

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
September 12, 2014

PRESENT Catherine Ushka, Vice-Chair (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Erik Hanberg (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Connie Ladenburg (Pierce County Council)
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)
Randy Lewis (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Jennifer Joly (Pierce County)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clare Petrich was unable to attend the JMAC meeting and Vice-Chair Catherine Ushka served in her place. Vice-Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were: Denise Rakas, City of Tacoma; Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma; and Representative Laurie Jinkins.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was moved by Tim Reid and seconded by Erik Hanberg for approval of the agenda. The vice-chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Reid moved for approval of the minutes of August 8, 2014 and Erik Hanberg seconded. The vice-chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Earned Sick Leave Policy

Representative Laurie Jinkins began her presentation by stressing the importance of passing an Earned Sick Leave Policy. According to a recent Tacoma census, 40,000 local workers do not receive paid sick leave. Typically these are low paid, part-time workers primarily in the restaurant field who are coming to work sick to support their families. She added this trend can lead to public health issues since 55% - 80% of illnesses are spread through food handling. It is also affecting school attendance, with older siblings staying home from school to take care of younger siblings when a parent is sick.

She reported that Seattle recently adopted a Paid Sick Leave law. Local businesses were initially hesitant; however after education and a clear understanding of the minimal

implementation costs, they became more supportive. She stated policy language should be straightforward and simple. Newark, New Jersey was offered as a good example of a sick leave policy with their similar demographics, economy and proximity to a larger city with an existing policy. She has sponsored an earned sick leave bill in the state legislature and indicated that it would help move a state law forward if more local jurisdictions adopted the policy.

Tim Reid asked what Tacoma needs to do to pass the policy. Ms. Jinkins explained that “Healthy Tacoma” is building support around the issue and is also the advocacy group encouraging the Tacoma City Council to adopt the policy.

It was moved that JMAC craft a letter to the Tacoma City Council and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Board that supports research into an Earned Sick Leave policy. Connie Ladenburg and Anders Ibsen volunteered to work with “Healthy Tacoma” on drafting a letter. Mr. Ibsen recommended the letter be studious in nature, citing national trends and public safety. Tim Reid seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Joint Study Session Discussion

The committee’s annual study session, where key community members come together to discuss pressing local issues and shared interests, was set for November 14th in place of the regularly scheduled JMAC meeting. Tim Reid offered, and members approved, holding the meeting at Metro Park’s Point Defiance Pagoda building. Erik Hanberg, Catherine Ushka, and Clare Petrich volunteered to work on a draft agenda to present at the next JMAC meeting. Economic development, earned sick leave and mental health were mentioned as possible agenda items, with legislators being invited to a later meeting, possibly in December.

JMAC Guidelines

Erik Hanberg presented a first draft reading of changes to the JMAC committee guidelines. Changes include an update to the Purpose Statement and the Organization Guidelines (core agencies can have up to two representatives and invited officials are limited to a two-year term).

Members will vote on adopting the updated guidelines at the next JMAC meeting.

Economic Development Opportunities – Brainstorming Session

Members agreed that economic development opportunities was a good topic for the upcoming Joint Study Session. Tim Reid stated the importance of knowing in advance any capital improvements within Tacoma to maximize the investment and not duplicate efforts.

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

Randy Lewis stated that Representative Fey would like to make a presentation at JMAC on the proposed Eastside Community Center (ECC). Nancy Davis reported he was tentatively scheduled to present at next month’s meeting on air quality (wood particles). She will confirm with Representative Fey that he is presenting at October’s JMAC on air

quality and ECC. Representative Fey is not available to present at the October 10, 2014 JMAC meeting.

Randy Lewis mentioned that the Tacoma Public Library and Tacoma Public Schools entered into a new agreement that allows students to check out books without fines. It was suggested the City of Tacoma invite the Library Director to the next JMAC meeting for a short presentation.

Evette Mason reported the Port of Tacoma has scheduled three public meetings to check-in with the local community (Tacoma 2025). She added that as part of the Tacoma Maritime Festival on September 21, 2014 the Port is hosting free, family-guided boat tours. Tim Reid mentioned there is a movement to bring the Tall Ships back to the Maritime Festival.

Tim Reid reported the black bear spotted recently at Point Defiance Park was captured and released into the Cascades.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Air Quality Standards/Attainment (Representative Jake Fey)
Tacoma Public Library Update – Library Director discuss new agreement with school district
Joint Study Session Agenda Discussion
Approval of Updated Language to JMAC Guidelines
Economic Development Opportunities – Brainstorming Session

Future Agenda Items

Optum Health Care Presentation (Cheri Dolezal, CEO/Executive Director)
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals
Mental Health Issues Discussion – Where do we go from here? (October)
Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates Technical College and City of Tacoma)
Presentation on Charter Review (City of Tacoma)
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.
Update on 2015 U.S. Open (November/December 2014)
Economic Development Growth and Impacts
Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma)
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Metro Parks Tacoma Conservation Issues

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 10, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Minutes for October will be taken by Tacoma Public Schools.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.