**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, July 14, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting: in-person option (Tacoma Municipal Building, Conf. Rm. 248) and

virtual attendance option via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Chair Kristina Walker called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE**

Andrea Smith, Board President, Metro Parks Tacoma

Deanna Keller, Port Commission President, Port of Tacoma

Elizabeth Bonbright, President, Tacoma Public Schools

Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma

Kristina Walker, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit

Korey Strozier, Board member, Tacoma Public Schools

Marty Campbell, Councilmember, Pierce County

Rosie Ayala, Parks Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma

Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council, Vice-Chair JMAC

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Aleesia Morales, Tacoma Fire, HOPE

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit

Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma

Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma

Christina Caan, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Colleen Meiners, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Daniel Mero, Metro Parks Tacoma

Deborah Trevorrow, City of Tacoma

Evan Koepfler, Pierce County Council

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Jennifer Bowman, Metro Parks Tacoma

Juan Beltran, Senator Patty Murray’s Office

Kacee Wood, City of Tacoma

Kate Larsen, Tacoma Libraries

Leslie Barstow, Port of Tacoma

Melissa Littleton, State of Washington

Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma

River Meschi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma

Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Sandra Eliason, Metro Parks Tacoma

Silvia Riley, MultiCare

Sonja Hallum, City of Tacoma

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Tory Green, City of Tacoma

William Bridges, Pierce County

**INTRODUCTION**

Chair Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair Walker read the City of Tacoma’s tribal land acknowledgment.

**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 June 9, 2023, be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION**

* Youth Violence Prevention: Chair Walker and Vice Chair Mello recapped the two JMAC-led doorbelling sessions to promote the new Summer Late Nights program for teens and shared the latest participation update. It was noted that the two door belling days were successful and well received. About 2500 doors were visited. Those who participated were thanked.
* President Bonbright commented that the Summer Late Night program is now in its third week and is growing: 767 individual youth have signed up. Flyers are still available through Metro Parks Tacoma.
* Tacoma’s Decarbonization Plan: Chair Walker stated that Kristi Lynett from the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability shared an update on the City’s efforts to cut reduce its carbon footprint from the organization’s fleet and buildings. There will be a new staff member leading green economy initiatives. The City Council’s decarbonization Resolution also includes encouraging partner organizations to adopt similar policies.

Agencies then commented to address the following question:

**What are examples of your organization’s work to reduce carbon footprints?**

* + Commissioner Andrea Smith commented that Metro Parks Tacoma is in the process of contracting with Verdis Group and Earth Economics to develop and update a Climate Action Plan. She noted that additionally MPT hopes to partner with JMAC members and other local stakeholders to develop strategies around three overlapping topics: Make local procurement of goods and services more efficient, increase the urban tree canopy, and provide for shoreline resiliency similar to projects like Owen Beach. She noted that NW Trek has also invested in electric trams to be delivered soon.
  + Commissioner Kristin Ang reported that the Port of Tacoma is looking to vote soon on reducing emissions by 2040. Last month they launched the Zero Emission Truck collaborative. She also noted that the Port Commissioner had a recent study session to explore options related to off shore wind.
  + Councilmember Mello commented that the County has their Sustainably 2030 Plan and decarbonization goals algin with states goal of 45% reduction and Cleaner Agency’s goals. He continued by stating that economy-wide emission are up, not down, so there is more work to do together. Councilmember Mello further noted that other practical strategies are being deployed for energy efficiency . He concluded by stating that Pierce County held its first climate conveying last month where 14 stakeholder agencies participated.
  + Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker commented that Green Economy Strategy by the City of Tacoma is up and running.
* Youth Employment Pipeline: The Committee was remined that in June Adam Kulaas, Director of Innovative Learning and Career and Technical Education, highlighted the growing participation of youth in employment opportunities facilitated by Tacoma Public Schools, including the “Try-a-Trade” Fair at the T-Town Expo, the Maritime Skills Center in partnership with the Port of Tacoma, and healthcare career academies at Mount Tahoma and Stadium high schools. Over 1,200 students engaged in a paid work experience opportunity from 2022-2023, and Adam noted that it was not too late for employers to hire students in the Jobs 253 program.

