

Minutes

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Friday, April 14, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting: in-person option (Tacoma Municipal Building, Conf. Rm. 248) and virtual attendance option via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

JMAC Chair Kristina Walker called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma
Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma
Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools
Kiara Daniels, City of Tacoma
Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools
Kristina Walker, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit
Marty Campbell, Pierce County
Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma
Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Josh Garcia, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools
Mike Griffus, CEO, Pierce Transit

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit
Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools
Alisa O’Hanlon Regala, Metro Parks
Ben Mitchell, Foundation for Tacoma Students
Bucoda Warren, City of Tacoma
Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma
Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma
Christina Caan, City of Tacoma
Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma
Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Colleen Meiners, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Evan Koepfler, Pierce County
Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County Library
Hunter George, Metro Parks
Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma
Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma
Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma
Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma
Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma
Melissa Littleton, State of Washington
Nora Flemming de Sandoval, Safe Streets
River Meschi, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma
Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions
Sandra Eliason, Metro Parks Tacoma
Tracy Jones, Tacoma Public Schools
William Bridges, Pierce County

INTRODUCTION

Chair Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Walker read the City of Tacoma's tribal land acknowledgment.

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 March 10, 2023, be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION

The March meeting focused on youth violence prevention. Kaitlan Ohler, Imagine Justice Project Director, presented the work they are doing to transform systems around the community, with a focus on positive youth development and community-centered healing. Their Strategic Plan and Campaign report is scheduled to be released in June 2023.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools, shared photos of all the TPS students who have been killed (6) or injured (4) by violence since July 2022. He said the issue needs to be treated as an emergency and that all should lean in to help create a plan for our youth this summer, and in future summers. He said TPS is working on a number of efforts, including:

- Engaging as many kids as we can in extra-curricular activities to give them a sense of belonging and a safe place to play and interact with adults in a safe manner. This can be done by partnering with others.
- Driving business plans through K12 to create Career and College access;
- Partnering with others to foster restorative trainings for both youth and adults;
- Redesigning learning supports with the Juvenile Justice System;
- Communicating about community resources to the public (mental health, gun safety, gun buy-backs, etc.)

He emphasized that this is a community-level problem and that we need specific action steps to help save kids. He has reached out to several community partners (including many here). Specifically, he's asking partners to help provide safe, supervised spaces between 3:00 - 10:00 pm Monday-Friday in the summertime (since many community partners already offer activities during the daytime). He estimated it would cost \$75,000 per site. He asked JMAC members to consider how they can support this effort, including financially. He is also pursuing philanthropic funds. TPS is not coordinating this effort and we don't have all the answers. Discussion followed:

Council Member Kiara Daniels thanked Josh for sharing the names and pictures as it helps us see the full picture and how heartbreaking it is. City needs to step up. She believes that weekends also need covered as kids aren't just killed during the week.

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit expressed support from Pierce Transit.

Commissioner Rosie Ayala expressed the importance of a unified message about what's available for families. Regardless of what neighborhood they live in, the message should be the same.

Ryan Mello, Vice Chair, emphasized that we need a sense of organization to help identify gaps and which partners to contact to fill them. It will be important to communicate this out fully to all neighborhoods. The "Tacoma Creates" program could be a resource; he wonders if it has unspent funds

that could be made available to help organize/market this. Perhaps the Tacoma Creates network could be activated to help with programming since they already are doing some of this work.

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma, is meeting with Amy McBride, who staffs the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board, to ask about this. Utilizing existing partners who are already contracted can make it easier for funding. He'll follow up with Deputy Mayor Walker after that meeting.

Marty Campbell, Pierce County, shared that it's great to see schools offering space, but we also have to look beyond that. Schools are not always the place kids want to be during the summer as that's also where the bullies are. Superintendent Garcia clarified that TPS' intent is not to host but just to offer the space. We're not wanting to "school-ize" them.

Chair Walker offered to help facilitate spaces within Tacoma Public Libraries.

Cindan Gizzi, on behalf of Dr. Chen, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept., shared Dr. Chen's appreciation to those who talked about this issue and other broader issues. TPCHD is committed to sharing information about becoming more trauma-informed and trained in restorative practices. They'll be sharing training opportunities coming up that we can bring to these spaces.

Elizabeth Bonbright, TPS Board President, reiterated that we need spaces for kids both during the day and during the 3:00-10:00 pm evening hours. She wonders if the JMAC staff support position that is being funded could be the point person for this yearly summer program as part of that position.

Hunter George, Metro Parks, who's hiring for this position, feels confident they can help. He is less worried about the coordination but about the "what" of offerings. