

**Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**  
**June 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Anders Ibsen called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**ROLL CALL-JMAC COMMITTEE**

Anders Ibsen, Chair, City of Tacoma  
Catherine Ushka, Tacoma Public Schools  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Clare Petrich, Port of Tacoma  
Jessie Baines, Metro Parks Tacoma

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

City of Tacoma: Peter Huffman, Randy Lewis, Denise Rakas  
Metro Parks: Andrea Smith, Hunter George, Debbie Terwilleger, Matthew Keough  
Port of Tacoma: Yvette Mason  
Pierce County: Tiffany Speir  
Tacoma Housing Authority: Adriane Wilson


**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Tim Reid moved to approve the agenda. Clare Petrich seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Clare Petrich moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2017. Tim Reid seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

 Ruston Way Master Plan  
Peter Huffman began the presentation by explaining that the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks Tacoma are working together to update the vision master plan for Ruston Way and that this is a jointly funded project. Mr. Huffman introduced Debbie Terwilleger, Director of Planning, Metro Parks Tacoma.

Ms. Terwilleger stated that Ruston Way is one segment in the context of the entire Tacoma waterfront. Even though the presentation focuses on Ruston Way, keep in mind the entire context. The waterfront is accessible and beautiful and there are significant attractions, including Point Defiance Park.

Mr. Huffman pointed out it is recognized that many individuals living in the area see Ruston Way as the jewel and an important community amenity. Stakeholder input and discussion is at the local level as well as regional and that is recognized in the planning process.

Ms. Terwilleger continued what is the scope of this effort and what needs to be done. Looking at issues that will be encountered, there will be conversations regarding public access, and different types of water and land activities. There are a whole host of interest groups related to public access and recreation. There are also issues regarding public safety. There is the need to access the waterfront safely from a transportation standpoint. It is a shoreline environment and a highly regulated area so the law prescribes what can and cannot be done. There are some major infrastructure issues. A section of road that is too narrow, older road sections needing improvement, and a seawall failing in various areas.

Ms. Terwilleger explained the work being done at Point Defiance will be relevant when looking at Ruston Way. An updated master plan was adopted two years ago and one of the changes was the need to move people differently to and in and round Point Defiance Park. There is a steering committee with a wide range of folks on it looking at this. For Point Defiance there is a 50-100 year plan to shift away from the car. Looking at more centralized parking and providing more internal and external shuttle access as well as safe bicycle and pedestrian access. Some of the principles are applicable to Ruston Way i.e. the new trolley service.

Ms. Terwilleger stated Metro Parks has been working on the scope to build on existing planning efforts that have been finished i.e. the Foss Waterway Development Authority and the Schuster Parkway plan. For this effort, the focus is on Ruston Way from Old Town to Point Defiance. The goal is to develop a community vision, so input from the community and recreation interests will be very important. From the standpoint of transportation, looking at existing traffic flows.

Mr. Huffman stated there are stakeholders that include private property owners; and commercial businesses who rely on parking that is in City of Tacoma right-of-way. The Department of Natural Resources is a stakeholder along with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. The plan is to apply for large grant applications and partnerships in the future.

Ms. Terwilleger continued the project plan is to set up a steering committee, an executive team and a technical core team. An outreach plan will be developed to begin collecting information over the summer. It is important to know where property lines are and who owns what and who is responsible for what. There will be visioning workshops in the fall. There was discussion on the triangle area which is the area where the go-carts were.

Chair Ibsen asked about the involvement of the BNSF railroad. Mr. Huffman replied that there has not been any formal stakeholder involvement. The railroad is involved with the McCarver Street conversations so the Ruston Way plan may piggyback on that effort.

Chair Ibsen asked about the environmental aspects and climate resiliency and change being factored into Ruston Way. Ms. Terwilleger replied that part of the existing conditions analysis is pulling together information on the existing infrastructure. Metro Parks has been working with University of Washington Tacoma looking at sea level rise and projections for what might be expected along the waterfront.

Mr. Huffman stated that when the Shoreline Master program was updated in 2011, there was conversation about the sea level issue and Ruston Way. So much of the discussion that will occur through the Ruston Way Master Plan will be aligning those policies and visions for that issue along the waterfront.

Tim Reid asked about traffic counts and average car usage. There is more traffic in the summer than in winter and if there was a seasonal pilot project to determine the best traffic flow and high usage times. Ms. Terwilleger commented perhaps having different strategies for high uses and there are different time scales to look at. In 2017 there is a mix of busy times and not so busy times. Looking at 2020-2025 and the comprehensive plan and the build-out for Point Ruston, it is much more of a destination, this includes Proctor and Old Town. There will be more in-fill and growth in those areas. The implementation strategy will need to be phased.

Mr. Huffman replied that through the discussion of the vision there may be unseen or unknown opportunities on Ruston Way. Transportation during peak times, the multi-modal aspects, the sustainability aspects, and the recreational aspects need to have a balanced conversation between all the interested groups.

Catherine Ushka commented that it is very important that the entire city can access Ruston Way. The comment was made that there is traffic congestion on Ruston Way as well as Pearl Street so alternative access is really vital and important.

There was discussion on the future possibility of having ferry services and back-up parking for vehicles at a ferry landing or terminal with more piers in Tacoma.

Yvette Mason asked if one of the stakeholders was the Asia Pacific Cultural Center who has a large phase development at Point Ruston. There are theaters and commercial housing that will have significant impact along that corridor. Mr. Huffman replied that the stakeholder list will be as inclusive as possible.

## **DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

No items were discussed.

## **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Opioid Epidemic (Pierce County)

Joint Discussion Regarding Homelessness (August 11, 2017 - Quarterly Meeting)

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Opioid Epidemic (Pierce County)

Affordable Housing

Homeless Encampments (City, County Agencies, Tacoma Public Schools, Port of Tacoma)

Sub-Area Plan – Tideflats Area

Landbanking and Surplus Property Strategies Follow-Up (Jordan Rash, Forterra)

IDEA

Workforce Development

South Sound 911/Emergency Management

Continue Mental Health Conversation

Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, Drugs, etc.

Economic Development Growth and Impacts

Trades, Apprenticeships, and Regional Partnerships (Tacoma SD, Bates, City)

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 14, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Anders Ibsen adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.