

**Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**  
**January 13, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Past-Chair Catherine Ushka called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. as the Chair and Vice-Chair were not yet in attendance.

**ROLL CALL-JMAC COMMITTEE**

Anders Ibsen, Vice-Chair, City of Tacoma  
Catherine Ushka, Tacoma Public Schools  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

City of Tacoma: Marty Campbell, Randy Lewis  
Metro Parks Tacoma: Hunter George, Andrew Austin, Jessie Baines  
Tacoma Public Schools: Andrea Cobb, Tonya Beattie  
Port of Tacoma:  
Pierce County: Tiffany Speir

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Catherine Ushka moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2016. Tim Reid seconded the motion. The motion was declared passed.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Election of 2017 JMAC Officers

This item is tabled until the February meeting, when all agencies can be represented.

Legislative Agenda

**Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma** presented the 2017 City of Tacoma State Summary Agenda.

Priorities that the City will be focusing on this year include homelessness. The major source of funding for this issue is the document recording fee. This surcharge is expiring in 2019 and a coalition of cities and counties has come together to try and address it this year, due to biannual budgeting issues. The coalition is asking the legislature to: remove the expiration entirely or at least push it back, and; increase the amount of the surcharge. When the surcharge is collected, 50% of it goes to the state for homeless services and the other 50% goes to the counties and distributed from there.

Mr. Lewis reported that there had been a hearing the previous day regarding a bill effecting school siting outside of the Urban Growth boundary. He stated he directed their lobbyists to sign-in as opposed to the bill. Mr. Lewis stated that the bill that was introduced this

year is not the same version of the bill that had been negotiated last year. He noted that this issue affects Tacoma Public Schools' Lincoln Tree Farm, but believes there is a solution.

**Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma** presented the Metro Parks 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda.

Priorities that Metro Parks will be focusing on include finishing the Eastside Community Center with a request for a state budget allocation of \$2.5 million as well as restoring the Titlow Park Lagoon with a request for a fully funded Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program from the state.

Additional priorities include long-range planning to rehabilitate Ruston Way including the road, sea wall and stormwater systems. Focus will also be on the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park in regards to funding of the anti-wildlife trafficking initiatives, Initiative 1401.

**Tiffany Speir, Pierce County** presented the Pierce County 2017 Legislative Priorities.

Priorities that Pierce County will be focusing on include continuing homeless housing and services with the document recording fee. Reverting the fee to its original \$10 will result in a \$1.5 - \$4 million loss per year to the county, significantly impacting the ability to address homelessness.

The county will also focus on an Urban Annexation bill in addition to mandatory Solid Waste Collection in urban areas. The county supports increased funding for the State Criminal Justice Commission and the re-creation of the Public Safety Enhancement Account. The county recognizes that there is a significant need to increase the capacity at law enforcement academy.

Ms. Speir also noted that Pierce County is supporting legislative action that would reestablish the ability for counties to rely on state agency rules and determinations regarding water availability, both legally and physically, in basins and WRIA's, as well as legislative action that fully fund the Parents Representation Program for representation of indigent parents in custody restoration and termination proceedings.

**Port of Tacoma** was not represented at the meeting but their 2017 State Legislative Agenda was provided as a handout.

**Catherine Ushka, Tacoma Public Schools** presented the 2017 Legislative Agenda.

Priorities the district will be focusing on this year include the Levy Cliff, which is the reduction in how much money school districts can collect through local property tax levies. District officials say they need the Legislature to either fix the way the state funds education or else delay the planned reduction in local levy authority that threatens to cut millions from school district budgets in the 2017-18 school year, including \$7 million from Tacoma Public Schools annual budget.

The school district is also focusing on funding for Career and Technical Education as well a multitude of enrichment and certification programs so that students graduate with many options available to them.

Randy Lewis remarked that the city also shares the goal of getting K-12 education fully funded, not at the expense of all other services and needs of the state, but with new revenue sources.

Members discussed the importance of acknowledging and promoting the working partnerships that these agencies have together when attending meetings and conferences outside of the state. Ms. Ushka suggested that the agency Legislative Representatives would do well to speak to state legislators as a group rather than only individually.

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

Ms. Ushka noted that the Tacoma Public Schools Science and Math Institute (SAMI) / Environmental Learning Center will be opening the fall of 2017.

Ms. Ushka noted that the Greater Metro Parks Foundation Luncheon is coming up and she invited guests to the table she is hosting.

Mr. Baines remarked that it would be beneficial to all agencies to increase the 1% cap on property tax.

#### **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Quarterly Meeting – CEO Updates  
Officer Elections  
Pierce Transit Presentation (Susan Dreier, CEO)

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates Technical College and City of Tacoma)

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building. Minutes for February to be taken by Tacoma Public Schools.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Anders Ibsen adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.