

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee – Quarterly Meeting
May 10, 2019
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Tacoma Municipal Building, Conference Room 248

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Andrea Smith called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE

Andrea Smith, Vice-Chair, Metro Parks Tacoma
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma
Marty Campbell, Pierce County
Enrique Leon, Tacoma Public Schools

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Metro Parks Tacoma: Joe Brady
Tacoma Public Schools: Carla Santorno, Rosalind Medina, Debbie Winskill
Port of Tacoma: Evette Mason
City of Tacoma: Elizabeth Pauli, Tadd Wille, Randy Lewis, Anita Gallagher, Denise Rakas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of March 8, 2019 be approved; passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

Legislative and CEO Updates

Carlo Santorno, Tacoma School District, stated there would be a brief overview on the budget and legislative remedies. Ms. Santorno introduced Rosalind Medina, CFO, who shared information on legislative impacts related to the levy. There was an initiative in February 2018 that allowed Tacoma Public Schools to collect \$70 million in the first year. This equates to approximately \$2,500 per student; however, it does not start until January 2020. Last year the school district also received a one-time hold harmless payment of \$12 million from the state. The school district also received a little enhancement towards special education funds.

Ms. Medina continued other legislative impacts: the 2% salary increase that the state provides funds only those individuals the state provides resources for. There are approximately 3,000 employees and the school district only receives 1,700 staffing units, so that will be an added cost. Additionally a few years ago an initiative was passed regarding really low class sizes. For kindergarten through 3rd grade the class size should be 17 to 1. For compliance in Tacoma there needs to be 45 additional teachers hired for K-3, so that is an added cost. State-run benefits will

be an added cost. Internal costs, i.e. insurance, salary and benefits, building maintenance, etc., will increase.

Joe Brady, Metro Parks Tacoma, reported that the legislature fully funded Melanie Dressel Park on Thea Foss. A park board commissioner compensation bill passed and was signed into law which raises the cap for Metro Parks. Another initiative worked on with a large coalition of folks from Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties was a portion of the sales tax from projects funded by Sound Transit 3, which over 10 years represents \$137 million for at-risk youth programming and services.

Metro Parks was able to secure funds into the state heritage grant for \$775,000 for continuing the work at Seymour Conservatory. Another project being worked on is funding to continue the work at Titlow lagoon and trying to get the rail bridge in place. Titlow lagoon represents an opportunity for near-shore salmon enhancement. The bridge is to assist with fish passage. Metro Parks Tacoma is going to be one of three finalists for the National Gold Medal. The results will be announced at the national conference in September. Metro Parks is also working on diverse equity and inclusion training for all staff. The Ruston Way Envision Our Waterfront project is wrapping up.

Evette Mason, Port of Tacoma, reported that the SR 167 acceleration plan passed. It is the Puyallup to Fife section. Another highlight was the ferry study for the region. Another project worked on with the City of Tacoma was an exemption for the auto cargo. There was an initiative started by Pierce County on the dredge disposal sites which was signed into law. Those kinds of responsibilities will fall with the state. In terms of education, the port and state were limited on workforce development. The port worked with the Youth Marine Foundation on the Foss Waterway for that project.

Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma, reported that the Model Toxics Control Act reforms were successful, including funds dedicated for storm water cleanup, not just for contaminated properties. A bill was passed that assists with negotiations and proposals related to Class A office space. There will be some new shared state revenue for affordable housing. It is flexible money and can be used for either operating costs, or construction.

The city made a capital budget request asking for \$1 million for the Beacon Center. The funds will be used to make the Beacon Center more of a permanent operation so it will be operated during the day for youth and young adults as well as the senior center. At night it will be a shelter for youth.

The city asked the state for \$110 million to help finish re-building the Puyallup River Bridge. However, nothing happened with that request. Hopefully, going forward there will be funds for the Puyallup River Bridge.

Both Tacoma and Seattle were funded at about \$1 million for the next two years in pilot programs for Department of Transportation to work with cities on cleanup of homeless encampments on state property within the city.

The legislature did fund \$1.1 million to work on the train noise issues at 6th Avenue and at 19th Street.

Elizabeth Pauli, City of Tacoma, stated about a year ago the Mayor was invited to participate in an innovation oriented program sponsored by Harvard and the Bloomberg Foundation. Forty cities around the world were invited to participate and Tacoma is one of them. Since there are forty cities all over the world, the meeting times can be inconvenient for some. The City of Tacoma's project within this program is the issue of a large number of Black residents report they do not feel safe in the city. The city is using the tools Harvard and Bloomberg are teaching to innovate ways to understand that issue better and to design a response to help introduce some equity in perceptions of safety in the community. Hopefully, at the end of the project the city will have an engagement tool that can be used with other issues as they arise in the community.

Marty Campbell, Pierce County, reported the Arlington Road project off of Portland Avenue, the youth homeless crisis center and shelter received \$800,000 capital and \$1.25 million for operating. So that will assist with addressing the homeless youth issue. In the Salishan area, there will be a 12 bed youth crisis center and a connected 30-40 unit youth housing center for transitioning out of homeless stability program. This will be a brand new building with a campus concept to eventually tie in with the programming offered at the Eastside Community Center.

Mr. Campbell continued there was a high excise tax that came through on vaping products. This will mirror vaping products with tobacco as far as lack of access for youth and price comparison. There was some funding for Canyon Road widening and extension and eventually connecting down to I-5. The county road admin board was fully funded. Unfortunately, the courts and public defenders were not fully funded.

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

Evette Mason reported that Eric Johnson has been selected as the Executive Director for the Port of Tacoma and will begin on June 10, 2019. John Wolfe will continue as Executive Director for The Northwest Seaport Alliance.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

July 12, 2019 Regular Meeting
August 9, 2019 Quarterly Meeting
September 13, 2019 Regular Meeting

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Equity Index/Indicators (City of Tacoma)
Economic Development Board Presentation (Bruce Kendall)
Advanced Metering (Tacoma Public Utilities)
Tacoma Creates (City of Tacoma and Arts Non-Profit Organization)
Economic Development Strategies and Revenue Sources (Puyallup Tribe of Indians)
Whole Child Initiative Follow-up
Child Dependency – Foster Care – Remann Hall (Connie Ladenburg w/TJ Bohl)
Community Workforce (Benefits) Agreement (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Tacoma Dome Link Light Rail Extension (Sound Transit)
Address Poverty from a Governmental Standpoint
Affordable Housing
Sub-Area Plan – Tideflats Area
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, June 14, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Andrea Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.