

**Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
November 8, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.  
Tacoma Municipal Building, Conference Room 248

Chair Petrich thanked Denise Rakas for her work on the Joint Municipal Action Committee and stated that this was Denise’s last meeting. There was a round of applause.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Joint Municipal Action Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chair Petrich.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Clare Petrich, Chair, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma  
Marty Campbell, Pierce County Council, District No. 5  
Andrea Smith, Vice-Chair, Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

Evette Mason, Government Affairs Manager, Port of Tacoma  
Mark Williams, Councilmember Assistant, Pierce County Council, District No. 5  
Tadd Wille Deputy City Manager, City of Tacoma  
Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Port of Tacoma  
Carla Santorno, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools  
Debbie Winskill, Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors  
Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, City of Tacoma  
Shon Sylvia, Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved that the minutes of September 13, 2019 as amended and October 11, 2019, be approved; motion seconded and passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEMS –**

**Draft Legislative Work Proposals**

Presenter: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, City of Tacoma

Ms. Pauli provided a summary of the Draft Legislative Priorities for the City of Tacoma to the JMAC Committee. The list was developed by input from the Tacoma City Council, and is scheduled for approval on December 10th. This is saying that all items on the list are of high importance. The newer area of interest is the Northwest ICE Processing Center and an Integration Policy. The Council is trying to be responsive to concerns about the conditions at the Northwest ICE Processing Center, but because the Center is a Federal facility, the Council is struggling with what role they will play. However, the Council is currently interested in the health and safety aspects of the facility and will eventually look at how to be involved in a regulatory

manner.

Tim Reid asked about the passage of the Eyman Initiative and the impacts involved.

Elizabeth Pauli (continued)

Passage of the Eyman Initiative will affect the City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma. The loss to the City of Tacoma is approximately \$2.5 million a year that would have been earmarked for transportation projects. The staff is currently working on compiling a list of projects that will not be completed due to the loss of funding based on the passage of I-976.

Mr. Johnson made a comment on clean fuel standards (low carbon fuels). The Port of Tacoma does not have a stand on low carbon fuels. He commented on the clean fuel standards and how they would be achieved. The practical effect of this is to increase the price of gasoline by .25 to .50 cents per gallon. If that big of a price spike were to happen the ability to fund transportation projects with another transportation revenue package are effectively ended. Because that money is not a tax, it is more expensive fuel. People say they like the carbon fuel standards and they want money for transportation projects, but I don't know how we can achieve both.

Marty Campbell, Pierce County

The Council has not finalized their legislative priorities, but about issues that may make it onto the list. Affordable Housing is high on the list and we have a list of building incentives, but over the past 10 years we have only had four affordable housing projects built by missionary builders whose focus is affordable housing. The homelessness issue, the County needs to do a better job and put efforts into a regional role. Kudos to Tacoma for taking the lead in doing some amazing things in relation to homelessness. Mental health and how to address the need. Our biggest legislative priority is no more unfunded mandates from the state. Transportation is going to be tough with the passage of the Eyman Initiative. There is a focus to continue the trail connectivity across Pierce County. We are working with Pierce Transit on how to expand the service areas and provide transit services to some area that opted out in the past. There is interest in looking at electric airplanes and electric buses. The rebuilding of culverts is of importance and a way to get fish back up stream.

Carla Santorno, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools

Ms. Santorno provided a summary of the Draft Legislative Priorities for the Tacoma Public Schools to the Committee. Ms. Santorno reviewed the four critical District issues for Tacoma Public Schools and issues of high concern. The Legislature does not have a huge appetite for funding for education since the McCleary case has drug on. The focus has shifted to the need for health and human services and this is a common goal and community based. The prototypical school model on which the state provides funding does not adequately provide overall support to help all students. The prototypical guidelines state that for every 30,000 students you need two nurses, for the Tacoma Public Schools we need 26 nurses. The guidelines also state that for every 38,000 students you need one psychologist. Tacoma public schools needs 26 psychologists. Under current guidelines we are allocated .8 for the Tacoma public school student population. Tacoma public schools would like an increase in state funding for the actual costs for the mandated special education services. There is a state wide requirement for teachers to sign up for the new School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance. Increase funding to fully fund the incremental costs of benefits for full and part-time employees. Teachers are required to sign up

for the new insurance program, SEBB.

#### Four Critical District Issues

1. Health & Human Services Support for the Whole Child
2. Prototypical School Model Funding Modifications
3. Special Education Fully Funded by the State
4. School Employee Benefits Board

#### Issues of High Concern

1. Simple majority for construction bonds to offer smaller class sizes, safer schools
2. Early Learning Funding
3. School Construction Formula Modifications

Eric Johnson, Port of Tacoma

Mr. Johnson provided a summary of the Port of Tacoma's draft legislative priorities. The Port of Tacoma is looking at transportation and environmental issues. We receive remedial action grants to clean up contaminated properties on the tide flats and are seeking \$3.8 million in grants to clean up the following properties: The early Business Center, 721 Alexander Avenue Property, and Portac property. The State Route 167 completion continues to be on our list of priorities for completion. We are addressing the \$110 million shortfall in the Puget Sound Gateway program. There are concerns about the lack of funding because of the passage of Eyman Initiative.

Evette Mason stated the \$110 million shortfall was based on inflation which was not taken into consideration.

Eric Johnson (continued)

We are requesting a redirect of \$1.1 million capital budget appropriation for a clean truck program to a shore power infrastructure investment at Husky Container Terminal that are located at the end of the Blair Peninsula. This will allow large ships to be hooked up to power while they are there. Increasing the small works roster limit is a Public Works construction issue. The port supports efforts to look at greenhouse gas limits. We are looking at what constitutes "significant" greenhouse gas emissions from projects and how developers might mitigate for emissions under SEPA. There is no guidance and we are supportive of having the state develop some rules so we can apply this in a consistent manner.

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma

We have been working with staff and came up with four themes. 1) Parks and Recreation funding overall. Our state association WRPA (Washington State Parks Association) is looking at a .1% sales tax increase. In addition, we are looking at key initiatives with the Health Department, public health district, the next generation, bicycle and pedestrian grants, safe routes to schools, and complete streets. 2) Homelessness and what the City of Tacoma is doing, local housing trust funds and modifying some real estate excise taxes. 3) Youth education and programming, we are looking at special education and special recreation programming, no child left inside grant program, which includes safe active transportation network. We are working with the City on recreation and safe transportation networks. 4) Environmental Conservation Health and Safety. This has to do with the zoo and the aquarium and the Washington State Save Our Sound efforts. Once finalized we will get this list out to JMAC.

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

Clare Petrich – Five governments, City of Fife, Pierce County, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, City of Tacoma, and the Port of Tacoma all met to discuss the Sub Area Plan.

Eric Johnson – The Port of Tacoma is looking at a Strategic Plan and are planning on hiring a consultant to complete the work which will begin in January 2020.

Elizabeth Pauli – The City of Tacoma and Metro Parks continue to look at the homeless encampments in our parks and are looking at finding alternatives for these individuals. We are looking at finding alternate housing for those living in People's Park. The Council entered into a contract with Associated Ministries to discuss issues surrounding the homelessness issue. We are trying to have some options available to the Council by the end of November.

## **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The legislative agenda topic is proposed for December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Sound Transit apprenticeships (get representatives from schools to attend this meeting)

Legislative Agenda (December)

Mapping Tool Policy Discussion (City of Tacoma)

Mapping Tool Update

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

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, December 13, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.