**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, September 10, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, Chair, Tacoma Public Schools

Kristina Walker, Vice Chair, City of Tacoma   
Jesse Baines, Metro Parks Tacoma

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma

Marty Campbell, Pierce County

Ryan Mello, Pierce County  
Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma

Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma

Dr. Anthony Chen, Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit

Carla Santorno, Tacoma Public Schools (Representing Superintendent Josh Garcia)

Tadd Wille, City of Tacoma (Representing City Manager Elizabeth Pauli)

Sean Eagan, Port of Tacoma (Representing Executive Director Eric Johnson)

# **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Debbie Terwilleger, Metro Parks Tacoma

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Lisa Yost, Port of Tacoma

Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit

Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma /Pierce County Health Department

Victor Rodriguez, Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department

Sally Perkins, Community Member

Dianna Kielian, Community Member

Joseph Sterling, Rainforest Strategies

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted as is; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of August 13, 2021 be approved; passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Workgroup Updates** by Hunter George(Frameworks, Infrastructure & Policies; Activities & Engagement; Resources)

Hunter George began the discussion by bringing the committee up to date and outlining tasks for the future. He noted that the discussion today will be about the work done and where we are now. First, he thanked the additional members other than the JMAC members that have been a part of the workgroup meetings:

Norinda Rosario Yancey, Metro Parks Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Sandra Eliason, Metro Parks Renee Trublood, Tacoma Public Schools

Nathan Bevell, Pierce Transit Rosa McCloud, City of Tacoma

Amanda Scott-Thomas, Tacoma Public Schools Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools

Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit Ervin Vidallon, Metro Parks

Cindan Gizzi, Pierce County Health Department Chelsea Talbert, Pierce County

William Bridges, Pierce County Debbie Terwilleger, Metro Parks

Victor Rodriguez, TPCHD

He noted that the 3 workgroups have spent 12 hours in the last week identifying opportunities and obstacles that affect the ability of JMAC to move forward on the 3 strategic themes that include JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion); Health & Safety; and Community Wealth Building. The mission/tagline of JMAC is that we are working together to build a resilient and anti-racist community.

Mr. George introduced Victor Rodriguez (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department) from the Activity and Engagement work group to give an update. Mr. Rodriguez commented that the first thing that emerged were the vulnerabilities that we have that affect our community differently depending on which socio-economic group people are in. He noted that we are interconnected and that we need to promote social connections and that we have responsibilities to others in our community. Individualism can be counterproductive to our goals. In closing, Mr. Rodriguez went on to say that racism and inequity is a threat to the resilience of our community wherever it exists, whether it is those who make less money, speak limited English, or people of color.

Mr. George then introduced Debbie Terwilleger (Metro Parks) from the Frameworks, Infrastructure & Policies group. Ms. Terwilleger started by saying there are overlaps in our mission and we need to identify what gets in the way of us being able to coordinate more. She said that their group talked about transit and its importance, housing policy and how it could be better aligned to start to address the structural issues. She stated that we are all at various stages, and we have the power of 8 agencies working together for collective action. Some items we talked about are already underway. There is housing alignment and a building community wealth focus. Ms. Terwilleger went on to say that all of it relies on us communicating with our community efficiently. She stated that we are all trying to reach out to the same community and a collaborative effort would be better and more efficient. We are all pursuing equity initiatives that electeds and staff are aligned and working together on. In closing, she mentioned that they are looking for opportunities to collaborate more.

Mr. George then introduced Alicia Lawver (Tacoma Public Schools) from the Resources working group. Ms. Lawver started by saying that they were tasked with identifying opportunities and obstacles, as well as refining that work. The challenge was that they wanted to fix all the things, but we know that we need to focus on what we can do collectively. We wanted to find things that are important to the community. Ms. Lawver stated that the first issue identified was climate change with its adaptation and mitigation. Our entities need to collaborate on this topic. Second, Ms. Lawver suggested that supporting a child-centric community is a priority through things like the whole child initiative and addressing child-care shortages. Financial empowerment was the third issue Ms. Lawver mentioned. She continued that the JMAC asset map shows it has the least investment and the most opportunities. Some areas of emphasis include apprentice training to get jobs with meaningful income, helping people become business owners and focusing on financial empowerment. In closing, Ms. Lawver went on to mention that they need to use the JMAC lens to see these things, and to ask everyone to work to take collective action.

Chair Bonbright then asked for comments from the bigger group. Councilmember Kristina Walker shared that she was glad that it seems like everyone is heading in the same direction. Her group was excited about the topics. Mr. George commented that the groups identified obstacles but not conflicts and that was a good discovery that everyone is growing in the same direction.

