**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

**Quarterly Meetings with Executives**

Friday, November 19, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools

Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma

Jessie Baines, Metro Parks Tacoma

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma

Marty Campbell, Pierce County

Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma Commissioner

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Elizabeth Pauli, City of Tacoma

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma

# **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Brittany Carbullido, Pierce Transit

Bucoda Warren, City of Tacoma

Carrie Holden, Boys and Girls Club

Chelsea Talbert, Pierce County

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Deanne Jacobson, Pierce Transit

Evan Koepfler, Pierce County

Evan Smith, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Hunter George, Metro Parks

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Joseph Sterling, Rainforest Strategies

Mandy Lee, United Way Pierce County

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Renee Meschi, Pierce Transit

Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Suzanne Pak, Korean Women’s Association

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted as is; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the meetings of Sept 10, 2021 and October 15, 2021 be approved, both passed unanimously as is.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Report on the Summit of 60**

Chair Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools, gave a summary of how we got to the Summit of 60. In January 2021, we began working on a JMAC “reboot” with our consultant, Joe Sterling, Rainforest Strategies, and we dived deep into the work – defining our work around three strategic themes: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI); Health & Safety; and Community Wealth Building. The rest of year was spent building our asset map aligned with our three strategic themes and figuring out how our 8 governmental entities could effectively work together for the collective community benefit. Very exciting to get to the Summit of 60. It was impactful in terms of how we do our work and how we move forward. This was new to the community. They received the invitation letter, but it did not adequately prepare the community members for the Summit agenda and process.

Immediately following the Summit of 60, Vice Chair Kristina Walker, Staff Hunter George, and I personally reached out to each of the Summit participants to debrief the experience and listen to their input. Some of the themes that were heard, and impressions included:

* Our need to be crystal clear about what JMAC is, what are its goals, and how does it operate.
* The public needs to know JMAC exists.
* JMAC comes in at 30,000 feet, but the community is on the ground doing the work.
* How do we make the community’s work more effective to make our work more effective?
* Needs and priorities vary dramatically around the community based on significant factors such as: geography, socio-economic wellbeing, cultural and linguistic differences.
* JMAC must commit to and support initiatives regardless of who is sitting in the elected leadership seats on JMAC. We must think about establishing strong infrastructure and policies so this work lives on.
* Trust building is critical.
* We should overlay the 211-service list with JMAC asset map to look for duplication or gaps in service.
* The community is ready to move forward with action.

**Opened for JMAC members to report on the Summit of 60:**

Councilmember Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma: We haven’t talked to everyone yet, but intention is to have one-on-one conversations. There were reflections of frustrations between people doing the work and the policy makers. There was enthusiasm going forward and making the bridge happen between policy and day-to-day work. A lot of conversation about holding us accountable to actions. Several people are willing to circle back and do listening sessions. There is a ton of work to do in each of the three categories. What are we going to be able to show that we dug in on? The real goal is connection between the “on-the-ground” work and policy to show we are listening. One-on-one conversations were very helpful.

Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma: Glad to hear we circled back with folks. Felt it was a great opportunity to connect with community. There is a disconnect with community perception. There is a gap between elected officials and communities. We are from your community as elected officials and we care. Felt the disconnect with community about what JMAC was. Accountability, that’s a great starting point for us to synthesize and use as a roadmap. Kudos to everyone. Very classy event.

Commissioner Jessie Baines, Metro Parks: Learned a lot. Along with the community, I struggled to understand next steps. What policies can we create? Our job is to provide specific ideas for how we can address the issues. Discussion was great and the community enjoyed being able to voice concerns. It’s in bridging this work is where the hard work will be.

Commissioner Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma: The hard work is where we go from here to adjust our policies. We work collaboratively, but there are still gaps and times when things happen, and we find out about it after the fact. We need to be ahead of that.

Commissioner Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma: Did we miss something? Did we cast the net wide enough? Is there a gap in there that we need to fill to get more information, so we continue to improve? Will the community feel like they were left out? As for the event overall, I enjoyed the heck out of it.

Councilmember Marty Campbell, Pierce County: Unable to attend due to County budget process. Thankful for work and leadership. Acknowledged Elizabeth’s work in bringing this forward. Wrap up was well prepared.

