

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
January 9, 2015

PRESENT Catherine Ushka, Chair (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Robert Thoms (Tacoma City Council)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Rick Talbert (Pierce County Council)
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

Kurt Miller stated the Chair was running late and called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were: Christopher Wright, City of Tacoma; Bob Winslow, NAMI; Michael Thompson, Metro Parks Tacoma; Brentley Breithaupt, UWT student; Alexa Brokamp UWT student; Kashmiri Gavronski, MPA Graduate Evergreen State College; and Denise Rakas, City of Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Catherine Ushka arrived and called for motion to approve the agenda. Motion was moved by Connie Ladenburg and seconded by Kurt Miller who asked to change the agenda order. The chair declared the motion passed as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Talbert moved to amend the minutes of December 12, 2014 to correct John Weymer's name and Connie Ladenburg seconded. The chair declared the motion passed as amended.

AGENDA ITEMS

Summer Jobs 253

Christopher Wright explained that Summer Jobs 253 is a summer youth employment program that provides work readiness, financial literacy, school credits through weekly class time, and paid work experience with case management support. It is operated in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Community House, the Reach Center, the City of Tacoma, and Work Force Central. In 2013 there were 50 students and 46 earned high school credits working for 13 employers. The cost was about \$3,000 per student. Program adjustments were made in 2014. Ninety-six students were served, ninety earned high school credits and 28 employers participated. There was employer contribution in 2014 in the amount of \$500 for each placement that went

directly towards wages. Employer recruitment was enhanced to increase number of placements. In 2015 the current estimate is to serve 150 students, continue employer contribution, enhance the curriculum, and add more technology.

Mr. Wright reported that in 2015 the increase in the minimum wage will affect the cost of the program. The projected cost is about \$1,900 per student. There is \$70,000 confirmed funding; \$75,000 expected employer contribution and currently a budget deficit of \$140,000. To address the deficit, we are writing grants and seeking foundation support.

Tim Reid asked if the program tracks the progress of the students after they graduate if they obtain full time employment where they have interned. Mr. Wright replied that some do transition from the internship into full time employment. Kurt Miller stated that the students are incoming seniors and juniors in the next year. Some do keep the jobs through the school year. There is class and work experience training for the students and they earn up to two high school credits. Connie Ladenburg asked if there was a grade point average needed to enter the program. Mr. Miller replied that the students complete an essay on why they would like to participate.

Connie Ladenburg asked about how businesses are recruited. Mr. Wright replied that there is significant outreach, i.e. direct mailings, site visits, phone calls, and presentations at various organizations. Mr. Miller stated there is funding for an employment coordinator and job developer to work with businesses for this summer. Chair Ushka stated that Tacoma Public Schools has a good internship program in the business community.

There was discussion on recruiting businesses, matching students with employers, jobs that require trade skills, and the reasons students drop out.

1/10th of 1% Sales Tax for Mental Health

Connie Ladenburg began with a short history of the sales tax legislation. She reported that 22 counties have passed the tax, although, Pierce County has not passed the tax. The State has hired a private company to run the mental health program.

There is approximately \$8 million annually. There is a proposal for a needs assessment gap analysis of the mental health system that would be an objective, transparent and open public process. What is the mental health system in Pierce County? The jail has peaked interest in the mental health system and issues.

Kurt Miller stated there is going to be a youth-young adult shelter opening up in Tacoma. Because of the City Council's vote, \$1 million has been identified to pay for the facility, remodel, and ongoing support. The County is also contributing \$500,000 to the facility.

Ms. Ladenburg continued that Behavior Health is the terminology being used because it encompasses both chemical dependency and mental health issues together. There was discussion on assisting youth before they become entrenched with mental health issues, the need for additional facilities, the need for assistance outside of the jail, and the sharing of resources.

The question was asked about what JMAC could do. The reply was to be sure the study is added to the Performance Audits agenda. There was discussion on the entities

supporting a joint resolution. Mr. Miller asked for more information so it could be presented to the school board. There was discussion on coordinating meetings regarding the specialized needs population.

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

Nancy Davis reported that Metro Parks will be presenting on Destination Point Defiance as one of the topics for February's CEO's meeting. Ms. Davis introduced Michael Thompson, Metro Parks' Public Information Officer. Mr. Thompson stated there will be formal announcements on the new Master Plan for the Park. There will be four public meetings held on January 29, 2015, February 26, 2015, March 26, 2015, and April 23, 2015. There is also information on the website at www.destinationpointdefiance.org. The meetings will be held in the Pagoda at 6:00 p.m.

Connie Ladenburg asked about follow-up on inviting the Puyallup Tribe to join JMAC. Chair Ushka replied that there had not been any contact. Ms. Ladenburg offered her assistance.

Rick Talbert reported the county is preparing a joint meeting with the public about the process regarding the new General Services building. There is going to be an informational open house meeting on January 22, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Pierce County Annex building.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Point Defiance Waterfront Phase 1 (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Economic Development Overview (Pierce County, City of Tacoma, Economic Dev. Board, CEOs)

Future Agenda Items

Optum Health Care Presentation (Cheri Dolezal, CEO/Executive Director)
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals
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
Economic Development Growth and Impacts
Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Metro Parks Tacoma Conservation Issues

Erik Hanberg, March Agenda, sports commission

Nancy Davis, April Agenda, economic development & internships

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs. Minutes for February will be taken by City of Tacoma.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.