**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, October 13, 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 8:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, President, Tacoma Public Schools

Deanna Keller, Port Commission President, Port of Tacoma

Joe Bushnell, Councilmember, City of Tacoma (*alternate*)

Kiara Daniels, Councilmember, City of Tacoma

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

Kristin Ang, Commission Vice President, Port of Tacoma

Rosie Ayala, Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma

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

Tim Reid, Board President, Metro Parks Tacoma (*alternate*)

**JMAC Chief Executives**:

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

Josh Garcia, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools

Mike Griffus, CEO, Pierce Transit

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit

Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools

Amy Cruver, Pierce County Council

Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma

Christina Caan, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Colleen Meiners, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

Iuliia Didkkivska, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Jessie Baines, Piece County Community Land Trust

Jenn Halverson Kuehn, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma

Kyle Pastewitz, East West Consulting Group

Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma

Melissa Littleton, State of Washington

Pam Gant, Pierce Transit

Renee Rivers Meschi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept

Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County

Sandi Pizir, Port of Tacoma

Sandra Eliason, Metro Parks Tacoma

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Sean Egan, Port of Tacoma

Sonja Hallum, City of Tacoma

Svetlana, Konotopchik, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept

**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 September 8, 2023 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION**

* Summer Teen Late Nights: Tanya Durand, Executive Director at Greentrike provide a summary of the Summer Teen Late Nights program including attendance, locations, and funding. **What are your next steps for your organization to secure funding for the program?**

Chair Walker commented that although the Tacoma City Tacoma has not done the mid-mod budget yet, it is a top item, and it is proposed at the same level of $300,000.

President Bonbright commented they are all in for another 3 years and are excited to continue to provide support. They have interviewed some of the kids, and the impact is positive. Adding that for the mental health of our students, anything we can do to help. Bonbright pleaded to put these resources into your upcoming budgets because it really makes a difference.

Councilmember Mello added that they have shared the information with many advisory boards and commissions. The County’s anticipated financial commitment should be through what we call our PSTAA account (Puget Sound Taxpayers Accountability Act). The County Council told the Birth to 25 Advisory board that this is one of the top 3 priorities for that fund. Mello hopes to secure sustainable resources not only for Tacoma but also other urban school districts.

Chair Walker noted that at the last meeting she would give an update on the Mayor’s partner convening. Many people shared experiences and ideas for improving the Summer Late Night program. In January of 2024, the City will move to reactivate the Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction Executive Steering Committee, formally known as the Gang Reduction Executive Steering Committee. Councilmembers Ushka and Daniels are the co-chairs. Hoping they will report out to JMAC. Chair Walker noted that it will be helpful to distribute the list of members of the group.

Commissioner Ayala offered congratulations to the group prior who accomplished so much in a small amount of time. Metro Parks is excited to participate.

Chair Walker then moved to the 2nd item recap: The Tacoma Anchor Network’s local procurement workgroup brought a great presentation with helpful information to think creatively about how we contract with our community. **Are there things your organization was inspired to do because of that presentation, things you have thought about in reducing barriers since our last meeting, or other ways you want to engage or get JMAC to engage in MWBE work?**

Chair Walker highlighted that contracting work is in our workplan for JMAC. As that work makes progress, we will share more information.

**NEW AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Public Health and Safety: Sustainability at Pierce Transit**

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit, offered a thank you to his data analytics group including Pamula Gant who provides high quality work that is used throughout the agency. Griffus then Introduced Gant to present. Gant introduced herself – presenting the Pierce Transit Sustainability Model, she took the project over in 2020. Pointing out the data has been sent to JMAC for review.

Data is compiled from various sources including:

* Odometer Readings
* Fuel Consumption
* Vanpool Commuter Fuel
* First Transit Fuel and Mileage
* NTD Ridership Miles
* Recycling Receipts: Oil, oil filters, coolant, tires, batteries, bulbs

What do we Track?

