

Minutes

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Friday, February 10, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Virtual: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 840 6488 6981

In-person: 747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conf. Room 248

CALL TO ORDER

JMAC Chair Kristina Walker called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE

Kristina Walker, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit
Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma
Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma
Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools
Marty Campbell, Pierce County + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.
Kiara Daniels, City of Tacoma + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.
Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma
Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma
Bill Sterud, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Josh Garcia, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools
Mike Griffus, CEO, Pierce Transit
Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, City of Tacoma

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma
Debbie Russell, Metro Parks Tacoma
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma
Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma
Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma
Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma
Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma
Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma
Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma
Deborah Trevorrow, City of Tacoma
Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma
Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit
Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma
Alisa Praskovich, Port of Tacoma
Esmerelda Paredes, Port of Tacoma
Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools
Amy Cruver, Pierce County
William Bridges, Pierce County
Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County
Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County Library
Nora Flemming de Sandoval, Safe Streets
Sally Perkins, Community member
Michael Lindsay, 2nd LD

INTRODUCTION

Chair Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the elected officials from non-JMAC organizations who are in attendance today.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Walker read the tribal land acknowledgement for the City of Tacoma.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of January 13, 2023, be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION:

Chair Walker recapped the great discussion held at the January meeting which included feedback on our work surrounding several JEDI topics, public health and safety and community wealth building. We had a great conversation about issues that are carrying over from 2022 as well as ideas for new areas to explore. JMAC is maintaining a list of future agenda topics (listed on agenda).

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVES:

Chair Walker shared that this quarterly report-out from Executives pertains to the current, ambitious legislative session. We are asking the agency leaders to share a few key bills that you would like help from some or all JMAC members in supporting, opposing, or amending.

Elizabeth Pauli, City of Tacoma started the discussion sharing that the City of Tacoma is tracking and supporting over 215 bills with a fair number around housing, far more than in past sessions. The City of Tacoma has positioned itself as a progressive leader in the State to increase affordable housing, and we support the overarching policy behind the bills, but many of them do not go as far as the City standard and may not align with some of the good work the City has already done, and the bills may negate those efforts. Our ask is for the legislators to work with us to ensure that the work the City and community has already done for equitable housing access can continue and isn't intentionally undone by the passing of these bills.

House Bill 1474 and Senate Bill 5496 were called out as Housing bills that the City is watching with interest.

House Bill 1628 pertaining to REET funding for Housing construction is also of interest as a revenue option.

Senate Bill 5618 for raising local property tax revenue growth limit is important to all of us.

Senate Bill 5245 deals with the transportation of biosolids that may dramatically impact the City of Tacoma's Tagro operations. We would love support for an amendment to the bill that would essentially save our Tagro operations.

Other bills that the City would like your support include House Bill 1631/Senate Bill 5606 which will deter illegal street racing. Senate Bill 5606 had a scheduled public hearing. We are also working with other municipalities on this bill.

Capital funding requests include a \$2 million ask to remodel the Pierce County Main Public library to expand services and dedicated spaces for non-profits, a \$24 million collaboration with 10 other minor league baseball stadiums to upgrade existing stadiums to be in alignment with improvement requirements for minor league baseball, funding to relocate and upgrade Firehouse 7 located in South Tacoma which is currently a shared library facility, and \$4 million Capital budget ask for the phase 2 planning and design of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge.

Cindan Gizzi, Pierce County Health Department asked City Manager Pauli who at the City they should collaborate with learn more about the Housing bills and their impacts.

Elizabeth Pauli recommended staff reach out to Sonja Hallum who is the Government Relations Officer. She can be reached at shallum@cityoftacoma.org.

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools recommended that the government relations staff from all agencies should collaborate on a common thread for communication and know that they have our leadership/JMAC endorsement. The Executives can flag the items that would be of interest.

JMAC Chair Walker and Hunter George confirmed that there is currently an email thread with all government relations staff, and the bill numbers we discuss today will be shared with them.

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools shared that there are hundreds of education bills they are watching, but one he wants to highlight is a partnership with South Puget Sound Maritime Skills Center (\$12 million) and the Port of Tacoma. This project includes workforce development across maritime professions with regional, state, and global impact to maximize partnerships and support partner engagement beyond high school learner access. It also increases awareness and equitable access to demographics that represent our diverse labor market. This is a community wide effort that supports JMAC's JEDI focus.

President Deanna Keller thanked Josh Garcia for the work he is doing in collaboration with the Port. She mentioned that the Peninsula School District Superintendent is very interested in this as well.

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools confirmed that they are including everyone, and he also thanked Commissioner Keller for her advocacy on the effort.

Alisa Praskovich, Port of Tacoma shared on behalf of CEO Eric Johnson. Alisa discussed the Port of Tacoma's advocacy of the Maritime 253 Skills Center, as well as the State Route 167 completion, plus providing a letter of support for the Fishing Wars Bridge. She also discussed the WA2WA Conference in DC, as well as several transportation and environmental focused bills that Sean Eagan is monitoring. The Port is focused on the Earley Business Center master planning and redevelopment efforts that are underway. One major initiative for the Port is a Workforce Development Strategic plan (RFP closing on 3/3/23). Lastly, she highlighted the summer intern program at the Port. Alisa confirmed that she will check on the age of students that the internship is targeting.

