

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
December 13, 2013**

PRESENT: Aaron Pointer, Acting Vice-Chair (Metropolitan Park Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)
Debbie Winskill (Tacoma School Board)
Clare Petrich (Port of Tacoma)
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Parks Tacoma)
Jennifer Joly (Pierce County)
Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Vice-Chair Aaron Pointer called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance was Wayne Williams, Metropolitan Park District; Mark Williams, Pierce County; Connie Ladenburg, Pierce County, and Karen Vialle, Tacoma School District.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following change: the Port of Tacoma did not have a levy to discuss at this time so it was removed as an agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acting Vice-Chair Pointer moved for approval of the minutes of November 8, 2013 with the following change: the Port of Tacoma did not have a levy to discuss at this time. Anders Ibsen seconded. The acting vice-chair declared the motion passed.

Election of 2014 Committee Officers

Acting Vice-Chair Pointer facilitated the election of new JMAC officers for 2014. He reminded members it was the Port of Tacoma's turn to hold the Chair position. Clare Petrich was nominated and, for the record, all approved the election of Clare Petrich as 2014 JMAC Chair. Mr. Pointer moved on to the Vice-Chair position and reminded members it was the Tacoma School District's turn to hold the position. Debbie Winskill was nominated and, for the record, all approved the election of Debbie Winskill as the 2014 JMAC Vice-Chair.

Tacoma School District Levy Discussion

Karen Vialle reported the Tacoma School District has an operational and technical levy on the upcoming February 11, 2014 ballot. She stated they are both replacement levies and make up a significant portion of the district's funding.

Ms. Vialle explained the technical levy funds would go towards updating classroom computers, software, and online access. Targeted is a mobile application for parents and expanding mobile devices for home learning. She mentioned that the Tacoma City Council recently recognized Tacoma Public School District as a highly technical district. The question was raised of how teachers will handle the additional work anticipated. Ms. Vialle offered possible solutions of weekly vs. daily online updates, and the use of para-professionals for data entry. Ms. Vialle reported the district is also researching ways to offer students loaner laptops for a nominal fee.

Debbie Winskill updated members on free software students with a library card can access to assist with homework and college preparation. This led to a discussion on automatically issuing library cards to students. Ms. Winskill stated that was a good suggestion and said the district would check into it. Wayne Williams encouraged the continued collaboration with the library system to help complement the local educational system. It was also suggested the district check into utilizing Microsoft's \$10 student software.

Aaron Pointer asked how these levies will impact charter schools. Ms. Winskill reported minimally since at this time charter schools do not receive local levy funding. However, she added, this is currently being appealed.

2014 Legislative Priorities Updates

Nancy Davis reported Metro Parks Tacoma had no significant updates to their legislative priorities presentation from JMAC's last meeting.

Clare Petrich restated that the Port of Tacoma's top legislative priority for 2014 is SR167. She reported collaboration is continuing and thanked JMAC members for their continued support. Ms. Petrich explained the project is still in the process of acquiring 30% more property between the Port of Tacoma and Fife. Members agreed that a SR167 project overview by the Port be added to next year's agenda. The question was raised "is tolling being included in this project?" Ms. Petrich reported "yes," stating that transportation projects with tolling have increased funding opportunities. Ms. Petrich said that toxic cleanup funds (MTCA) and storm water management were also top legislative items for the Port.

Connie Ladenburg restated that transportation is Pierce County's number one legislative topic for 2014. She shared that the County supports SR167, improvements to the Fort Lewis interchange, and the local Gateway Project that encourages county freight mobility. The 2015 Chambers Bay U.S. Open is another top priority. Management is on site and volunteers can now sign up at chambersbaygolf.com. She reported that sponsorship is exceeding expectations and could potentially bring \$144 million to the region. Ms. Ladenburg said they are holding informative community meetings and emphasized that traffic will not be an issue since attendees will be bused into the event. To attract future golfing tournaments they are hoping to introduce a bill that approves reinvesting a portion of sales tax back into the course. The LPGA was

mentioned as another event opportunity and Ms. Ladenburg said they would look into it. She also reported the County is proposing the legislature conduct a study on the cost effectiveness of the current delivery of jail service.

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

Aaron Pointer led a discussion of mutual interests for 2014 JMAC meetings.

Mental health issues in the community - Adequate funding for youth mental health was targeted for future discussion by committee members. It was reported that state funding is based on per capita, not the population of mentally disabled. It was suggested to start a mental health court because grant requests favor concrete spending options vs. issuing pools of money.

Economic development and its impacts - Reclaiming a portion of the liquor tax and the new marijuana tax were raised as future discussion items. Clare Petrich asked if the legalization of marijuana has had any impact on jails. Anders Ibsen reported there has been an increase in DUIs. Tax money currently goes to the state for monitoring.

Members were asked to bring two topics they would like to discuss in 2014 to the next meeting.

Clare Petrich polled committee members to see if it was necessary to meet 12 times a year. The group agreed it was beneficial to meet monthly stating the meetings help distribute information and keep everyone up-to-date on key issues.

Tim Reid reported Metro Parks Tacoma is conducting a feasibility study on capital improvements.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Gateway and SR167 Project Presentations (Port of Tacoma)
Update on Eastside Community Center (Metro Parks Tacoma)
Mental Health Focus - Recommendations for 2014

Future Agenda Items

Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)
Transport of Coal through Tacoma
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma)
Feasibility Study for Capital Improvements (Metro Parks Tacoma, February 2014)
Mental Health Funding and Issues in the Community
Economic Development and Impacts
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 10, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Note: Minutes for January to be taken by Tacoma School District.