**Discussion with Chief Executives on their Summit of 60 Report perspectives:**

* + Elizabeth Pauli, City of Tacoma: Was in and out of the Summit. This group is uniquely situated to look at these issues and restore trust in government. The loudest, clearest message is that we talk a different language, and there’s always something missing. Need to define gaps in trust. We need to acknowledge that we know we are responsible for that. Other things flow from there.
	+ Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit: Read the report and would like to focus on some of the actions Pierce Transit can take. Pierce Transit’s planning department can work on sharing infrastructure and resources. We need help getting a better understanding of challenges. People said they didn’t have access to the outreach. Pierce Transit has bus passes available, and people need to know that. Improving the concept for resources. Working with Tacoma and Pierce County on BRT. With policing contract, looking at putting in an option for mental health resources. Talked with Metro Parks about sharing ambassadors at locations so they can have growing projects there. With equity, just joined a pilot project by American Public Transit Association- 2-year pilot to come up with best practices. What amenities can be placed at bus stops?
	+ Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma: We heard that the community is already doing the work, so we need to recognize that. How can we prove we are listening and walking the talk? If things don’t change, mistrust with continue. Other themes are: Progress vs. Perfection; Action vs. Conversation; Big anchors have big roles and responsibilities. How can we be more reflective? How are we improving concepts, alignment? If we go to themes we identify, how do we work with the community with policy and implementation?
	+ Superintendent Josh Garcia: Doesn’t disagree with comments. Would offer alternatives as well. It’s important to demystify JMAC roles and responsibilities. We are all representatives of our communities, and we need to ask something to build trust. This was good for listening. It was not an exchange of ideas. The different institutions had opportunities to say what they are doing and what’s working. The staff that work in our institutions are all members of the community. We are community, and we need to unpack that so we can build trust. If the purpose is to align efforts, then maybe we can see how we are influencing. Concerned that we quickly jumped to action which fostered distrust.
	+ Chair Elizabeth: JMAC is a form of shorthand collaboration, but JMAC on its own can’t pass policy, each of our entities can pass policies. Next JMAC meeting in December we will be discussing a workplan. We must make sure we are clear about who we are and what we each can accomplish.
	+ Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department: Agree with comments, love the overarching theme of building trust. JMAC must enter this intentionally and thoughtfully. The community challenged JMAC and the agencies that make up JMAC. The challenge is taking on the three priority areas and doing it in a way that builds trust. Co-design policy, participatory approaches, community-driven policy. We have a couple of new staff on this call, like Evan Smith, who joined as shared position to focus on policy and government relations. Have had great success with Councilmember Mello’s work around Community Land Trust. Renee Meschi joined from Conversation District which Tacoma is funding. We invite partners from JMAC to share how they are doing community engagement work.
	+ Commissioner Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma: With developing community trust, it might be a good idea to reach out to local universities to see if there is some interest in having some BIPOC students intern with speech writing, be at events, understand the working of local governments. People are running for office and don’t understand the role of the office. Each person here could have a younger person to mentor them which was an idea Councilmember Campbell brought up previously.
	+ Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools: Community has said- don’t just ask us for our feedback, incorporate us into the work. Can we financially sponsor apprenticeship to build economic wealth?
	+ Councilmember Walker echoed making sure no intern position is unpaid.
	+ Chair Elizabeth advocated for having students on board or sharing positions.
	+ Chelsea Talbert, Pierce County Council: We need to make sure each of our organizations are focused on incorporating justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion so that our entities do not continue to perpetuate harm, racism, white supremacy.
	+ Chair Elizabeth Bonbright agreed and said to make sure we focus on equity, build common language.
	+ Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools: Would folks like to get connected with Degrees of Change. Also, when we bring in youth, we need to have supports in place while people are dealing with microaggressions. Is now the right time to get connected with Degrees of change?
	+ Chair Elizabeth asked Superintendent Garcia to share the details of the Degrees of Change opportunities, and we will share out to the full list.
	+ Commissioner Jessie Baines, Metro Parks Tacoma: Jessie flagged that we need to build community trust and that we must work with the communities. How do we tell stories of success? It’s the community members that make this work. Specialized recreation and summer programs. If we show how they work, we can help build trust. Let’s take a policy and then bring it to the community and get their input and then adjust. In politics, especially with disenfranchised communities, folks get left out because it’s only the folks already engaged who get asked.
	+ Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma: Echo what Jessie has said. Port does a lot of environmental work that folks don’t know about. What are we going to do to share what we do for the community? We do a lot, but we do not tell the story. This is a great opportunity to think about how we share with our community. We need to make sure everyone can access these resources.
	+ Elizabeth: We must figure out how to get the word out about what we do as a collective, not just as our individual entities.
	+ Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma: Enlightening to talk with the community. The lack of trust all around is something that staff and elected officials are going to have to work on. It makes our jobs hard.