Agencies then commented to address the following question :

**How can your organization help expand Jobs 253 access for youth?**

* + President Elizabeth Bonbright commented that Jobs 253 is not just a summer program and there is still time for agencies to participate. She noted that 461 students are currently engaged in the summer component adding to the total of 1,253 total participants with credentials. It was further highlighted that dual college credit has also increased over the past year. President Bonbright noted that the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and Metro Parks Tacoma have done a great job in engaging with these kids. President Bonbright added data charts to the Zoom chat.
  + Leslie Barstow commented that the Port of Tacoma has passed a Workforce Development Strategic plan this year which included $30,0000 given to support the Tide Flats Certification Program for students. She commented that program has capacity to serve 150 kids this summer due to this investment.
  + Commissioner Rosie Ayala acknowledged the work of the City’s Climate Leadership Program to engage youth in civil service.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTATION**

* Melanie Harding made introductions and gave a brief background on alternative response. She noted the City’s 3 specific programs include: HOPE Team, outreach to homelessness based in Community Services Department, and limited commission unarmed community service officers. She noted the challenge in creating these new programs.
* Aleesia Morales, HOPE Program Co-Manager commented that the purpose of the HOPE program is to be able to dispatch team members to support mental health crisis response, or substance use crisis or a combination of the two. She noted the field responder’s roles with those they engage with that are experiencing crisis. She also mentioned the team will support TFD and EMS and TPD. Service area includes Tacoma, parts of Fircrest and Fife.

Aleesia commented that support from this team is 7 days a week and includes response and follow-up care. Her team is currently working on hiring more staff and a soft launch is planned for August. Aleesia also stated that the team is dispatched via 911 and could respond independently from EMS, fire or police depending on the circumstances. She also informed that committee that the program is currently funded through the City’s Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Tax, and are continuing to look at other funding opportunities.

* Alex Mather representing Pierce Transit stated that Transit has started a new program called the HEART program. Alex commented that the concept of the program is to provide assistance to those in behavioral or mental health crisis around or on the transit system. She noted that $250,000 from State’s Operating budget is being used to fund the program. She highlighted that Transit is partnering with UWT Schools of Social Work & Criminal Justice and Nursing & Healthcare Leadership to design and implement the program. Alex remarked that the program is also receiving $611,000 from Behavioral Health and Therapeutic Courts Tax from Pierce County.

She commented that they could use help to use the E-Verify Program. Councilmember Mello spoke about the Council’s effort to remove E-Verify but was unsuccessful.

Alex Mather highlighted a need to create a cross jurisdictional approach in an effort to provide these services efficiently to the community.

* Sylvia Riley, Director of Crisis Services for MultiCare Behavioral Health noted the crisis services provided by MultiCare in Pierce county include:
  + Mobile Outreach Crisis Team (MOCT)
  + Co-Responder Programs with Tacoma Police, Pierce County Sheriff, Lakewood & Puyallup Police Departments
  + Pierce County Sheriff’s Community Alternative Response Team
* Sylvia Riley then outlined the mission of the and programs and described how each of them are funded. She commented that the mission of the program is to promote safety and support for consumers and families in crisis and provide links to resources that will activate the first steps toward full recovery. She then described the challenges in hiring for these positions to staff these programs. She then shared some data and details related to response times.

Sylvia Riley then informed the committee of the roles of the Co- Responder Programs, noting opportunities and program challenges including staffing, limitations on outpatient services, and lack of stable housing and transitional housing.

Councilmember Mello acknowledged the good work in this area but emphasized it is confusing to the public as there are so many services . He inquired how as to how to let the community know about this third model. He stressed the need for simplification and noted that language must be addressed to make things easier for the community. Silvia Riley commented that she is hopeful that the confusion can be addressed.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE**

* Kate Larsen, Director of Tacoma Libraries commented that libraries is looking at models that others around the nation are using and are implementing these next steps as it relates to alternative response:
  + Hiring a social worker and safety & security coordinator within the next months
  + Mitigating the ability to provide care to address issues they are seeing in their sites
  + Working with all others who are involved in these efforts around the community
* Daniel Mero, Visitor Services Supervisor for Metro Parks Tacoma commented on the programs Metro Parks is in putting in place including:
  + Park Ranger and Guide program which has been added with the intention to provide proactive education and positive activation of parks serving as a resource for education and diplomacy
  + Contracted Security
  + Continued work with local law enforcement
  + GIS system being used to track alternative response interactions with park visitors
  + Added Emphasis Patrols at Point Defiance Park in response to recent shootings. Councilmember Campbell commented that he would like to see this sort of response happening equitably across the city.
* Melanie Harding representing the City of Tacoma commented that the Community Service officer Program is now hiring, with plans to activate this program late this year or early in 2024. Melanie commented that the Homeless Outreach Team has been expanding as 7 individuals are now on board focusing on improving response times.

**STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATE**

There were no updates.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

* Councilmember Campbell requested that Tacoma Public Schools consider renaming Sheridan School. President Bonbright responded that requests for renaming is currently a community based driven process; noting that principals can set up committee to initiate the process.
* Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker encouraged members and staff to please use JMAC list to provide notification of events.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is Friday, August 11, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Next meeting will include follow up today’s topics and the Imagine Justice Program.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am.

\**Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma*