

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
August 8, 2014**

PRESENT Clare Petrich, Chair (Port of Tacoma)
Catherine Ushka (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Erik Hanberg (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Robert Thoms (Tacoma City Council)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Carla Santorno (Tacoma School District)
T.C. Broadnax (City of Tacoma)
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)
Randy Lewis (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Marty Campbell (Alt. City of Tacoma)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clare Petrich called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were: Pam Basea, Community Member; Teri Blair, Pierce County; John Wolfe, Port of Tacoma; and Wayne Williams, Metro Parks Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was moved by Kurt Miller and seconded by Tim Reid for approval of the agenda. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kurt Miller moved for approval of the minutes of July 11, 2014 and Tim Reid seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Agency Budget Presentation Highlights

Port of Tacoma – CEO John Wolfe reported on the Port’s budget. He stated the Port has had strong growth, especially in cargo volume – 70% of the Port’s revenue is due to the container trade. This trade is very competitive due to recent changes where shipping lines form alliances, sharing vessels to reduce operating costs. This change has resulted in larger vessels, up to three times the size the Port is accustomed to. The Puget Sound Gateway is also feeling the pressure on rates since they are between two gateways; California and Canada. It is estimated that about \$2 billion is needed over the next 10 years to make infrastructure improvements to remain competitive, including

completion of SR167. The Gateway needs to be creative in financing any expansion since no State funding is available for new projects and there is limited infrastructure funding. Partnerships are also an important part of growth and success. Mr. Wolfe stated the Gateway is the third largest in the US, next to Southern California and New York/New Jersey, and 40% of local jobs are tied to the trade market.

Tim Reid asked if the Port has the land mass to accommodate this expansion and Mr. Wolfe reported yes. Mr. Wolfe explaining the real challenge is having wharfs strong enough to support the cranes necessary to handle the larger vessels. He mentioned a \$140 million project is currently underway to update Piers 3 / 4. Mr. Reid additionally asked if there were any land settlement issues and Mr. Wolfe said no.

Metro Parks Tacoma – Wayne Williams, Director of Business & Operational Support, reported Metro Park Tacoma’s 2015-16 budget process is guided by its strategic action plans that foster active living, stewardship, culture and heritage, and sustainability. He added that Metro Parks applied this year for National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) accreditation and will be formally acknowledged during the October NRPA conference for achieving high-levels of service.

Mr. Williams thanked everyone for supporting the recent \$198 million capital bond and reported Metro Parks is working on an implementation plan as part of the budget process. The bond’s capital projects will focus on three areas: Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA); regional parks, neighborhood parks, natural areas and recreation facilities.

A first draft budget is targeted for mid-August, with public hearings and a second draft set for September, and final board adoption in December. As part of the budget process a legislative agenda of collaborative opportunities is being developed that includes the Eastside Community Center, Wapato Lake and PDZA as possible partnership opportunities.

He closed by stating that Metro Parks is working with the City of Tacoma and Port of Tacoma on local economic development.

Kurt Miller asked if funding for an Eastside Community Center is included in Metro Park’s budget. Mr. Williams reported Metro Parks is contributing \$6 million in bond funds towards the center’s costs. He added they are currently synchronizing efforts with potential partners, working on agreements to further define participation and funding contributions.

Tacoma Public Schools – Superintendent Carla Santorno reported Tacoma Public School’s budget is closely tied to their strategic plan. She explained their primary funding is determined through enrollment figures. These figures have not changed significantly over the years; however, she did note they anticipate losing 100 to 200 students over the next few years.

Ms. Santorno reported their upcoming major projects include: Washington Elementary (completed by August 2014), SAMI (opening September 2016-2017), Wilson High

School Phase II (opening September 2016), McCarver Elementary (opening September 2016), Wainwright (moved up to open September 2016), and Stewart Middle School (opening September 2017).

Areas having potential for future budget impacts include pension funds, cost of living adjustments, I-1351 initiative to reduce class size, minimum wage initiatives, Affordable Care Act, unfunded mandates and charter schools. Ms. Santorno added that three charter schools are set to open the fall of 2015, pulling students and funding from their system. This could have a tremendous impact, possibly leading to school closures and/or reduced class electives, she added.

