

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
July 10, 2020
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Remote meeting via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andrea Smith called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE

Andrea Smith, Chair, Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma
Andrea Cobb, JMAC Vice-Chair/ Board Member, Tacoma Public Schools
Elizabeth Bonbright, Board Member, Tacoma Public Schools
Tim Reid, Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma
Marty Campbell, Council Member, Pierce County
Keith Blocker, Deputy Mayor, City of Tacoma
Kristina Walker, Council Member, City of Tacoma
Deanna Keller, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma
Dr. Josh Garcia, Assistant Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools
Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, City of Tacoma
Joe Brady, Chief Strategy Officer, Metro Parks Tacoma
Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager/Policy Development, City of Tacoma
Chrisy Vindivich, Office Manager, Community and Economic Development, City of Tacoma
Evette Mason, Government Affairs Manager, Port of Tacoma
Ken Farmer, Pierce County Office of Disaster Recovery
Sally Perkins, Community Member
Jeff Robinson, Director, Pierce County Community and Economic Development
Jennifer Bowman, Executive Administration, Metro Parks Tacoma

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 June 12, 2020 be approved; passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

Report Back on Actions Taken Since June JMAC Meeting

Commissioner Andrea Smith opened the meeting by commenting that at the July 14th Park Board Meeting the Board will consider a resolution acknowledging that racism exists within parks and recreation. The resolution outlines actions to be taken to reform these inequities and

seek opportunities to create meaningful partnerships in this work with other community organizations and allies.

Commissioner Deanna Keller commented that the Port of Tacoma is continuing its work on its strategic plan development. Commissioner Keller highlighted the remote ways the Port is engaging in community comment and input on the plan during COVID.

Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker reported that the City of Tacoma has worked with over 300 people by providing funding to keep them in their homes during these uncertain times. Deputy Mayor Blocker also informed the committee that there has been work done in the area of police reform including conversations about body cams. In addition, the Council has passed two resolutions addressing race & racism. He noted that one of the resolutions highlights short-term goals related to police transformation. The second resolution deals with the inequities of black owned business in Tacoma that sell cannabis.

Council Member Kristina Walker commented that since last month that the City is implementing methods and systems to address racism through its budget process outreach. Council Member Walker commented that the City Council has proclaimed July as Pride Month. She also noted that there has been some code changes related to mobility, as the council has repeals the helmet law for non-motorized transportation.

Dr. Ken Farmer representing Pierce County stated that the county continues to address racism through CARES funding allocation in the areas of housing sustainability and small business relief to minority owned business. Dr. Farmer also commented that the county is also engaging in deliberate outreach as it relates to COVID contact tracing in minority communities.

Council Member Campbell inquired as to how many individuals are being served and requested a report on those numbers.

Dr. Farmer also informed the committee that many of the loans given by the County to businesses to address COVID safety related issues have now been converted to grants. He also reported the TPCHD has continued to distribute PPE throughout the county.

Council Member Marty Campbell commented that recently passed a resolution instructing all county departments to conduct a bias study. Additionally, a second resolution related to police body cams was considered but voted down by the council.

School Board Member Andrea Cobb commented that the School District is refining its goals and bench marks of its strategic plan, noting the plan is to be completed prior to the start of the school year. Board Member Cobb also reported that District is reevaluating its relationship with the Tacoma Police Department. She also noted that the District is reviewing requests for name changes of schools in the District including Wilson High School and Jason Lee Middle School; school principals will be leading the renaming process. Board Member Cobb highlighted the fact that the District has been working on balanced school reopening decisions amongst COVID concerns.

Tacoma School District Board Member Elizabeth Bonbright reported that the School District is in the second year of their 2-year budget cycle. She noted the robust outreach and participation from the community relative to the District's strategic plan, which will address equity issues in the District. Board Member Bonbright shared that School Board President Scott Heinze has resigned from the Board effective July 31st. It was noted that the Board will have 90 days to appoint someone to fill his position.

Dr. Josh Garcia representing Tacoma Public Schools commented that the District is now considering final recommendations for a return to school this fall. He commented on the great response the District has had with its recent survey. Dr. Garcia stated that the surveys indicate that about 80% of families plan to send their students back to school. Dr. Garcia continued by stating that at this point the District is planning an approach to the school year that includes a combination of in-person and remote instruction. Dr. Garcia highlighted the fact that students and families will also have the option of complete on-line instruction as well. The committee was informed that District continues to address technology needs for students including computers and Internet access.

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director of Metro Parks Tacoma commented that the District is committed to ensuring equity and social justice through its upcoming budget process. He noted that the District is working with the City of Tacoma to better align services to find efficiencies. Mr. Sylvia commented that the Park District is continuing to open more parks and amenities this week.

Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager stated that the City continues to work on budget issues. He noted that the City has been able to close a \$40M budget gap for 2020 and will continue to address the projected budget shortfall for the next biennium. Mr. Wille reported that all City departments have been instructed to put together a race & equity action plan.

Port Commissioner Deanna Keller spoke about the decrease in movement of containers since COVID. Commissioner Keller also reported that some long shore jobs have been affected. The Port is reporting a shift to container shipping to east coast ports over the west coast at this time.

Joe Brady, Chief Strategy Officer for Metro Parks Tacoma briefly reviewed a couple of slides summarizing the State's economic forecast. The forecast noted the country's economic recession as well as state revenue shortfalls related to tax collection.

Discussion amongst committee members, led by Council Member Walker, ensued around the need for agencies at the table to work together to align services and break down silos for the good of the community. Council Member Walker encouraged staff to work together on community outreach as agency budgets are being developed.

Committee members agreed that the August agenda will be focused on budget & planning with an emphasis on common goals and a unified pathway moving forward.

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

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

August 14, 2020 Regular Meeting – Budget/Planning with an Emphasis on Common Goals

September 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

October 9, 2020 Quarterly Meeting

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 14, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. via remote call in on ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Andrea Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.