**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, November 17, 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 8:03 a.m.

**ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE**

Andrea Smith, Board President, Metro Parks Tacoma

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

Kristin Ang, Vice President, Port of Tacoma

Rosie Ayala, Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma

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

**JMAC Chief Executives**:

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

Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, City of Tacoma

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit

Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools

Andrew Strobel, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma

Christina Caan, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Colleen Meiners, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

Eric Johnson, Port of Tacoma

Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County Library System

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma

Juan Beltran, Senator Patty Murray’s Office

Kenny Coble, City of Tacoma

Krystle Amundson, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma

Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Sandi Pizir, Port of Tacoma

Sonja Hallum, City of Tacoma

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

**WELCOME**

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 October 13, 2023 be approved as amended; passed unanimously.

**PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION**

* Previous Meeting Recap / Direction
* Sustainability Initiatives at Pierce Transit: Pamela Gant from Pierce Transit provided an overview of the agency’s data collection on sustainability initiatives, including reducing tailpipe emissions, an idling policy, maximizing recycling of materials from both office and fleet operations, among others. Several JMAC members commented on sustainability efforts at their respective organizations. **Which of these efforts are you implementing at your agencies, or were there any initiatives that you would like to explore further?**
  + Vice Chair Mello shared we have the opportunity to update our Comprehensive Plans by the end of 2024. One area Pierce County intends to work on is putting in Comprehensive Plan Policy that incentivizes deconstruction in a sustainable way. Looking into Policy & Procedure changes, including code improvements and implementation steps around diverting waste from landfills to re-usable second-use type opportunities.
  + Chair Walker shared additional grant funding opportunities for Transit that will green the fleet even more. Climate Action Staff at City of Tacoma are available for collaboration and co-planning. The City is updating its Tree Ordinance in the next couple of weeks and working on an ordinance for right-of-way trees, and in 2024 will look into private development and private property and trees in those spaces. Focused on tree canopy and tree coverage and partnerships with Metro Parks and JMAC.
  + Commissioner Smith shared that Metro Parks is working on a new Climate Action Plan and it will be ready for roll out in Spring 2024. Looking forward to sharing updates.
  + Commissioner Ayala shared a City of Tacoma tree ordinance presentation note on considerations around emissions and procurement processes in contracts and partnerships. There is an opportunity to reduce emissions by contracting with local partners and reducing fuel usage and emissions from travel and transport. Working to align shared procurement values around local workforces, workforce development and local businesses. Thinking long-term about sustainability and emissions processes. Assessing collective impact quality improvement strategies and opportunities including extended contracting with local partners to strengthen local economy and reduce emissions over time.
* Equity Action Collaborative Update: Renée Meschi from the Equity Action Collaborative shared an update on efforts to leverage community expertise in supporting the Ukrainian refugee population in Pierce County, including Community Health Workers and Cultural Ambassadors. **How is your organization engaging with the Equity Action Collaborative in the coming year?**
  + Chair Walker shared the Día de los Muertos event update and partnership with Renée and the Equity Action Collaborative.
  + Chair Walker reinforced and emphasized the importance of nurturing these cultural relationships and partnerships especially related to our states of readiness and resilient community partnerships on shared initiatives. Continue making connections and referrals!
  + Alex Mather with Pierce Transit shared *Thriving Communities Work* in the Four Corners Area -- partnered with Renée and the EAC for outreach and to leverage partnerships for collaboration on the visioning process.
  + Commissioner Smith shared that Community Centers are involved with the Ukrainian population now and staff are building welcome packets and providing tours to Ukrainian population on the facilities, amenities, and accessibility.