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools recommended that Alisa look into Degrees of Change for support on the internship program.

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma took a moment to officially introduce Alisa Praskovich, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Commission Relations as she is new to the Port of Tacoma.

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit shared that they have been contracting with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department over the past 10 years, but due to staffing shortages, they are down to 2 officers total to support transit operations. Therefore, the Port has two public safety initiatives (HB 1198 and SB 5402) in Olympia right now to address this. One initiative would allow the Port to hire their own limited police department. Alex Mather is the contact for your support of this bill. If this bill does not move forward, Pierce Transit will request funding to conduct a study to evaluate the need to commission a limited authority for a law enforcement agency to support our transit system during emergencies. Pierce Transit is also seeking \$250,000 to support a Public Safety Officer/Behavior Health Specialist Co-Responder Program to address mental health needs at the transit facilities and buses.

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, presented on their 2023 legislative priorities that focus on revitalizing the public health system specifically to prepare for the next emerging diseases, keeping children

and families healthy and safe, and supporting governmental public health data to better understand the public health issues. This is a multi-year effort from 2023 – 2025 coordinated with many local health jurisdictions. They are also requesting funding to help reduce chronic disease with the Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations project. Lastly, the Health Department is promoting system changes to remove barriers to government contracts, connect youth pipelines to careers, early childhood development, ending homelessness, and promoting climate justice. The Health Dept uses a SharePoint tracker internally to manage legislative issues.

Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools thanked the staff at the Health Department for their efforts in seeking funding to advance public health, and she appreciates the systemic approach to address the needs of the communities who need more support in these areas. This aligns with all the JMAC JEDI work.

Hunter George, Metro Parks shared the bills that Metro Parks is tracking. SB 5095 and HB 1718 would create “Parks Rx” health and wellness pilot programs to recommend implementation identified from the previous task force. HB 1670 and SB 5618 would raise the limit factor for property taxes to track CPI with a 3% cap. Unfortunately, this bill does not have bipartisan support. Lastly, HB 1753 which would cut the amount of time to wait before removing derelict vessels from 30 to 15 days. Some capital funding requests in process are for the Titlow Bridge replacement, as well as new Portland Ave Park sprayground/restroom, and the Dash Point Pier repair/renovation.

Marty Campbell, Pierce County shared that many of bills already addressed today are also being tracked by Pierce County.

Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma mentioned that there was an early budget action item in regard to our food banks since the federal allotment to support Washington State services ends in February 2023. It is HB 1784.

Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma asked if there is a list of bills that are in jeopardy of not passing or making the cut off to gain more advocacy. The answer was that a list does not exist, but if your bill needs assistance, please reach out to your elected officials.

JMAC Chair Walker mentioned The Tacoma to Puyallup Trail Connection project that connects to SR 167 and ends at the Fishing Wars Bridge. They are looking for more funding to finish this project, and they are very close. She also thanked everyone for their work on all these legislative items.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS

JMAC Chair Walker asked the Chief Executives and elected leaders about the status of discussions around how to increase youth violence prevention initiatives. There was early asset mapping that included community safety, and JMAC may be able to revitalize and repopulate this tool to use going forward. She asked for thoughts, ideas, and direction to decrease youth violence.

Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools suggested JMAC dig deeper into the asset mapping tool so we don't reinvent the wheel. Focus on prevention, mental health is key. We need to also align with the Tacoma Police Chief's plan for prevention of violent crime. Perhaps we can speak about this next month and incorporate the Whole Child aspect of this issue, and it is critical that we use the same language for the community approach to reduce youth violence.

Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools is working on how to contribute to the conversation of reducing youth violence. The group, The Narrative Changers, was started to assist young people in standing up to bullying in schools from the start. This is mainly focused at the middle school level. They are hosting events around the city to share this information. These events include activities that youth are already interested in (like sports), and they use this opportunity while they have the youth in attendance to change the narrative in our communities.

The Narrative Changers are always looking for more staff to commit to this effort. Please contact Korey Strozier for more information.

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools shared that the Health Department is working on identifying a framework around reducing youth violence. After a high-level look, TPS is aligning their work and identifying some gaps. The framework categorizes common themes by community members and organizations and includes their associated risk level. This helps us identify the areas that we are not focused on, but perhaps we should be going forward, and how might this be funded and resourced. Josh Garcia strongly recommends that we use this information from our community partners to collaborate on these efforts and implement recommendations now and not later.

Chair Walker suggested that we bring this back to the next meeting and dive a lot deeper on the subject.

Kiara Daniels, City of Tacoma agreed that there is a lot of work occurring across agencies but mentioned that the scope may be too broad for the actions we need to take. There should be more specifics on the next steps, so we know where to focus. We need to understand what is missing using the data we have, but also what data is not currently available.

STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATES-

Hunter George gave a shout out to Pierce County. Metro Parks has been using an equity lens tool with some success. However, Metro Parks staff were trained on Pierce County's Equity Note, and the brainstorming sessions for Metro Parks were much more productive after they had the training from the County.

Hunter also reviewed the agenda topics scheduled for future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Walker called for public comment. No comments were provided.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC

JMAC Chair Walker shared that the State of the City event hosted by Mayor Woodards will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Mount Tahoma High School.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Friday, March 10th, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**Minutes taken by City of Tacoma*