

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
March 13, 2015**

PRESENT Catherine Ushka, Chair (Tacoma School Board)
Erik Hanberg, Vice-Chair (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Rick Talbert (Pierce County Council)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Teri Blair (Pierce County)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Catherine Ushka called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was: Dean Burke, Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission; and Denise Rakas, City of Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Ushka called for motion to approve the agenda. Motion was moved by Kurt Miller and seconded by Erik Hanberg. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ushka called for motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2015. Motion was moved by Kurt Miller and Erik Hanberg seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission

Dean Burke began the presentation stating the sports commission is a destination marketing organization focusing on amateur sports as the medium. The sports commission works to bring events into the communities and bring touring visitors to stay in local hotels and contribute to the local economy. There are eight funding partners and our funding is a variation of the lodging tax. The budget for 2015 is \$575,000.

In 2014 there were 48 events that brought in 206,000 visitors, almost 17,000 room nights and \$14.9 million in direct spending. The sports commission works with various groups i.e. car racing, wrestling, water sports, track, cycling, cyclocross, and gymnastics.

Mr. Burke continued describing an initiative project that is being worked on called a Premier Partner Venue project. In Pierce County there are approximately 180 places that are called a park or a venue. That includes all the different Pierce County parks and Metro Parks. The sports commission works with approximately 25-30 of the premier

parks. These are venues that can handle the products, bring in visitors and have the needed amenities. In November there were conversations about not building short of what the national standards needed to be, and that no two cities would build the same thing and cancel each other out.

Rick Talbert asked if there was outreach to the parks and schools to make sure their facilities could be used as premier venues. Mr. Burke replied that it was being worked on. Recently surveys were sent out to 50 different partners to start collecting check-point data. These will be followed up with more in-depth interviews.

Erik Hanberg asked if there was a venue that was missing in Pierce County or sports that was not being attracted to the area. Mr. Burke cited soccer as one example. There are towns in the mid-west with facilities that have 15 fields or more, turf, stadium seats, etc. The Pierce County area is very diverse and some sports require very specific amenities.

Addressing the JMAC members, Clare Petrich asked if there was anything in place where every entity in Pierce County could set a policy that future building would at least address national standards of sports events. Rick Talbert stated that there are check lists to go through when siting different types of facilities and perhaps the simple solution would be to ask for input from Tacoma South Sound Sports on any athletic type of complex. Mr. Burke replied that there are national governing bodies for specific sports that have a venue development representative who could come and advise.

Tim Reid asked if Mr. Burke was on mailing lists so he would be aware of discussions on sports related projects. Mr. Burke replied that he hoped so although; there are always some that are missed. Rick Talbert replied that perhaps a good way to address this would be to have the lodging tax commission reach out to all the jurisdictions on the same issue.

Clare Petrich asked if the 50 meter pool met national standards. Mr. Burke replied that it is an Olympic size pool. It will get some events; however, the center in King County will attract the largest outside events.

There was discussion on what the local high school facilities would need to attract national track meets.

There was discussion on how the different entities could continue the policy discussion about national standards. It was suggested looking at sample policies first, if there are some available for review. It would just be adding something to the procedures for all the different government staff as it would be different for each one.

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

The Future Agenda Items list was updated.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Update on Sports Venue Development (Metro Parks and Tacoma School District)

Future Agenda Items

Continue Mental Health Conversation

Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.

Economic Development Growth and Impacts

Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals

Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates
Technical College and City of Tacoma)

Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)

Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Minutes for April will be taken by Tacoma Public Schools.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.