

**Financial Sustainability Task Force
Meeting Summary for September 25, 2013**

Attending:

Panel Members:			
Pierson Clair	X	Ryan Mudie	
Scott Ramsey	X	Christopher Tracy	X
Tyler Shillito	X	Toby Murray	X
Eve Bowen		Andrew Buelow	X
Jenny Harris		Robert Marsh	X
Reggie Frederick	X	Lyle Quasim	X
Ken Kingsbury	X	Allan Trinkwald	X
Lois Bernstein	X	Troy Goodman	X
Jim Leonard	X	Gary Gilchrist	
Alice A Phillips			
Alternate Members:			
William King	X	Kit Evans	
Budd Wagner		Nick Leider	
Ruth Smith		Bill Dickens	
Matt Frank		Emily Hall (audience)	X
Terry Krause		Bruce Kendall	X
David Schroedel	X	Mary Byrne	
Staff and Others¹:			
Karen Reed (facilitator)	✓	Danielle Larson	✓
Andy Cherullo	✓	Tyler Aitken	
Tadd Wille	✓	Teresa Green	
Ebony Peebles			
Susan Ramirez	✓		

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Karen Reed, the facilitator, reviewed the agenda.

Review and Approval of Today's Agenda, Housekeeping Items

Karen presented the agenda and homework.

Approval of Meeting Summary. The meeting summary from Meeting 6 was reviewed. The minutes were approved as submitted.

¹ Only those individuals sitting at the head table or giving presentations to the Task Force are included on this list. A number of other staff attended the meeting.

Review/action: Draft Task Force definitions of fiscal sustainability, fiscal integrity and competitiveness.

Andy noted work regarding the Port and the City's relationship is underway and information should be provided at the next meeting.

Andy provided information regarding the Jefferson Street property in response to a question of the property's current assessed value (\$2.9M). Andy also provided information in response to a question about the original finance plan from the Convention Center with estimates of booking and attendance as to what actually occurred. Members requested more information on historical levels of spending and revenue collections. Tadd stated he could provide information on revenues and expenditures for the GTCTC for the past few years.

Karen's write up of definitions of "fiscal sustainability", "Fiscal integrity" and "competitiveness" was reviewed and approved, with two amendments: first bullet should read "...the City's income matches or exceeds its expenditures,..."; last line under Competitiveness should read "...employees will want to work and live in Tacoma because it is a vibrant and livable City."

Report from Benchmarking Subcommittee:

Katie provided information on the Benchmarking Subcommittee, whose report is included in the meeting packet. Staff collected data from ICMA for San Antonio, Fort Collins, Portland, Scottsdale, Savannah and Bellevue and reached out to the cities of Federal Way and Spokane. The Subcommittee discussed their overall findings and observations, including:

- There is an opportunity for the Police department to reduce expenses while improving efficiency and dedicate more resources to reducing crime.
- There is an opportunity for the Fire Department to work to reduce the volume of unnecessary fire response calls and become more efficient.
- Tacoma is underfunding street maintenance as compared to its peers.
- There is an opportunity to explore the number of libraries and consider other ways to increase access and optimize the use of available funds for the City's library system.

Subcommittee members offered additional comments, including:

- The City is now relatively competitive, but there is concern that cost increases forecast in the coming years could change this;
- The City should continue to use benchmarking;
- The overall expenditure level should be kept in mind when budgeting;
- The City should also keep in mind the overall tax burden comparisons.

Task Force members provided comments, including:

- It is more expensive to respond to violent crimes than other crimes; the City has a higher rate of violent crime than the comparison cities

Proposed "Ideas List" of Expenditure Reductions/Revenue Adds/Strategic Actions

Karen presented an excel list of ideas collected from the Task Force members. The group reviewed the list and recommendations for how it should be voted on. The group reviewed and discussed the list of items and made a number of changes to it. Karen noted she would consolidate the ideas onto a ballot form and, with the City Staff's help, tabulate results and present to the

group at the next meeting. The ballots will be sent to the Task Force this Friday and will be due back to Karen on October 11. The votes will be tallied without attribution.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm.