**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, September 8, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting: in-person option (Tacoma Municipal Building, Conf. Rm. 248) and

virtual attendance option via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE**

Andrea Smith, Board President, Metro Parks Tacoma

Elizabeth Bonbright, President, Tacoma Public Schools

Kiara Daniels, Councilmember, City of Tacoma

Kristina Walker, Deputy Major, City of Tacoma + JMAC Chair

Korey Strozier, Vice President, Tacoma Public Schools

Kristin Ang, Commission Vice President, Port of Tacoma

Marty Campbell, Council Vice Chair, Pierce County

Rosie Ayala, Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma

Ryan Mello, Council Chair, Pierce County + JMAC Vice-Chair

**JMAC Chief Executives**:

Josh Garcia, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools

Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit

Abigail Vizcarra Perez, Metro Parks

Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools

Amy Cruver, Pierce County Council

Anita Gallagher, Consultant

Caleb Carbone, City of Tacoma

Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma

Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma

Christina Caan, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Colleen Meiners, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

Connie Behe, Pierce County Library System

Danny Fisher-Bruns, Tacoma Anchor Network

Evan Koepfler, Pierce County

Gabe Moaalii, City of Tacoma

Hunter George, Metro Parks

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma

Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Seth Kirby, Greater Tacoma Community

Tim Reid, Metro Parks

William Bridges, Pierce County

Tanya Duran, Greentrike

**INTRODUCTION**

Chair Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair Walker made a tribal land acknowledgment.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of August 11, 2023 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION**

* Homelessness Strategy Update: Caleb Carbone from the City of Tacoma and Delmar Algee from Pierce County provided a briefing on the collaborations to address homelessness. **How can your organization contribute to the efforts to prevent and mitigate homelessness in our community?**

Vice Chair Mello commented that at the policy level on September 19, 2023, the Tacoma City Council and Pierce County Council will hold a Joint Study Session solely focused on the topic of homelessness and what they can do to align efforts and bring other cities along for investments and strategy development since homelessness is a regional issue. That should start with Pierce County’s major partner: The City of Tacoma and get alignment from there. Vice Chair Mello also reminded everyone that the Pierce County Council created the Select Committee on Homelessness that is chaired by County Council Vice Chair Marty Campbell. This committee is working on the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness, thinking hard about how we are being advised by advisors such as; providers, people with lived experience, community members, and how are we really having the right advisement and oversight system. The select committee is also working on how Pierce County can communicate to the public to build trust and competence to the public about what they are doing and their approach on how we can move forward with regional solution-making.

Councilmember Campbell added that in three weeks Pierce County’s Select Committee on Homelessness will host their meeting at the Tacoma Rescue Mission so that there’s an opportunity for public comment from those who are currently experiencing homelessness and receiving services through the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Councilmember Campbell added that they plan to do this through a couple of other shelters.

Commissioner Ang said that this was all great to hear. She stated that usually the issue of homelessness is not in the Port of Tacoma’s lane, however, they’ve seen it affect them and the surrounding area. The Port provided some funding to the City of Fife’s job program. Commissioner Ang took a tour of Fife’s Forest Village and was impressed. She stated that it was small but impactful – it’s a year long program that provides job training and housing and wrap around services. The job training was for City Public Works and other City jobs that need employees. She added that it was more like having a cohort and one-on-one work and that that’s why it works. Norman Brickhouse who runs the program welcomes anyone who would like a tour.

Chair Walker noted that at the last meeting there were a number of comments on getting the JMAC website up and running and that staff are working to get more done behind the scenes. In the future, we could post things like the join County/City Study Session on the page.

* Peace Point Collaborative Plan: Kaitlan Ohler from the Imagine Justice Project presented the community-driven plan for the Peace Point Collaborative in Pierce County, including key findings and recommendations. **What can your organization do to advance the priorities for action outlined in the plan?**

Priorities for action:

1. Improve communication, coordination, and collaboration across service providers.
2. Improve school environments by ending exclusionary practices, and by increasing on-site supports for students.
3. Break down access barriers for youth and families.
4. Provide more activities for youth, with a focus on safe and unstructured spaces.

Commissioner Ayla mentioned that it is important to maintain a continuous-improvement mindset with the partners like Imagine Justice and other service providers and the issues that they are running into. This mindset trickles down to the students.

Chair Walker said that one of the things that she took from the conversation was to remind ourselves that we are not trying to fix the kid or the youth, we are trying to fix our own systems and programs that keep the problem in place.