**Opened for anyone to provide feedback on Summit of 60:**

* + Mandy Lee, United Way of Pierce County: Assists 8 nonprofits with the Centers for Strong Families. One thing I want to talk about is the word community. We need to have common language and when we use the term community, we need to have a clear definition. Someone mentioned operating from a 30,000-foot view, and when you are using the term community, you are also using it from that viewpoint. We must remember community has multiple definitions which also includes the smaller groups within the Tacoma boundaries that have shared experiences with the hardships and prosperity. One of the issues we keep coming up against is that people who aren’t in JMAC don’t know about JMAC. We know that you are members of the community. As a minority, when I think of community, I think of my smaller group of people who are going through the same disparities, facing the same problems, the same hardships that I am facing. Participants including myself didn’t understand how we were supposed to represent our entities. We end up being monoliths for our communities. For example, with Suzanne, there is a burden placed on her represent many identities. We are pushing everyone into the definition of community. When we approach community from that broad definition, we are not celebrating or addressing the historical and cultural impacts and differences. We need to be clear on what the definition of community is and the shared language we want to use, so we can be a community of belonging.
	+ Suzanne Pak, Korean Women’s Association: Agreed with Mandy. Even though I am involved, I did not know that JMAC existed and is working on equity and thinking about community wealth. Glad to see community wealth come up as a topic and ask what it means. It doesn’t have to mean one thing. Can we create some pilots from that? This opened my eyes for how I can be more representative and inclusive in my work? I have so many intersection identities. Sara Irish said there are many in Pierce County who aren’t involved due to language barriers and not speaking English. Working with the Health Department to brainstorm with participatory budgeting to provide stipends to churches that have limited English speaking organization. Churches do a lot of this work for free. It is hard for our organizations to give money. We take for granted the free labor from churches.
	+ Elizabeth highlighted that we should define what we mean when we use the term “community”.
	+ Jessie Baines, Metro Parks Tacoma: Thank you. It’s going to take time. This is difficult work. It’s with great leaders that are willing to take on this work.

**Other issues for the Good of the Order”**

* Elizabeth Bonbright: Next meeting is Dec 10th from 8 – 9:30 a.m. We will talk about the JMAC structure and discuss our work plan for 2022. Great work on the report. Now focused on engaging with our community in the work. Thank you to Joe Sterling, who was instrumental in providing JMAC with the path to find our foundational structure and purpose. Now we are going to figure out how to get this message to the community.
* Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma: Reminded folks that the summit report is very long, but it is a copy of the work. Everything is reflected in there. Page 8 has a smaller version. It’s worth looking at.
* Joseph Sterling, Rainforest: It’s been a pleasure to work with everyone. The instructions for every activity done at the summit is in the report. You can replay/repeat the activities yourself. On the asset map website, every document has instructions, so you don’t need to wait for a consultant to help you. You can drive this work forward together.
* The full **Summit of 60 Report** can be accessed via this [link](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/drive.google.com/file/d/1riTlN2WR1iYrFNN_l6VfLazNhm9LbCeI/view__;!!CRCbkf1f!H4-pTWCGE_OWDkzftQrBGxxMKMn035f4XC99062SfnwIyRCZk2LfL88UOYutl0_OMRzNOo8$).

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2021, 8 to 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNED:**

Chair Bonbright adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

 *\* Minutes taken by Pierce County: Chelsea Talbert*