

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee - Quarterly Meeting
November 9, 2012

PRESENT: Rick Talbert, Vice-Chair (Pierce County Council)
Aaron Pointer (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
T.C. Broadnax (City of Tacoma)
Karen Vialle (Tacoma School Board)
Carla Santorno (Tacoma School District)
Jack Wilson (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)
Timothy Farrell (Pierce County Council)
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Brynn Brady (Pierce County)
Minutes taken by City of Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Rick Talbert called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Josh Garcia, Tacoma School District; Debbie Winskill, Tacoma School District; Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma; Mark Williams, Pierce County; and John Larson, Tacoma Weekly.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was moved by Karen Vialle and seconded by Tim Reid for approval of the minutes of October 12, 2012 as published. The vice-chair declared the motion passed.

INNOVATION IN SCHOOLS – INNOVATING FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Carla Santorno began by explaining that the school board passed an Innovating for Achievement policy. The school district is working on a mechanism to meet the needs of the students. We feel this is the answer to the charter schools. We are applying to get the flexibility, innovation, non-traditional solutions to meet the needs of all students. Aaron Pointer asked if the program was like Lincoln Center. Ms. Santorno replied that yes it is like SAMI, SOTA, and the Montessori schools, etc. Tacoma is the only district in the state that has this innovation designation. Ms. Santorno asked the school board members to explain why they took this action.

Karen Vialle explained that one of the reasons was because it gave the opportunity for educators to have a structural tool that pulled together all of the innovative things that were being done. The legislation gave the school district the ability to become an integrated school system. It gives the district the opportunity needed to apply for the waivers for flexibility to teach the kids the way they need to be taught without the concept of one size fits all.

Debbie Winskill continued that the innovative school legislation could apply to the whole district. There is a problem with an out flow of students around the district. So there is the hope that this will help keep students in Tacoma. The Superintendent has begun visiting schools to talk with parents about the programs. Tim Reid asked if there were neighborhoods or parts of the district to have certain types of schools. Ms. Santorno replied that yes the goal is to have access to programming for all students. She cited the example of the need to have innovative programs throughout the district and make it community based to meet the needs for all types of students without the expense of having to bus them to a different school.

Mr. Reid asked if the charter schools would affect the innovative program. Ms. Santorno replied that it would. Josh Garcia stated that one significant difference is that charter schools operate in isolation. The Innovation Zone has pushed the school district to make sure that each neighborhood has the best opportunity for its students. Clare Petrich asked how she could find out what was available in the school district. Ms. Santorno replied that the information is not available right now; however, a guide is being developed that would publish a mission statement and vision for each school. Also the web site is being revamped.

Mr. Reid asked that under the philosophy that our youth today are our leaders for tomorrow, how do other municipalities partner with the school district in order to achieve those goals. Ms. Santorno replied that partnerships have been initiated and deepening and broadening those partnerships is important. She cited the example of SAMI. Also the parks and the school district are working together. Mr. Reid asked about the district getting the message to the policy makers who want to change direction for the city or the county or the port. Ms. Vialle replied that is being worked on. The policy makers used to meet regularly to discuss joint needs and support. Mr. Reid asked as JMAC perhaps all the elected members could meet at one location and have three or four points from each municipality that everyone could agree on. Vice-Chair Talbert agreed that it was a good idea. He suggested that the government relations staff and the city manager meet first with their colleagues. Randy Lewis suggested that perhaps there could be a meeting once a year. There would be a limited agenda so it would be a special meeting and have it be a success. Debbie Winskill suggested that the head of the Port of Tacoma attend. Vice-Chair Talbert suggested that there be a focus and outcome.

Vice-Chair Talbert asked with the bond issue, how the idea of a district of innovation would tie into the construction planning. Ms. Vialle replied that it had been done with Geiger School. Mr. Garcia stated that most likely there would be a change in the design of schools to move from just a school facility to a neighborhood hub.

PEOPLE'S POOL QUESTIONS AND POOL ANALYSIS

Tim Reid began the discussion by stating that it was the total pool analysis citywide including districts. People's Pool has been targeted for questions. Jack Wilson continued that the analysis was partially in response to a question from a joint meeting

between the school and park boards. It provides an inventory of what the park district is doing and how the facilities are being utilized. The most important question is what is our gap and what should be done to address the gap in swimming in the community. There have been good conversations with the city regarding People's Pool. If there were to be repairs made to People's Pool it would not be completed until late 2014. There is funding being suggested from the city to operate and subsidize the pool. Ms. Vialle asked about the total cost of the renovation. Mr. Wilson replied that it is approaching \$7 million for a new pool. It will cost \$500,000 per year to operate. The subsidy required is approximately \$300,000. Ms. Vialle asked if there were other improvements being done to the building. Mr. Wilson replied that as a result of the last bond, there has been an investment of approximately \$1.5 million in the current renovations excluding the pool. Mr. Reid asked if the city still owned People's Center. Mr. Wilson replied yes. Mr. Reid stated that there is a joint agreement to manage the pool and facility but the facility is owned by the city.

Vice-Chair Talbert asked about the school bonds issue, if there were plans for pools in any of the upcoming renovations. Ms. Vialle replied no because all the pools are in the high schools and most have been renovated or are in good shape.

Mr. Wilson continued that one long term issue is Gault and the eastside pool. That facility is over 30 years old and there is a joint operating agreement with the city and the school district. Long term there is the need to transition to some other type of pool facility to serve the eastside. In the short term there is the commitment to keep it operating and available to serve that part of the community. Ms. Winskill asked about the usage of the pool since the school has been gone. Mr. Wilson replied that the pool is still operating although the usage has gone down.

Vice-Chair Talbert asked about the school district plans for that part of town with the school closures. Ms. Vialle replied that Gault is on the market. Rogers was sold about four years ago. At McKinley, there is the possibility for consolidation of a number of the early childhood programs. Mr. Reid asked about the plans for Gault. Ms. Santorno replied that a real estate agent will be hired because the board does not want buildings to stay empty in communities for a long period of time. Possible uses will be investigated. Mr. Reid asked if the county or city inspect buildings for safety. Vice-Chair Talbert replied that the school district has done a good job of maintaining and securing the buildings.

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

Aaron Pointer complemented the school district on reestablishing middle school football. He felt it will be a big help with getting kids and parents involved.

Tim Reid asked who has the contract for the two ships on the waterfront and when is the contract up. Ms. Petrich replied that it is privately owned and the contract expires in a few years.

Clare Petrich asked about business friendliness in Tacoma, what does it mean from the prospective of the city and what is being done to promote that perception. Ms. Winskill suggested that a representative from the Economic Development Board or the Chamber of Commerce be invited to discuss this topic. It was noted that this item will be on February's quarterly meeting agenda.

SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Legislative Priorities and Capital Projects (Committee Members)

Future Agenda Items

Manufacturing Skills/Training in Tacoma Overview (Tacoma School District, Feb. 2013)
Economic Development for City, County, Chamber, EDB (Feb. 2013)
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Six Year Transportation Program (Anders Ibsen, COT)
Shoreline Management Plan Update (Brynn Brady)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma, Spring 2013)
Potential Collaboration on TV Broadcast Access
Brainstorm Future JMAC Meeting Topics
Use of City Facilities for School Board Meetings

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 14, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Note: Minutes for December to be taken by City of Tacoma.