Chair Bonbright then asked for comments from Joe Sterling of Rainforest Strategies. Mr. Sterling commented that the work that is currently being done is building upon the JMAC work from earlier this year in January, February, and March. He asked everyone to please review the previous reports, that they show consistency on the themes. The scorecard assessment taken by JMAC earlier this year identified the same items as the workgroups have identified. All the work is moving in the same direction. He went on to say that the goal has always been how do we innovate in these three strategic themes, and that we don’t have to wait to start working on them but can start working on them now that they are identified. Mr. Sterling encouraged everyone that they are going in the right direction.

**Chief Executive Discussion – Asset Mapping Tool Alignment** (each CEO provided 1-2 initiatives on the JMAC asset map tool from the other agencies that they can support because it aligns with their own organizational priorities)

**City of Tacoma:** Tadd Wille started by saying that Tacoma Public Schools and Metro Parks have community inclusion goals for construction and purchasing, as well as WMBA participation targets for capital projects, as well as the city of Tacoma. The city has put together a task force on equity in contracting. This is a great opportunity for working together. He also commented that another place of commonality is the health and safety initiatives like cleaning graffiti and having community cleanup efforts. The city has a Continuous Improvement Team focusing on these types of efforts.

**Tacoma Public Schools:** Carla Santorno started by saying that she agrees that it is good for everyone to look at what others are doing. There are a lot of things we can come together on. She commented that one of the areas is equity and inclusion to focus on. She further commented that we need to identify gaps and obstacles as well as making sure that we do outreach together to the community. We need to make sure we aren’t just communicating with top level leaders, but to reach out to the janitors, bus drivers and playground maintenance staff as well. We can link with the Port regarding contracting to minorities to spread out family wage jobs. We are partnering with the City of Tacoma to give kids more job opportunities. She said they are changing focus from not just college but certifications that would lead to good paying jobs as well. Ms. Santorno continued in saying that there are possible action steps in the areas of common professional development, having a joint media campaign and gearing up key staff to have training. She closed by saying that there are a lot of opportunities.

**Port of Tacoma:** Sean Eagan started by saying that there are many ways that we collaborate, including job fairs and helping the disadvantaged firms get access to contracts in our jurisdictions. Mr. Eagan shared that the first topic he would like to cover is the environmental one. The Port’s strategic plan includes economic vitality, environmental leadership, transportation advocacy, organizational health, and community connections. Mr. Eagan shared that the City of Tacoma has done a climate study that ties into the Port’s leadership role regarding the environment. He went on to say that 12 years ago the Port launched the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy with the Ports of Seattle and Vancouver, Canada, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 12% and diesel particulate matter by 80%. This is important from an equity standpoint because many of the highly impacted communities are clustered near industrial or high traffic areas like interstate 5. The Port commissioners have stepped up to update the Norwest Ports Clean Air Strategy to get to a goal of zero emissions by 2050. He went on to say that the Port will need partners to work on these goals. The Port is interested in the city’s work on the climate study and gives applause to TPU as they work with us to electrify our terminals. Mr. Eagan mentioned that the Port of Tacoma is the first port on the west coast to use shore power. We will all need to work together to reduce air emissions.

Mr. Eagan went on to share that the second way that the Port can work with other municipalities is to work with the City of Tacoma on passive/open space including public access sites. A few years ago, the City of Tacoma, Metro Parks and the Port of Tacoma put together a brochure noting our public access sites to help our community know about and have access to them. That is a great example of collaboration. Mr. Eagan continued by commenting on the IPS committee work around buffers around industrial land which are important for quality of life to our citizens and show additional collaboration. Finally, Mr. Eagan noted that the Port has been making massive investments in salmon habitat. It is critical for salmon recovery and supporting indigenous peoples in our community.

**Pierce Transit**: Mike Griffus started by saying that they are partnering with the city and the county on the equity index that helps with future service planning and delivery of service. He also said that they are providing training on unconscious bias for managers and supervisors which plays into the justice, equity, and diversion map. He closed by saying that they are covering the topic of community wealth building with goals around minority enterprises and using local companies for their capital projects.