* Emissions produced by our fleet.
	+ CNG
	+ Diesel
	+ Unleaded
	+ Electric
* Emissions and utilities from our facilities
	+ Gas for Heating
	+ Electricity
* Water consumption
* Garbage to recycling
* Utility cost

Fleet Greenhouse gas emissions 96% is consumed by our Fleet due to tailpipe emissions, and after tracking, we have seen decreases year over year. Savings are rising due to ridership rising and is projected to continue.

Pierce Transit is always looking to improve, such as implementing idling policies, electrification of the fleet, finding more efficient engines, improving insulation and removing fluorescent bulbs from facilities, which reduced cost. They did recycle those bulbs.

Other data to improve the footprint includes Ridership Incentives, Carbon Offset -Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and increased recycling. Pierce Transit recycles everything: tires, bulbs, oil, the water in the bus wash stations. They monitor utilities for usage and leaks.

There are resources available on the Piece Transit website. Gant then opened for questions.

Chair Walker asked 1) Are you tracking Pierce Transit’s building emissions as well as fleet? Also noting that the City is following with that. 2) Are you tracking employee commutes? Noting with many driving electric vehicles but not a lot of charging stations – how does the data look?

Gant answered 1) Yes and noted the information sent prior to the meeting has information on that. 2) Yes, they are tracking employee usage, but that data is not available yet, and with many employees working remotely, the savings should be higher.

Chair Walker invited comments from other members.

President Bonbright shared that the Tacoma Public Schools Board has just adopted annual goals, and improving the transportation fleet is one of them. Looking at environmental stewardship is one of them, and they are very excited and looking forward to applying these ideas.

Commissioner Ang commented that the Port of Tacoma loves data on GHG and pollutants. She shared that the Port has set a goal for 2040 on its own emissions, scope 1 & 2 on their small fleet. The Port has installed EVC Stations around the headquarters.

Chair Walker called Vice Chair Mello to add some comments on a regional summit of local elected officials.

Mello described convenings that are currently called the Pierce County Climate Conversation, which involves representatives of cities, towns, and other agencies. They are policy makers throughout the County working together to collaborate to bring state and federal resources to the smaller areas in our community. Smaller jurisdictions do not always have the staff for this work, so by working together we can help these communities get the resources they need.

Commissioner Ang asked Pamela Gant if Scope 3 Emissions are being looked at yet. Gant responded, not at this time, but if anyone wants to help with this due to low staffing in her work area, she is available.

Commissioner Ayala thanked Vice Chair Mello and Pamela Gant for all the information and commented on how there are areas of improvement within the Metro Parks, reducing emissions, improving procurement, etc. As a South Tacoma resident, how do we get this done?

Superintendent Garcia echoed Vice Chair Mello’s comments, and there is a level of urgency to assist in accessing those grants, green projects, getting together to secure some of those federal funds.

Chair Walker thanked Gant for her presentation and introduced the next presenters -- Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, and Renee Rivers Meschi, to talk about the Equity Action Collaborative.

Gizzi said TPCHD is glad to host this work, which is a collaborative with many of your agencies. This is a great follow up to the prior presentation as it involves collecting data, listening, and fully understanding what our communities’ need. This work is housed within the Public Health Centers for Excellence at the Health Department. It is really a social enterprise and very mission based. It allows us to do consulting work with others locally, statewide, and national partners to advance the mission of “Healthy People and Healthy Communities” through a different model than we are used to at the Health Department.

Meschi shared a presentation on collaborative models and how they are led by the communities, using an example of Ukrainian Refugees and the Vietnamese.