**NEW AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Public Health and Safety: Summer Teen Late Nights**

Tanya Durand, Executive Director at Greentrike, was introduced to provide a summary of the Summer Teen Late Nights program including attendance, locations, and funding. Durand expressed gratitude to JMAC members, and the many people involved in doorbelling for awareness of Teen Late Nights and those providing funding. Durand provided a summary of how Teen Late Nights were started. Durand’s team took lessons they learned from Beyond the Bell and gathered partners.

* Partners included: YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Metro Parks and Greentrike, and other community groups.
* This program wasn’t just about keeping kids safe, it was helping them heal from COVID pandemic impacts.
* There is a student and parent survey that is out right now about how to better capture 11th grade and up.
* There was a diverse visitation from students. The staff that was hired for this summer were also very diverse.
* GIG activations and community engagement were ways to engage students had activities that were different and fun such as yoga. There was special funding for an after-school programs to purchase school supplies, hygiene kits etc. Some providers did haircuts for the kids.
* Durand said that partners are asking the community to make a three-year commitment to continuing late night at the same size and scope.

Chair Walker asked about students who didn’t attend and if we’re talking to them. Durand will reach out to Club B and Beyond the Bell to ask questions about what those students might like to see. There was an effort to get students to recruit their friends to come. Durand mentioned they weren’t set up for volunteers this year but next year would like to do that and make sure that trusted neighborhood members could be an addition next year. Chair Walker mentioned the Mayor’s Partner’s Group is meeting next week and a debrief will occur more there. Chair Walker will report back on this meeting next JMAC meeting.

Superintendent Garcia said that the sooner they move from pilot to program they will see a level of trust. Then people can count on those resources. If we are committed to this as a community, providers will increase. The sooner the community can commit to doing this again, the sooner they can recruit kids and providers.

Durand mentioned that Greentrike is talking to philanthropic organizations and will engage with elected officials as well for funding opportunities.

Vice Chair Mello thanked Durand for the report and said it was great to see the outcomes. Mello was appreciative of the thinking and hoping to gain commitments (financial or emotional) to work on this by a certain date. Vice Chair Mello noted for multi-year financial commitment, the Pierce County Council sent a letter to Pierce County’s Birth to 25 Advisory Group and indicated a high priority for these dollars for programs just like this. This is new for Pierce County to be advised on and social emotional learning is a key priority for the Birth to 25 Plan.

Councilmember Daniels was thankful for the programming and excited to support the city on however they plan to get more dollars. CM Daniels asked on who is taking the lead on the fundraising. Durand responded that Greentrike will work directly with private philanthropy dollars. A portion of the money previously did come from municipal sources. CM Daniels followed up with another question about who does the story telling for this. Durand responded that Metro Parks is responsible for communications. The partners are working a polished tool and video to rally support in the future.

Superintendent Garcia cautioned that raising too many dollars for one thing can be dangerous and to ensure that this is a sustainable business plan and be aware there are other needs in this community.

**Community Wealth Building: Local Procurement**

Chair Walker introduced Abigail Vizcarra Perez, the Equity Outreach Program Coordinator for Contracts and Capital Projects for Metro Parks Tacoma, and Seth Kirby, Chief Impact Officer for Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, to talk about local procurement. Additionally, Alicia Lawver of Tacoma Public Schools and Danny Fisher-Bruns of the Tacoma Anchor Network were introduced as presenters.

Tacoma Anchor Network’s Local Procurement Landscape Working Group shared their plan to implement a regional effort to bolster contracting with MWBE firms, including grant-funded data collection and setting local procurement goals. GTCF’s representative will talk about the continuing need for local government to try pilot projects aimed at making it easier for businesses and nonprofits to access public contracts. Alicia Lawver (the group’s JMAC representative) gave an introduction about the Anchor Network’s Local Procurement Landscape. Perez followed up with additional members that are were presenting: Danny Fisher-Bruns and Chelsea Talbert.