**AGENDA ITEM**

2024 State Legislative Agenda Highlights

* JMAC member organizations, CEOs and designated representatives shared 2024 state legislative agendas and identified opportunities for mutual support and collaboration to advance priorities.
* Alexandra Mather of Pierce Transit acknowledged the power of collective impact and JMAC for communicating with legislators for policy change.
* Eric Johnson from Port of Tacoma said that Governor Inslee is visiting today (Nov. 17) and Commissioner Keller was meeting with him. The Port is working on transportation priorities and zero emissions drayage trucks (often defined as “the first mile” as cargo leaves an ocean port). Focused on re-operationalizing and improving the Fishing Wars Bridge to maximize transportation. Two top priorities are Highway 167 and Port of Tacoma Road and I-5. Secondary priorities are finishing improvements to the Fishing Wars Bridge and improving truck traffic flow on Portland Avenue. Collaborating with Joint Transportation Committee in the Legislature on funding. Looking to ensure trucking community has equitable access to Zero Emissions funding for systemic quality improvement transformations. Working on culturally and linguistically appropriate services to promote truck grants for the Zero Emissions drayage trucks. Working on mitigating idling and pollution from vessels with increased shore power so vessels can plug-in to reduce emissions. Kudos to Tacoma Public Utilities partners. Regarding Zero Emissions drayage trucks, International Terminals are working on partnerships with the Clean Air Agency and getting clean fuel into the vessels. cars.
* Commissioner Ang advised partnering with medium to heavy-duty trucks at the Port. Seaport Alliance Legislative Agenda working on funding requests for shore power to reduce greenhouse gases and diesel particulates in the area. Working on Highway 167 project timeliness. Working on remedial action grants. Regarding Zero Emissions drayage trucks, there is a policy that diesel trucks must be 2007 and older for International Container Terminals. Policy will apply to Domestic terminals by 2025 and decrease diesel particulates from old trucks. There are less diesel particulates in the new Zero Emissions drayage and electric trucks.
* Chair Walker thanked team for working to reduce emissions from diesel trucks. She acknowledged the importance of working on agency coordination and transferring trucks out of diesel and into clean, green energy.
* Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools, said Superintendent Josh Garcia is meeting currently with JEDI, Public Health & Safety and Wealth-building policy partners at a conference, and Tacoma Public Schools is working on career pathways for students. Shared update on Maritime Skills Center, industry, career and job opportunities. The center will support all South Sound area residents and partners with Seaport Alliance and Port of Tacoma. $8 million currently dedicated this biennium and working on another $4 million request for sustainability. Funding sources complement each other for leveraged impact. TPS working on Whole Child approach including Legislative funding requests for free and enhanced extended learning opportunities before and after the school day. Establishing a robust system for expanded learning. Environmental Sustainability strategies include dedicated funding sources in the capital and transportation budget to assist school districts in meeting carbon reduction requirements under the Clean Building laws and make a rapid transition to electric school busses utilizing both state and federal funding streams.
* Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks, advised that Senate Bill 5095 – Parks Rx – is sponsored by Senator T’wina Nobles. Looking into Prescription Parks with the health community to prescribe access to parks for improved health. Program is modeled after Silver Sneakers and developing methodologies for insurance billing for preventative health services provided through parks. Blue Zones is leading the cross-sector partnership with Superintendent Garcia and Alicia Lawver for alignment of Parks Rx with Rx Food. Working with Tacoma Creates and Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Act (PSTAA) funding to fund childcare and add protective factors to mitigate detrimental health effects of poverty. Thank you to all the agencies bringing these changes to fruition!
* Largest demand is for childcare to meet needs of people without access. We are planning to expand and enhance childcare by working with DCYF to streamline licensing WACs and protocols for school-aged childcare. For 2024 session, monitoring other efforts to expand access to childcare. Looking into voucher system that can be expanded out locally into the state and further as needed. Partnering with the City on capital appropriations requests for People’s Community Center capital improvements and feasibility for building a new South End community center. Initial funding request is for feasibility study funding.
* Commissioner Ayala advised Safety is a priority and looking into improving walkability and transportation to the area. Working with Pierce County partners to increase access for neighborhoods to access the area.
* Chair Walker reminded the group that the City of Tacoma is studying the crossings for I-5 to improve safety for pedestrian and cyclist traffic. Thanked team for putting poverty front and center in policy and she mentioned that she attended the Poverty to Possibilities event with United Way this week. Looking into childcare policy and other transformative policy opportunities to counter negative health impacts of poverty.