**Pierce County Health Department:** Dr. Anthony Chen started out by saying that they are already working with and supporting partners due to their wide scope of work. For example, he said they have worked with Safe Routes for Schools, Safe Routes for Parks, the equity index, and healthy community planning. Dr. Chen explained that they are already quite immersed in working with others in supporting them and that it is hard to just focus on just a couple of items. Dr. Chen asked, “what is front end, and what is back end”? For example, Dr. Chen stated that when you don’t solve climate change, the result is negative impacts on health and the economy. He questioned, how does wealth building tie into climate change? The solution for climate change is transit, health and community planning done well. Dr. Chen encouraged everyone to think about big issues that affect us all. In closing, Dr. Chen suggested that everyone look at processes instead of initiatives, finding commonality that will cut across many of the topics showing links between the initiatives.

Chair Bonbright commented that JMAC needs to focus on what they can do and how to do it. It is a challenging undertaking.

**Metro Parks Tacoma**: Shon Sylvia started by commenting about the collective action and how to coordinate/collaborate to coordinate and deliver services to the citizens better. He said that he was interested in what the Pierce County Health Department and the City of Tacoma are doing in terms of the work called equity action collaboration about how to think about outreach. We need the right voices directed towards the right people for positive collaboration and identifying what engagement looks like. Second, looking at the equity in contracting initiative is focusing to look at it and encouraged the group to bring total reform, thinking differently about it. Mr. Sylvia concluded by saying he is looking forward to seeing what the others are doing in these areas.

Chair Bonbright opened the floor for comments from the JMAC members on what has been presented by their Chief Executives.

Ryan Mello commented that it is good to see everyone working together. These connections we are working on are good. There are intersections in everyone’s work that is a positive sign. It is good to see the desire to move it to the implementation and action stage. He said he thinks things are on the right track.

Chair Bonbright commented that this JMAC process is elevating opportunities for everyone to come together and recognizing the good collaborative work that is already happening. There is work we can do and can start right away, for example with sharing positions or with the executive loan program.

Christina Walker added that the lead up and lead out is needed to make it work. We need to figure it out. She appreciates what the CEO’s have brought forward.

Chair Bonbright thanked everyone for participating in the work groups, including the CEO’s efforts.

**Preparation for the Summit of Sixty –** Scheduled for October 15, 2021

Joe Sterling from Rainforest Strategies started by saying that the three strategic themes of JMAC, the JEDI topics, health and safety topics and community wealth building are all tied together. You can’t solve one without touching the other two. He mentioned that we are in a health crisis, and economic crisis and an inequity crisis, and we should look at them as innovation problems. Mr. Sterling noted that we need to work with and engage the rest of the community. He went on to say that we need to begin to engage a pilot group of community leaders that have a common point of view considering all the assets on the asset map. He said that we should look at things from the view of those outside of our group in the region so we can see how the three strategic themes appear to someone who isn’t in an agency to work on them. Mr. Sterling continued by noting that we need to check our perspective and make sure it’s needed and wanted in our community and make sure that the resources are present in the community. If the community owns it, they need a role in the execution and the design of it. The next steps are the Rainforest Scorecard Assessment that 17 JMAC members did earlier this year in March. The results are on the asset site. The Scorecard Assessment will next go out to those you want to invite to participate. It’s the same assessment to get their perspective. As a part of your homework, revisit the report that was generated during the workshop JMAC 2.0. Second, invite people into the fold in the spirit of collaboration. We need the voice of the people.

Mr. Sterling commented that this is a full day event with a reception at the end of the day. It is very engaging and will build a common foundation and terminology. Doing it together builds common language in the group. Second, we will look at the agency view and the public view from the assessments. Third, we will begin to look at the most important high leverage items that we can innovate upon. Initiatives will be collaborative. Last, there will be activities and exercises that ask the question “What is our social contract with each other so we can be successful in these efforts?” We are also looking for initiatives an innovation that brought us together in the first place.

Chair Bonbright brought up the fact that the electeds and CEOs need to know who is being invited to participate so they can follow up with them. Also, she stated that this is not the last opportunity for this type of community engagement activity.

Mr. Sterling went on to say that the first round of participants will be followed by others who come along that don’t want to be left out. There is a communal momentum that is exciting.

Commissioner Keller commented that this might seem like messy work, but we are looking for ways to engage the community and unite our community which is the goal of this work.

Mr. Sterling commented that initiatives will eventually make their way into public and other agencies’ strategic plans as a way of maturing this work.

Chair Bonbright noted that invitations will be going out with a link to the scorecard to respond by October 1. You don’t need to take the assessment again. A list of invitees will be provided to the electeds and CEOs. This event will be worthwhile.

**Other issues for the good of the order**

No comments.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting has been rescheduled to all-day Friday, October 15, 2021, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This will be the Summit of 60 event.

**ADJOURNED:**

Chair Bonbright adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.