Equity Action Collaboration (EAC) is a collation of agencies that have come together to better the communities it serves. Leveraging each other’s strengths so we can move further and faster in the direction of equity. Using the Ukrainian refugee as an example, the United States has a program U4U and through that 193,203 Ukrainian beneficiaries have been approved travel to the US -- 6,500+ are in Pierce County, a total of 16,528 U4U beneficiaries Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue. Our local refugee numbers will rise quickly, more refugees come to Washington over other states. Low trust in government is a barrier for the refuges, not trusting the government for assistance, not using banks, public transportation, food stamps, critical aid for immunizations. TPCHD has hired two ambassadors to help these communities, which allows trust to build.

The Sunflower Kids Club is a trauma-informed, culturally sensitive youth programming group led by a Ukrainian refugee and child psychologist. This club provides help to transition children. Community actions are essential for success. We build in the communities for the communities. The groups that are part of this are making the difference and providing the change for trust and success.

The Sunflowers Dance troupe was formed from the Vietnamese group. This historic group was formed in the 90’s to help the Vietnamese refugee children.

Meschi then shared her last thought: With collaboration we can go further than our agencies can ever go alone. It takes a smaller investment from each of us to support something bigger that we all share, that we need to trial, pilot, and invest in collaborative models. When those models center community engagement as its own expertise, all our agencies benefit because we leverage that momentum in the community that is already there. We need to think creatively about how to do this …if you join us, you are not only getting access to collaborative work groups, resources, but you are also joining our thinktank. We all need each other, and we would love to work with you.

Meschi introduced Svetlana Konotopchik and Iuliia Didkkivska, with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

Chair Walker thanked Renee Meschi and welcomed Svetlana Konotopchik and Iuliia Didkkivska. She pointed out the visuals Renee used, and thanked her for her questions, comments, ideas to the group.

Vice Chair Mello commented on the great job and the vision. Not sure if this is an offline question, but looking to follow up the mission, what is the budget for the EAC? What can we do to keep the collation strong?

Meschi answered that they are onboarding new members and gaining support. Building the framework in the community is the start, and it is what we are looking to build, so we need to co-create.

President Bonbright commented on how much it has grown and was happy to see the work, looking to see the school engaged with this program. Although they are in budget cuts, this is a project about the kids and families.

Meschi thanked everyone and would love to work with the members. Collaborative investment efforts allow us to find ways to make things happen, maybe reappropriate funds. Metro Parks was able to meet goals they already set, and with funding they already had, but adapting it to what they are hearing from the community group. So, it should not take new funding/money as a collaborative. If each contributes a little, it is less burdensome.

Chair Walker commented we have so many projects that are community outreach, if we even diverted a tiny bit of this money to this larger effort, it would make all that outreach go that more smoothly and would be much more meaningful. Also, to the comment President Bonbright shared connecting this work to the Summer Late Nights, do we know if immigrants participated? Maybe some cross work in that area.

Cindan Gizzi responded that Language Access is also a big area the EAC is working on. And she spoke on Svetlana Konotopchik and Iuliia Didkkivska’s meaningful contributions.

Konotopchik responded, shared her history and background and how she connected to the community. Stated how Pierce County is such a wonderful community. Didkkivska introduced herself and gave her history as a recent refugee and thankful for the opportunities to help the newest Ukrainian refugees.

Chair Walker thanked them for their comments.

Svetlana Konotopchik answered yes, they do collaborate with other counties in the State. The DOH budget funds us to collaborate and share.

Renee Meschi responded yes, they are on the radar, all refugees. Language Access and legal help is all part of our infrastructure that is needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner Ayala invited everyone to the 5th anniversary of the Eastside Community Center on the 18th at 2:30 PM. Bring friends, family, and community members

Commissioner Ang shared the Tacoma Refugee Rescue Choir has an event at LeMay on October 17th 6:00 PM. Also, good news - we got the Hydrogen Hub, the $1 billion infusion that will come to the Pacific Northwest.

**NEXT MEETING**

Reminder that November’s quarterly meeting will be the legislative discussion, and it will be moved to November 17th due to the observance of Veterans Day on November 10th.

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 Port of Tacoma*