* Vice Chair Mello gave kudos to the team for alignment and partnerships. Kudos to Metro Parks for advocating for community’s needs and taking the lead on stepping up to make things happen. Thank you for taking the challenge and hearing the community and authentically thinking about how to meet needs. Continuing to grow partner networks and partnering with Franklin Pierce School District.
* Colleen Meiners is representing for Interim Director Gizzi for TPCHD. Priorities are to promote longer, healthy lives. Working on removing tobacco and vape flavors and implementing a tax. Addressing fentanyl and opioid use disorder. Looking for Investments in healthy eating and active living. Working on JEDI priorities to dismantle systemic racism, promote climate justice, advance economic justice, and increase housing affordability, access, and sustainability. Working on Parks Rx partnership for the next legislative session.
* Alexandra Mather shared Pierce Transit legislative priorities for maintaining a state of good repair. Pierce Transit is dedicated to high quality transportation. Working on regional mobility grants. Pierce County looking to support municipalities within the Public Transportation Benefit Area in their initiation of securing funds to bolster resources. Working with ESD on data collection for administering and reporting PFMLA benefits.
* Chair Walker thanked TPCHD and Metro Parks for alignment on health policy improvements.
* City Manager Elizabeth Pauli, City of Tacoma, thanked Rosa McLeod, Sr Government Affairs Advisor, and team for their work and advised City of Tacoma priorities are emergency shelter operations and Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge funding. Leveraged ARPA funding to maximize impact. Partnering with the Puyallup Tribe on funding requests for the repair and reinspection of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge. Working on Climate Commitment Act investment in local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lift 1% property tax cap to reduce deficits and increase sustainability, and capital budget requests on legislative agenda. Working with JMAC partners whenever there is alignment and cross-sector partnership opportunities for collective impacts.
* Andrew Strobel with Puyallup Tribe updated the team on the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge status. The Bridge is eligible for funding as a federally crucial transportation route. Met with Bureau of Indian Affairs and looking into applying for funding to repair the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge. Looking into enhanced cleaning and proper inspection by Highways and Bridge maintenance and clean-up will cost ~$6.5 million. Looking into long-term permanent funding for the structure. Tribal Council commitment to partner with City to re-open the bridge. Working on applying for funds and crafting a partnership agreement between the City of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe to repair and inspect the bridge for re-opening. Puyallup Tribe is working on pushing changes in the Growth Management Act to increase inclusivity of partnerships with Tribes who have been historically omitted. HB 1717 passed last session. Continuing regional policy planning for legislative agendas. Comprehensive Land Use Plan in process.
* Vice Chair Mello shared the Pierce County policy agenda and thanked the team for partnerships. Working on programs to get people with mental health needs out of jail and into the therapeutic health settings they require, particularly those investments at Western State Hospital. SR 167 Support and defend Gateway Project funding for SR 167 including the current and future investments in the SR 167 trail system. Climate Commitment Act supports distribution of CCA funds to local governments for weatherization and energy conservation for low- income households and energy efficiency updates to public buildings like TPCHD and City of Tacoma buildings. Working on methane capture and reuse and other allowable uses. Long-term funding capacity and stability of counties to support legislative efforts to reduce county costs and ensure counties have the financial capacity and stability to provide for constitutionally and statutorily mandated programs and services.
* Chair Walker thanked the JMAC, CEOs and leadership for joining this legislative planning meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner Smith invited everyone to the Festival of Trees. It will be free for the first time this year the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. Funding goes to MultiCare Mary Bridge Children’s hospital.

Chair Walker let the group know that she accepted the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize on behalf of the city and partners. The prize acknowledges work done on Pathways towards Health Equity.

Commissioner Ang attended the Offshore Wind industry conference and building union partnerships. Visiting a Rendering plant in Los Angeles soon to investigate permitting for environmental issues and noxious odors that impact Hispanic families’ health equity.

**NEXT MEETING**

The December meeting will be an in-person event with no virtual/remote attendance option scheduled for Friday, Dec. 8 at STAR Center in Tacoma from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:16 am.

\**Minutes taken by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department*