* Recommendations for Regional Efforts to compare strategy and successes that were found through community development successes in the procurement landscape.
	+ Creating cohesive outreach for participants in contracting fields
	+ Exploring accessible reporting (people who comprise the data versus the people who collect this data). This is not as easily accessible who are the data points.
* The Statement of Purpose was created to help understand what this workgroup is about: “Our Local Procurement Landscape Working Group is focused on ending racist practices in economic development and preparing our region for a better future. We are data-driven, ready to learn and staying humble as we play the long game for real change.”
* Local Procurement Landscape Team: was comprised of a core team (primary contacts) and additional workgroup members from local agencies and organizations. Fisher-Bruns gave an overview of the working group. This working group was impactful because they are change makers in their organizations.
	+ This group began meeting a little over a year ago. Each organization grappled with the question: how they can do business better?
	+ They began by sharing best practices
		- What has worked/not worked in collaborating with local businesses, and what questions do they still have
	+ In order to start programs and interventions in procurement they need to be grounded in shared data collection and a shared image of where contract spending is currently going and how it’s getting to the local business community. Fisher-Bruns referred to Chair Walker’s note in the beginning of the meeting, that “we are here to fix our programs and system.” He said that to achieve that in procurement there needs to be an honest and accountable picture of the scale of where purchasing is going and the disparities.
* Perez gave an overview of the funding for City Action Plan, a funding opportunity the group identified.
	+ The New Growth Innovation Network hosts a small and mid-size city hub for conversations and support and out of that they have an economic inclusion incubator with different kind of grants. The grant the group opted in was the data collecting grant that comes with coaching. The economic incubator funding will allow the group to collect data that is reflected in fiscal year 2023 about spending, spending habits, to connect with vendors, service provider and get a feel for local procurement landscape as the city uses it.
	+ A big picture funding source is from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. They provide administrative support and coaching for equitable data collection and reciprocity in statistics gathering. They are hoping to work with the Center for Applied Urban Research at University of Washington Tacoma. They have already invested some time in scoping the project.
	+ From there, there will be more time to set reasonable goals and do some more outreach to support the contractors they work with more frequently.
* Timeline
	+ Will start data collection in October 2023 and will workshop in January 2024.
	+ The grant cycle is quick, so there are a lot of deadlines the group is accountable for on top of being accountable to JMAC.
* Anchor Resources Beyond Financial Capital
	+ Fisher-Bruns summarized what long term sustainable change means. The anchor uses eight capitals of need: natural, cultural, financial, human, social, political, built, and intellectual.
	+ The eight capitals all play a role on communities and equitable procurement practices.
* Further Learning
	+ Kirby expanded by provided further learning on local sources:
		- State Office of Financial Management
		- Pierce County Human Services and CARES Act Dollars
	+ From these reports they learned that coupled with government funding and philanthropic dollars, goals in the community can be met.
	+ The state had grants to help with the Census. Small organizations found that reimbursements were a barrier.
	+ Similarly for Pierce County, the barrier was cash flow and reimbursement. Pierce County’s concern about “gifting of funds” was the reason they could only offer reimbursement methods. Non-profits with support from the community reimbursements mean they must front more money than their actual budgets. Many of these non-profits couldn’t take these contracts due to this barrier, especially during the height of the pandemic, when these services were needed. Access to capital loans for non-profits and timing for reimbursement are continued challenges.
* The Takeaway
	+ Chelsea Talbert of the City of Tacoma posed a question: what does indoor plumbing, an event center, and student late night all have in common? It takes radical imagination, capital, and contracts to get things like this to happen. The group take away questions to JMAC members were:
		- What are your commitments?
		- What are your goals?
		- What is your unique role?
	+ Talbert encouraged members to pull and learn from other organizations on how they are creating an equitable future with the dollars and being mindful of community wealth building.
	+ The following links were requested from the presenters:
		- [2022 Nonprofit Association of Washington Government Contracting Report](https://nonprofitwa.org/download/2022-washington-nonprofits-government-contracting-report/)
		- [Philanthropic Flexibility Ensure CARES Act Dollars Reach Pierce County Residents](https://www.gtcf.org/blog/government-volume-philanthropic-flexibility-ensure-cares-dollars-reach-pierce-county-residents/)

Chair Walker thanked the group and mentioned that the city could not make these changes without public-private partnerships. Chair Walker opened the discussion and welcomed questions.

President Bonbright thanked the group and said that she was inspired. The work may have been cumbersome and difficult, but she is excited to hear more about the progress and learn about the ideas presented.

Vice Chair Mello appreciated the work as well. Mello mentioned the County Council is encouraging the Pierce County Executive and the county’s contracting office to change a lot and improve procedures. Vice Chair Mello asked if anyone from the team is willing to provide the County Council team with any technical assistance to overcome barriers on contracting.

Hunter George mentioned that if there are RCWs, limits, or requirements, then TAN and JMAC should work together to lobby in Olympia for change.

Chair Walker indicated she will circle back with her colleagues regarding some of the questions that Talbert posed earlier.

**STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATE**

Hunter George noted that the legislative agenda will be discussed soon at the November quarterly meeting with CEOs.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner Ayala said that November is Co-Create to Recreate at Metro Parks, and she encouraged friends and families to attend the events and give feedback on how to improve community centers and neighborhoods.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is Friday, October 13, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The meeting will include follow up on today’s topics.

Reminder that November’s quarterly meeting will be the legislative discussion, and it will be moved to November 17th due to Veterans Day.

The December meeting will be an in-person event with no virtual attendance option. More details to come.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

\**Minutes taken by Pierce County*