

Minutes

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Friday, January 13, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual: Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 840 6488 6981

In-person: 747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conf. Room 248

CALL TO ORDER

JMAC Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Bonbright, Chair, Tacoma Public Schools

Kristina Walker, Vice Chair, City of Tacoma

Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma

Ryan Mello, Pierce County

Marty Campbell, Pierce County

Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma

Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma

JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Renee Meschi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma

Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Deborah Trevorrow, City of Tacoma

Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma

Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Esmerelda Paredes, Port of Tacoma

Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools

William Bridges, Pierce County

Amy Cruver, Pierce County

Evan Koepfler, Pierce County

Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County

Sally Perkins, Community Member

Nora Flemming de Sandoval, Safe Streets

INTRODUCTION

Chair Bonbright welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2023, and her last meeting as JMAC Chairperson. She dedicated the meeting to the life of a 14-year-old Tacoma boy who was taken from us in a senseless act of violence the day prior to the meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Bonbright proudly read the tribal land acknowledgement for the Tacoma Public School District.

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 November 18, 2022 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

It was also moved and seconded that the minutes of December 9, 2022 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

LEADERSHIP ELECTION FOR 2023:

Every January, JMAC holds an election for a new Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Current JMAC Chair Bonbright asked for nominations for the 2023 JMAC Chair.

Metro Parks Board President, Andrea Smith nominated current JMAC Vice Chair and City of Tacoma Deputy Mayor, Kristina Walker to the position of JMAC Chair. No other nominations were declared. A vote was taken for Kristina Walker to become JMAC Chair; Vote passed unanimously. New Chair Walker thanked Chair Bonbright for all her hard work and leadership over the past two years.

Tacoma Public School Board Vice President, Korey Strozier nominated Pierce County Council Chair, Ryan Mello to the position JMAC Vice Chair. No other nominations were declared. A vote was taken for Ryan Mello become JMAC Vice Chair; Vote passed unanimously.

Chair Bonbright congratulated the new JMAC leadership and officially handed over the position to new Chair, Kristina Walker. Chair Walker will preside over the remainder of today's JMAC meeting.

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION:

Recap and thoughts on December Year-End Meeting:

Question for JMAC- *What are your impressions from the year-end presentation and table discussions?*

JMAC Vice Chair, Ryan Mello shared that he appreciated the design and energy of the meeting, as well as hearing about the breadth of the work each agency is collaborating on. Great visibility to the work we all are doing on the different policy areas. Vice Chair Mello advised to be careful to not create a different workplan for these issues since we have a successful path identified. He suggested we continue working on the issues we have outlined and dig deeper/work harder using the current plan.

Tacoma Public School Board President, Bonbright shared how impressed she was at new attendees from agencies that we currently work with. JMAC work is being communicated broadly throughout the agencies, and their attendance at the December event was exciting to see. President Bonbright also shared that she attended the City of Tacoma Study Session on January 10th to give an update on the JMAC focus areas and annual recap. She shared that City Council members communicated that they had heard of the JMAC work and that it is pivotal to our community. The Council Members thanked Chair Bonbright for her leadership on this committee and the promising direction they are heading.

Port of Tacoma Commission President, Deanna Keller shared that although she was not in attendance, she heard the event was a success. She also recommended that we add to our body of work in 2023 the subject of fire

services. There is a homelessness issue with reporting an emergency since they typically do not have access to technology to contact any services.

Pierce County Council Vice Chair, Marty Campbell commented that he has been on JMAC for many years, and he thanked past Chair Bonbright for bringing the “Action” back in Joint Municipal Action Committee. He looks forward to all of the action that will occur in the future.

Question for JMAC- *What insights or responses did you hear post-meeting from your colleagues or community partners who attended?*

JMAC Chair Walker commented that she has heard from several people/organizations that have asked how they can be involved in the committees’ work going forward. In particular, consider the partnership with the Tacoma Anchor Network to ensure cross-collaboration and not duplication of work.

JMAC Vice Chair, Ryan Mello shared he felt there was an impactful conversation and reflection on racial inequities and how it is threaded between all of our agencies, but especially at Tacoma Public Schools with their policy for radical change. He also suggested that we have “a problem” on our hands that there are so many people who want to collaborate with JMAC based on our focus areas and theme of local partnership. It’s a good challenge to have, but we need to ensure we can manage the membership and focus areas to continue the path we are on.

