

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

**PRESENT:** Rick Talbert, Chair (Pierce County Council)  
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)  
Debbie Winskill (Tacoma School Board)  
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)  
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)  
Erik Hanberg (Metropolitan Parks Tacoma)  
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)  
Jennifer Joly (Pierce County)  
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Parks Tacoma)  
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)  
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)  
Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rick Talbert called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Mark Williams, Pierce County; Elle Warmuth, Tacoma School District; Jennifer Bowman, Metro Parks Tacoma; Anita Gallagher, City of Tacoma; and Stan Lokting, Eastside Community Center Consultant/ARC.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Rick Talbert moved for approval of the minutes of September 13, 2013. Aaron Pointer seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

**EASTSIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE (Metro Parks Tacoma)**

Alisa O'Hanlon introduced Eastside Community Center Consultant Stan Lokting, who presented the group with an update on the project's feasibility study. He announced they had their first community meeting last week to introduce the project. He reported it was well attended and is the first of three planned public meetings.

Mr. Lokting informed JMAC members that based on community input the proposed new center should have good street visibility, be large enough for both indoor and outdoor activities, provide adequate parking, reasonable costs and be easily accessible to transportation systems. Nancy Davis added that the community expressed a very strong desire to have the new site close to the majority of its likely users. Mr. Lokting reported that the Steering Committee emphasized the importance of being along Portland

Avenue, attention to safety issues around crossing Portland Avenue, being in close proximity to schools for shared facilities, and a building that fits the surrounding neighborhood terrain as important factors in selecting a potential site. Mr. Lokting reported that the strongest sites being considered are:

- **First Creek Middle School** – This is a great location, with good visibility, close to a school, but safety concerns were raised around the intersection of 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Portland Avenue.
- **Army Reserve Center** - Another good site, but major concerns that the Army will not begin transfer of property discussions until 2017. Erik Hanberg suggested this might not be a problem given past project timelines. Stan Lokting added that it sometimes takes seven or eight years to complete a project once negotiations begin. Nancy Davis explained other things that make this site interesting. She said with a cross base trail on one side, Swan Creek on the other and parking in the middle, this could make a nice community hub.
- **Portland Avenue Community Center** – Owned by Metro Parks, it is large enough, but there were concerns around its remoteness and the challenge of remodeling.

Additional sites mentioned during the recent community meeting include:

- McKinley Elementary School
- Stewart Middle School
- Stewart Heights Pool
- 38<sup>th</sup> and Portland Avenue
- Boze Elementary School

Erik Hanberg suggested Lister Elementary as a possible site to JMAC members. Mr. Lokting explained because it is east of Portland Avenue it is not perceived part of the community as determined by study results. He stated that sites west of Portland Avenue are the primary focus. Chair Talbert mentioned that sites selected further south have a higher likelihood of county participation and possible funding.

Mr. Lokting continued his project update with an explanation of the 70,000 square foot building requirement. He said this figure was determined after assessing the needs of the four partners and community. He emphasized these numbers are preliminary and do not include the needs of program partners. He noted the community also expressed an interest in having an onsite daycare. Shon Syliva will be presenting more details at the upcoming Partner's Meetings to be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Metro Parks Tacoma's STAR Center.

Below is an estimated breakdown:

- Administration – 2,000 square feet
- Community Spaces – 11,000 square feet
- Gym/fitness – 16,000 square feet
- Aquatics – 29,000 square feet (lap pool for competition, lessons, and recreation)
- Support - 4,000 square feet
- Net/Gross - 8,000 square feet
- TOTAL – 70,000 square feet

The question was raised how large is Metro Parks Tacoma's STAR Center? Erik Hanberg reported it is 32,000 square feet. Aaron Pointer expressed concern around the high maintenance costs of a center of this type. Mr. Lokting informed JMAC members a consultant skilled in this area is participating in project meetings.

Nancy Davis reminded the group of the legislative award of \$400,000 earmarked for the center's design efforts. Additionally, she reported that Representative Fey is attending meetings and is very interested in seeing this project move forward. Aaron Pointer asked how long we have to utilize these funds. Ms. Davis replied that the contract is through June 30, 2015.

Their next meeting is slated for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Stewart Height's Splash Room and will include a discussion on potential sites. JMAC members will be given an update during the December meeting.

### **EARTH WEEK CITIZEN'S ACADEMY UPDATE (Anders Ibsen)**

Anders Ibsen presented an update on the Earth Week Citizen's Academy. He reported it is still in the conceptual stage and will be fleshed out over the next year. It was created as an environmental initiative by the City Manager and will be a year-round program. They plan on having a speaker's academy and youth academy that focuses on ages 16 and up.

Their Green Tacoma event is Saturday, October 12, 2013. Volunteers are invited to take part in cleanup efforts throughout Tacoma. It was mentioned it is much like Metro Parks Tacoma park appreciation event. He asked anyone interested to go to their website for more information: <http://www.forterra.org>

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

- Kurt Miller announced the school board approved a maintenance and technology replacement bond for February's ballot.
- Clare Petrich announced the Washington State Sister City Board is touring the Tacoma area this weekend.
- Aaron Pointer thanked everyone who participated in the Downtown to Defiance event by riding the 12-person bike. He informed everyone the trail will open this month.

### **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- Attendees are asked to bring two legislative agendas and discuss their top legislative priorities with members.

#### 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)

Eastside Community Center Update (Metro Parks, Dec. 13, 2013)

Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 8, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. This is a Quarterly meeting with the CEOs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

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