Tim Reid asked if Charter Schools abide by the same rules as school districts and it was reported they have more flexibility. Erik Hanberg asked who the sponsoring charters were. Ms. Santorno reported they were Green Dot, Summit and SOAR. She stressed the need to develop relationships with these groups; offering them the freedom to work as a charter school.

Tim Reid asked if there had been any negative public input over the budget and it was reported they have received good feedback from their committee of citizens.

City of Tacoma – City Manager T.C. Broadnax reported on the City of Tacoma's budget, presenting members with an overview video that can be viewed on the website at <http://budget.cityoftacoma.org/>. He stated that the budget includes items that have been put off for years including updating the fleet of police cars that have not been replaced in 6 to 8 years; updating facilities including the Tacoma Dome seating, IT structure, and street maintenance.

Mr. Broadnax reported the City's finances have improved over the last two years and they are hopeful to close any gaps with \$10 - \$15 million in state and federal grants. He added the importance of including unfunded capital items, mentioning the Eastside Community Center (approximately \$6 million), library materials, Neighborhood Council Innovative grants, Broadway Center for Performing Arts (approximately \$8 million), and the Link Light Rail.

He explained community concerns have arisen around special interests, such as library closures, modes of transportation, and arts / human services balance.

When asked ways the City is trying to grow revenue, Mr. Broadnax stated through economic development that encourages new business and residential growth.

Chair Petrich closed the discussion by noting a common theme, the need to collaborate on future economic development opportunities. Members agreed this would be a good topic for the upcoming Joint Study Session and scheduled it for continued discussion at the next JMAC meeting.

Date for Joint Study Session Presentation

Members agreed the Joint Study Session Presentation will be held November 14, 2014 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. The meeting site is still being decided on, with Tim Reid offering Metro Park's Star Center and Chair Petrich offering a site at the Port. Wayne Williams will check on Metro Park's site availability, and T.C. Broadnax will check with the Mayor to see if TV Tacoma can record the meeting.

Updated Language to JMAC Guidelines

A review of the new JMAC policy language was deferred to the next meeting because of time limitations.

Nominations for Vacant Vice-Chair Position

Catherine Ushka was nominated and approved as the new JMAC Vice-Chair, recently vacated by Debbie Winskill.

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

Nancy Davis reminded everyone that an air quality discussion, with invited guest Jake Fey, was scheduled for September; however, Representative Fey is not available for the September 12th meeting, so this discussion will be rescheduled to a later date.

Members agreed there will be continued discussion on mental health during the upcoming Joint Study Session meeting.

Robert Thoms invited committee members to participate in the public comment period regarding the potential 1,600 job reductions at JBLM. Mr. Thoms also mentioned there will be a military parade downtown Tacoma on August 16th starting at 6 p.m. Committee members were invited to attend and asked to invite staff.

Erik Hanberg reported Metro Parks recently rescued someone off the bluff at Point Defiance Park. He explained this has happened before and the number one reason – a cell phone being dropped and someone climbing down to retrieve it.

Tim Reid announced that Erik Hanberg was recently named "Best Tacoman 2014" by the local publication *Volcano*.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Air Quality Standards/Attainment (Representative Jake Fey)
Earned Sick Leave Policy (Representative Laurie Jinkins)
Approval of Updated Language to JMAC Guidelines
Economic Development Opportunities – Brainstorming Session

Future Agenda Items

Air Quality Standards/Attainment (September/October – Representative Jake Fey)
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals (September)
Optum Health Care Presentation (October 10 - Cheri Dolezal, CEO/Executive Director)
Mental Health Issues Discussion – Where do we go from here? (October)
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals
Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates
Technical College and City of Tacoma)
Presentation on Charter Review (City of Tacoma)
Update on 2015 U.S. Open (November/December 2014)
Economic Development Growth and Impacts
Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma)
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, September 12, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Minutes for September to be taken by Metro Parks Tacoma.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.