

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
Quarterly Meeting
August 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erik Hanberg called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL-JMAC COMMITTEE

Erik Hanberg, Chair, Metro Parks Tacoma
Anders Ibsen, Vice-Chair, City of Tacoma
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma
Robert Thoms, City of Tacoma
Rick Talbert, Pierce County
Clare Petrich, Port of Tacoma
Carla Santorno, Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Also in attendance were guests: Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma; Andrew Austin, Metro Parks Tacoma; Alisa O'Hanlon, City of Tacoma; Anita Gallagher, City of Tacoma; Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma; Nadia Chandler Hardy, City of Tacoma; Rob Allen, Pierce County; Tiffany Speir, Pierce County; and Denise Rakas, City of Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Clare Petrich moved to adopt the agenda. Robert Thoms seconded the motion. The motion was declared passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Reid moved to approve the minutes of July 8, 2016. Clare Petrich seconded the motion. The motion was declared passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Regional Economic Growth

Dr. Ali Modarres, Director of Urban Studies Program at the University of Washington Tacoma began presentation. He stated the I-5 corridor has had significant impact on how the region has developed and grown all the way from Snohomish County to Olympia. The northwest section of King County outdoes the rest of the state. Tacoma's rate of growth is less than Auburn's. There is also growth along I-90. The challenge of the region is age. The majority of King County's population falls into the working age population. In Pierce County the 25-34 age population is growing faster than in King County. Kitsap County has the largest number of retirees. The larger households are moving away from the I-5 corridor to find the best housing and our cities need to plan to be family and child-friendly.

Diversity in King County grew approximately 15.7% across fifteen years. Significant growth comes from diversity. The growth in Pierce County has been 18.7%. The foreign born population is also important. This region as a whole has attracted a lot of highly educated immigrants. Immigrant labor will keep the region young, culturally vibrant, and economically successful.

For housing and transportation 93% of King County residents work in King County. In Pierce County 73% of residents work in Pierce County. Nearly 24% work in King County. One reason is housing affordability, housing type, and employment. King County builds more multi-family housing than Pierce County.

Economic perspective – the five counties of Snohomish, King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Thurston have about 190,000 worksites and employ approximately 1.97 million people. The cities in the South Sound house about 45,000 worksites (24%) and collectively employ approximately 507,000 individuals (26%). King County especially excels in small size firms. Pierce County excels in retail and health care. There is potential for development and it is never too late to build economic and political alliances beyond the jurisdictions of the 42 cities in the region.

There is a learning region with fast growing educational facilities so now there is a population that can be relied upon for economic development. For example the University of Washington Tacoma Business School annually graduates about 300 students. The Institute of Technology has graduated over 600 students in Computer Science since 2006-2007. However, these students are leaving the area so there is a need to capitalize on the labor that is being produced.

There was discussion on land use, suburban sprawl, long term costs, planned urban development, cities planned for children, skilled labor infrastructure, and the need for a coalition of leaders to agree on the issues to be worked on.

Dr. Modarres stated his presentation can be reviewed on the UWT Urban Studies website under Community Resources and the link can be sent to the Committee Members.

CEO UPDATES

Carla Santorno, Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent, reported that Wainwright is late opening and may be move-in ready in November. Those students will be attending Whittier. Also, construction has been completed at McCarver Elementary.

Nadia Chandler Hardy, City of Tacoma, stated that the budget is being discussed and the City Council has highlighted priorities around human services and homelessness. Tacoma 2025 is still moving ahead and working towards building partnerships around that policy document.

Andrew Austin, Metro Parks Tacoma, reported that the building projects around the park district are continuing.

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

Chair Hanberg suggested the economic sub-committee should meet again to discuss Dr. Modarres' presentation.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Oct. 14 – Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Subarea Plan (Elliott Barnett, City of Tacoma)
Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day Holiday: Reschedule Quarterly Meeting
Dec. 9

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

South Sound 911/Emergency Management
Invite CEO of Pierce Transit

Continue Mental Health Conversation
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, Drugs, etc.
Economic Development Growth and Impacts
Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates Technical College and City of Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 14, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building. Minutes for October to be taken by Metro Parks Tacoma.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hanberg adjourned the meeting at 9:11 a.m.