

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
Quarterly Meeting
February 13, 2015

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Catherine Ushka called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was: Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma; Mark Lauzier, City of Tacoma; Denise Dyer, Pierce County; Chris Green, Economic Development Board; Wayne Williams, Metro Parks Tacoma; Ricardo Noguera, City of Tacoma; Doug Fraser, Metro Parks Tacoma; and Denise Rakas, City of Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Ushka called for motion to approve the agenda. Motion was moved by Connie Ladenburg and seconded by Kurt Miller. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ushka called for motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2015. Connie Ladenburg moved to approve the minutes and Kurt Miller seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Point Defiance Waterfront Phase 1

Wayne Williams began the presentation explaining there were four primary strategic goals that include being an accountable and responsive agency that contributes to a sustainable and livable city. New departments have been formed to assist with identifying and activating initiatives and partnerships and to ensure effective implementation of the 2014 capital bond program and Capital Improvement Plan. A few years ago an economic impact study was completed describing Metro Parks' contributions to economic vitality.

Mr. Williams introduced Doug Fraser who presented on Destination Point Defiance – Waterfront Phase 1. Mr. Fraser explained it is a very complex project. It will include a trail and totally accessible walkway, a bridge spanning the ferry area, armoring and capping the former smelter site, creating a venue space and park on the peninsula, developing a stormwater treatment facility, a roundabout design at the entrance of the park, boat launch facilities and parking, soil cleanup of the future triangle development area, relocation of Coast Guard radar tower, and relocation of the greenhouses.

Connie Ladenburg asked if SAMI would be moved. Mr. Fraser replied that the portables would be moved off-site after the school year and there are conversations regarding a new facility at the zoo, what other needs are in the Park and what other options are available.

There was discussion on tourism in the area, upgrades to the aquarium, and the collaboration on economic development with the different entities.

Economic Development Overview

Denise Dyer from Pierce County Economic Development began the presentations stating that in her department it is all about jobs. There are programs for direct assistance to businesses and work on many business climate issues, i.e. sign ordinance, wood stove buyout program, etc. We focus on primary industry. Those are businesses that bring new money into the economy, i.e. manufacturing, distribution, maritime. An example of the collaboration is the business retention-expansion program. There is a permit assistance program. Other services include a loan program and bank consortium fund, forums or educational classes for businesses, and reports. A draft study on the Pierce County unemployment rate will be posted on the website. JMAC members asked if they also could receive a copy of that study. Other projects include the Pierce County Arts Commission, tourism funding, agriculture initiative, military initiative, and Chambers Bay Golf Course. It is estimated the U.S. Open will bring an estimated \$145 million in one week. Also, there will be 2,000 credentialed media.

Chris Green from the Economic Development Board stated that the EDB is a public private partnership. The board has directed that the work plan include recruitment of primary industry, retention and expansion of primary industry, aerospace, logistics and trade. The EDB also focuses on jobs and keeping businesses in the area. Logistics and trade is an industry that continues to grow. The aerospace industry is very important to the area.

Ricardo Noguera from the City of Tacoma stated that in 2013 the City Council approved a strategic plan that covered a five year period. There were two action goals. The first was completed in 2014 and the second is for 2015-16. There are new businesses, expansion and retention efforts downtown. In 2013 an auto dealers association was formed which resulted in five dealerships expanding in 2014. National retailers opened in Tacoma. The department works closely with the Neighborhood Business Districts and property owners. Education, arts and hospitality is another key component of economic development. There will be a hotel built adjacent to the Convention Center. Historic

building renovations are planned and there is new residential development. There are transit-oriented developments planned in the Hilltop and Dome districts.

Chair Ushka asked about the Neighborhood Business Districts investments in east and south Tacoma. Mr. Noguera replied that in the Lincoln Business District there are plans for mixed-use projects and in South Tacoma there is a LID (Local Improvement District) that extends from 38th Street to 80th Street.

Kurt Miller asked if there were plans for the Tacoma Avenue area between 11th and 27th streets. Mr. Noguera replied that there are talks with the county to put together a revitalization strategy for the area if the county moves out.

Carla Santorno presented for Tacoma Public Schools stating that the School District is proud to be part of the economic development of Tacoma. It is a reliable employer, has a strong financial base, and opportunities through innovation, i.e. a new portfolio strategy for school offerings. In developing the future economy, the graduation rate has increased; there are opportunities for students to enroll in advanced classes, breaking down barriers with free advanced placement and SAT/PSAT testing, apprenticeships allowing students to gain employment skills in specialized areas, and internships to bring students into the local work environment.

Ms. Santorno continued that building for achievement has provided jobs looking locally for contractors and major builders. Also there is support for local workers and minority and women owned businesses. There are sustainable and green initiatives in current and new buildings ensuring a clean and healthy future. All the entities have discussed the various partnerships each has. There are over 1,000 use agreements in the schools for community use as well as events that will bring visitors and new dollars into the area.

Don Meyer reported on the Port of Tacoma. An economic impact study with the Port of Seattle was completed recently. The Port of Tacoma working with the Port of Seattle is the third largest container gateway in the country. Locally, the Port provides 29,000 jobs. Besides working internationally, there is a good relationship with Alaska. From an economic impact standpoint, it is very important to the economy locally. One of the key initiatives underway is the ability to accommodate larger vessels. The transportation package coming out is important to infrastructure. The Port of Tacoma road will be worked on and there are plans with the City of Fife for a new interchange coming off of I-5 onto the Port of Tacoma road. The labor situation has not been solved yet. The employer group is made up of stevedore and companies and shipping lines. There are no ports involved in that as an employer.

Mr. Meyer continued that the Seaport Alliance is important because it encourages collaboration and growth between the ports to be a competitive gateway. The Port does not want to see lost market share. Canada has done a good job making investments that allow them to compete in the global economy. The Canadian railroad is making connections going down to the Gulf which makes them very competitive. The local ports need to work together to make investments, improve the infrastructure, and get the volumes back up in a competitive way which is easy to say but hard to achieve.

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

No items were discussed.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission (Dean Burke, Executive Director)

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

Nancy Davis, April Agenda, economic development & internships

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.