

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
August 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anders Ibsen called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL-JMAC COMMITTEE

Anders Ibsen, Chair, City of Tacoma
Connie Ladenburg, Vice-Chair, Pierce County
Marty Campbell, City of Tacoma
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma
Jessie Baines, Metro Parks Tacoma
Rick Talbert, Pierce County
Clare Petrich, Port of Tacoma
Debbie Winskill, Tacoma Public Schools

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

City of Tacoma: Elizabeth Pauli, Randy Lewis
Metro Parks: Shon Sylvia, Jennifer Bowman, Hunter George
Tacoma Public Schools: Carla Santorno
Port of Tacoma: Sean Eagan


APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jessie Baines moved to approve the agenda. Tim Reid seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Reid moved to approve the minutes of July 14, 2017. Debbie Winskill seconded the motion. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

 Discussion Regarding Homelessness – City of Tacoma
City Manager, Elizabeth Pauli was present to provide information on the three-phased approach currently underway in the City to provide emergency temporary aid and sheltering. She explained that the City Council approved a plan in May funded through a one-time resource of \$3.4 million to deal with this public health emergency in Tacoma. Ms. Pauli indicated that the first phase of the plan was establishing a Temporary Mitigation Site. She commented that the site was established on May 18, 2017 at East 18th & Portland Avenue. This particular site was chosen because of its number of occupants at the encampment, its poor health and safety conditions and its proximity to other unauthorized encampments in the surrounding area. The mitigation site was all cleared and cleaned by June 30, 2017. Services including hand washing stations, temporary restrooms and mental health services were offered to individuals over a six-week period as they were moved into the second phase of the plan, Temporary Transitional Center-Stabilization Site.

Ms. Pauli noted that the approved site is located at 1423 Puyallup Avenue. She explained that this site was chosen because of its physical access to services, existing encampments and transportation options. The site also has the lowest possible impact to residents, businesses and critical areas in the city. The phase 2 site included the transition of 82 individuals into a tent within tent community on the site. In addition to shelter, other amenities provided included security, portable toilets, water, dog run, storage, and waste receptacles with regular pick up. Services offered to these individuals included screening for housing options, mental health and substance abuse services, needle exchange, transportation to shower and laundry facilities, ID/license assistance, veteran outreach, meals, dental and physical health assessments and prenatal care. Law enforcement was also present.

Several key metrics resulting from both the mitigation site and the stabilization site were then highlighted by Ms. Pauli. It was learned that 80% of the individuals need permanent housing support. It was also reported that 30% of the individuals do have some kind of income. Ms. Pauli also stated that organizers noticed that at the phase 2 stabilization site, self-managed leadership evolved with site clean-up. Neighborhood businesses in the area also got involved including a 76 Station that offered work for food program. Organizers also reported some significant law enforcement issues as there were over 100 drug related arrests. Ms. Pauli continued by stating that as a result of the effort, 100 encampments have been cleaned up with services being offered to individuals as the closures occurred. A small change in vehicle habitation has also occurred.

Ms. Pauli stated that a recommendation on the continuation of the program will be made to City Council in September. The City Council is scheduled to receive a report-out in December to justify a continuation of the state of emergency. Tim Reid inquired as to the ultimate goal of the program. Ms. Pauli commented that the goal is to find appropriate self-sustaining housing for these individuals.

Rick Talbert commended the City for taking these first steps and indicated the County also needs to be looking at solutions to its homeless problem.

Committee members inquired about the funding for this plan. Ms. Pauli noted that the \$3.4 million authorized by council was one time emergency funding.

Jessie Baines commented that the root of the homeless problem in the city is the lack of affordable housing.

Chair Anders Ibsen commented that negative childhood experiences also lead to homelessness.

Carla Santorno commented that the local community must continue to come together to solve this problem through increased community and agency coordination.

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

Shon Sylvia commented that the Construction Celebration for the new eastside community center is planned for September 23, 2017.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Safe Routes to Schools – September 8, 2017

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Office of Equity & Human Rights Presentation (City of Tacoma)
Affordable Housing

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, September 8, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anders Ibsen adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.