Metro Parks Commissioner Rosie Ayala shared that the JMAC collaborative action model is inspiring other organizations for internal staff to emulate, and how can we all work in an influential method of learning with one another. She also wondered if there was a JMAC plan for seeking more partnerships and spreading the word of our priorities and collaboration.

President Bonbright commented that she would like to stay highly engaged in JMAC even though she is no longer Chair. JMAC leadership has suggested that she fill the role of ‘JMAC ambassador’ to broaden the scope of our outreach and understanding to others on what JMAC is working on and possible collaborations/partnerships. She suggested some organizations to consider might be the Chamber of Commerce, The Rotary, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, and Mi Centro.

Hunter George, Metro Parks added that as JMAC becomes more visible, groups are inquiring on what type of community outreach/feedback we are collecting at the committee level. He shared that he knows these agencies are gathering their own community feedback that JMAC takes into consideration, and we don’t want to create duplicative work when the information they have collected is of great value. It may be a follow-up discussion for JMAC on a consistent response to future questions of community engagement and membership.

President Deanna Keller commented that she has recently spoken with Mayor Kim Roscoe, City of Fife, who is very aware of JMAC and inquired if there were any initiatives where she could be involved. President Keller suggested that we include Mayor Roscoe in President Bonbright’s outreach efforts.

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR 2023:

Hunter George walked through the “Draft Priorities” document. JMAC members then discussed topics for inclusion on the 2023 priorities list.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION (JEDI)-

- Climate justice – this is a new topic that needs further discussion about specific areas of alignment.
- Equity Action Collaborative – this item carries over from 2022 and would include surplus land policy, language access plans, etc.
- Childcare/expanded learning opportunities – this item from 2022 may move into more of a “monitor and act if requested” status.

- Health Department's Communities of Focus -- this is a new topic that needs further discussion about specific areas of alignment.

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department shared that the communities of focus are 6 different communities (3 in Tacoma, 3 outside of Tacoma) that have disparate/poor outcomes when it comes to health compared to other locations. These communities are leading their own efforts to identify their needs/areas for improvement with the support of the Health Department.

JMAC Vice Chair, Ryan Mello commented regarding childcare, that there is an opportunity to collaborate on the use of Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Act (PSTA) funding. These are Pierce County managed funds received from tax dollars spent on Sound Transit 3 construction projects. These funds are dedicated for the benefit of youth education. JMAC may be able to advise the "Birth to 25" Advisory Board on use of these funds.

JMAC Chair Walker asked how frequently we may want to track these initiatives that are placed in "maintenance mode" throughout the year.

Hunter George suggested that we maintain a list of action items to track some of these new initiatives/topics that are presented.

Renee Meschi, Pierce County Health Department shared more information on Communities of Focus and their areas of collaboration between the communities, the Health Department, and the Equity Action Collaborative. They are currently piloting with communities to create policy, shared learning opportunities and increase capacity for support of these areas.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY-

- Homelessness response -- County and City
- Behavioral health crisis response
- Tacoma's crime reduction plan – next steps
- Community engagement, and the enhanced approaches with ambassadors/park rangers, etc.
- Vision Zero – this item from 2022 may move into a "monitor and act if requested" status

JMAC Chair Walker added that Pierce Transit is also working in the behavioral health ambassador space. We should consider devoting a future meeting agenda solely to the behavioral health topic. Chair Walker also shared that this topic is timely, and unless anyone objects, we should consider public health and safety on one of the upcoming JMAC agendas.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING-

- Local contracting and procurement -- Tacoma Anchor Network's MWBE work group got started in 2022 and is building momentum
- Youth employment pipelines – Jobs 253, Next Move, SEED internships, Maritime Skills Center. This item picked up momentum in 2022 and is poised for growth in 2023.

Vice Chair Ryan Mello agreed that these are all very good initiatives. One major area for community wealth building is Housing and homeownership. The City of Tacoma is working on a Black Homeownership Initiative to address housing disparity, which is an example. Many of our agencies can impact this area.

JMAC Chair Walker shared that there are several anti-displacement initiatives being worked on by JMAC agencies to support this focus area. This is an important topic.

