



Public Safety, Human Services, and Education Committee Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/PSHSE>

Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402

March 27, 2014

Chair Woodards called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Council Committee Members Present: Campbell, Lonergan, and Woodards.

Council Committee Members Absent: Mayor Strickland.

Approval of February 13, 2014 Minutes

Council Member Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Council Member Lonergan. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Report from the Tacoma Human Rights Commission

At approximately 4:36 p.m., Fred Schuneman, Human Rights Commission (HRC) Chair, provided an update from the HRC, including their mission, vision, functions, 2013-2014 work plan goals, and 2014 priority areas. Mr. Schuneman then asked the Committee how the HRC can support the City's Equity and Empowerment Initiative, how they can best serve the City Council, and the areas this Committee would like them to explore. Discussion ensued regarding wage theft, proposed listening sessions, and the Welcoming Cities program. Chair Woodards stated it would be helpful if the HRC led community conversations related to the Equity and Empowerment Initiative.

HRC Members Darion Reese and Olgy Diaz introduced themselves, and Chair Schuneman reviewed his experience at the 2014 Governing for Racial Equity Conference, noting the information sharing was extremely helpful. Marya Gingrey, Neighborhood and Community Services, shared her thoughts regarding the conference, noting there were many tools, strategies, and applications that will help ensure the Equity and Empowerment Initiative will be carried out and lead to lasting and sustainable change in the City. She then stated the City was invited to participate in the Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race and Equity, noting people were impressed that the City adopted a resolution to support the Equity and Empowerment Initiative. Chair Woodards stated she would like the Council to adopt a resolution to adopt the work plan for the initiative after it has been finalized.

Report from the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities

At approximately 5:02 p.m., Gerrit Nyland, Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Chair, introduced Committee Members Don Izeman, Joann Fritche, Todd Holloway, Gary Petersen, and staff liaison Gail Himes. Chair Nyland provided background information for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, including their mission, assigned tasks, and connection to the Americans with Disabilities Act. He then reviewed the Commission's operating procedures, and past and current project examples relating to built design and policy, and employment. Discussion ensued regarding barriers to employment with the City, unemployment rates for

people with disabilities, the amount of disabled persons in the City, and opportunities for employment for disabled persons.

Chair Nyland continued reviewing past and current project examples relating to media and communication, and parking and transportation. He then reviewed the Commissions goals for 2014. Discussion ensued regarding accessible taxis; information sharing between City Committees, Boards, and Commissions; and potential tax credits for businesses who remove barriers for people with disabilities. Council Member Campbell requested additional information regarding accessible taxis and Chair Woodards requested staff work with Ms. Himes to schedule a discussion regarding how this Committee can best support efforts to improve taxi accessibility. Council Member Campbell then requested that a member of the Transportation Commission also serve on the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities; Assistant City Manager Tansy Hayward will follow-up. Discussion ensued regarding whether a member can serve on both Commissions at one time, ensuring the Commissions share information, and whether it would be more appropriate for the member to serve as a liaison.

Eastside Community Center Feasibility Study

At approximately 5:40 p.m., Alisa O'Hanlon, City Manager's Office, introduced Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma, and Shalisa Hayes, Team Billy Ray. She then provided background information regarding the Eastside Community Center Feasibility Study. Mr. Sylvia provided additional background information; reviewed project goals; and discussed the feasibility study, including, service area and sports participation market analysis, program uses and costs, site selection, design concepts, project costs, funding strategies, and next steps. Discussion ensued regarding project costs, the data collection process, design concepts, funding strategies, operational costs, and \$400,000 in funding from the State.

Nancy Davis, Metro Parks Tacoma, stated Metro Parks Tacoma is looking for a recommendation to advance this issue and start spending money to start a traffic study and wetland analysis. Chair Woodards stated Metro Parks Tacoma should determine how the \$400,000 should be spent as it is their area of expertise. Discussion ensued regarding how the money should be spent, whether it can be transferred from the City to Metro Parks Tacoma for this project, and the City's level of involvement in the project.

Council Member Campbell moved that the City move forward with the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Eastside Community Center project and to move ahead with supporting Metro Parks Tacoma with the completion of the master planning of the project. Discussion ensued regarding whether the transfer of the \$400,000 to Metro Parks Tacoma should be included in the motion, operation costs, the intent of the MOU, and the City's level of involvement in the project. Chair Woodards requested the MOU come back to this Committee for approval. Ms. Hayward stated the City's support of the feasibility study was not intended to be a commitment to provide capital or operating dollars for the facility.

Council Member Campbell moved that the City move forward with the development of a MOU with Metro Parks Tacoma, to include the transfer of the \$400,000 to be used for master planning, and reports back to this Committee with future updates. Seconded by Council Member Lonergan. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was adopted.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Julie Stoltman, City Manager's Office, stated there will be a special meeting on April 3, 2014 to interview candidates for the Human Services Commission, and the April 10, 2014 meeting is cancelled. She then stated the April 24, 2014 meeting will include presentations from the Seattle City Club, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, and the Human Services Commission.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Victoria Woodards, Chair



Linnea Meredith, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office