Stadium re-enacting the old Turkey Game. There will be a parade at noon with people carrying banners and both schools are participating and bringing athletes from the past.

Tim Reid reported that on Sept. 22, 2013, the Seattle Storm professional women's basketball team will be playing at the Tacoma Dome.

Randy Lewis stated that in 1905 the City of Tacoma purchased a number of water wagons which were pulled by horses and driven by Teamsters and they sprinkled down Pacific Avenue. In 1925 some of those water wagons were surplused to the Metropolitan Park District which used them to sprinkle the new roads in Pt. Defiance Park. The park district stopped using the water wagons in 1930 and one of them was parked in a garage and it was still there earlier this year. It is going to be restored to be used in parades and promotional activities for water conservation programs.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Eastside Feasibility Study Update (Metro Parks Tacoma)
- Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)

Future Agenda Items

Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)

Transport of Coal through Tacoma

Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)

Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma, Spring 2013)

Update on Eastside Community Center (Metro Parks Tacoma, Dec. 13, 2013)
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

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