President Deanna Keller shared a timely update that the Port is releasing an RFP for paid internships within the maritime industry with a strong DEI focus. It is being issued to many different agencies. **Matthew Mauer** with the Port of Tacoma will be the contact for the communication of this RFP.

President Bonbright shared that Vice Chair Mello's comment is an important one for us to take away since it covers two different focus areas- both Homelessness and Community Wealth Building. It is interrelated with so many initiatives, and we need to remember that this work is not linear. Also, President Bonbright has asked that the Port of Tacoma RFP information should be sent to Superintendent Josh Garcia for further dissemination.

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma commented that the anti-displacement plan with the City of Tacoma is in the final phases which include guidance principals, measures of success, action items and community prioritization policies. He has offered to return to JMAC with status updates on this initiative.

Hunter George, Metro Parks will follow up with many of you to ensure all updates and efforts were captured.

President Bonbright updated the JMAC that Tacoma Public Schools recently received Federal funding. They have received a \$500,000 grant sponsored through Congresswomen Marilyn Strickland to support youth workforce programs like Jobs 253, and apprenticeship programs, etc. Also, a \$600,000 grant sponsored through Senator Maria Cantwell to support site coordination for Beyond the Bell, a childcare program. The largest source of funding was a TPS grant application sponsored by Congressman Derek Kilmer where we were awarded \$6,000,000 for youth mental health in the school system. President Bonbright thanked the JMAC for all of the work they have done to assist with these efforts as it is an amazing accomplishment.

JMAC Chair Walker asked if the Health Department has an update on the opioid settlement funding. It was recommended to add this item to a future agenda for a complete update.

JMAC OPERATIONS-

- Tell the JMAC stories and community presentations
- JMAC support with a Management Fellow
- Formal outreach to Tribal Council Chairman and subsequent JMAC engagement
- Coordinated legislative advocacy
- Letter of support for grant applications in 2023 – Do we want to offer this?

Vice Chair Ryan Mello agreed that a Management Fellow would be of value. However, who would be the staff person who would assist with grant application support since this is a big task that takes a lot of resources. We should hold off on committing to something so resource heavy.

Hunter George, Metro Parks suggested that he understood the grant support request as that JMAC simply all agree that we support the grant in question, and sign off on a letter, but we aren't providing resources to submit the grant application.

Also, regarding tribal outreach, we should consider a formal letter to the Council Chairman inviting them to the JMAC meetings.

For the Management Fellow, Hunter has been assigned to bring in a Management Fellow at Metro Parks to support JMAC with the approval from Executive Director, Shon Silvia.

President Bonbright shared her debt of gratitude to Metro Parks and all the support that their team members have provided to JMAC over the years, especially Hunter George.

STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATES-

Hunter George reiterated that he is working with many of your staff to ensure all focus areas are updated and workgroup efforts are captured.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Walker called for public comment. No comments were provided.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC

Port of Tacoma President Keller: The Port of Tacoma is being named the U.S. Army's Premier West Coast Strategic Port. This means that they will be moving a large number of troops and cargo through the City of Tacoma. The Army is also launching a study on sea levels and climate change to protect this Port. These efforts are due to the diligent work of the Longshore workers at the Port.

Vice Chair Ryan Mello shared that the County is considering the 1/10 of 1% for affordable housing and related services. This will bring in \$20 million per year for affordable housing. Next, the Conservation Futures grant program is going through code review in January, then Council approval in February. Please let me know if you wish to talk about this effort. Lastly, training is being created at Pierce County on how to design an equity note. Exciting training is planned around this area. A question was asked whether other agencies can also attend the equity note training at Pierce County. Vice Chair Mello will follow up on this ask.

JMAC Chair Walker shared update on Home in Tacoma project. You can read more here: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/planning_and_development_services/planning_services/current_initiatives_and_projects/home_in_tacoma_project_ahas_planning_actions

Finally, **President Bonbright** was given a bouquet of flowers from the JMAC members as a thank you for all her hard work and leadership as our committee Chair over the past two years. She was honored and moved, and she thanked everyone for being such an amazing team supporting this important work.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is our quarterly CEO meeting on Friday, February 10th, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

**Minutes taken by City of Tacoma*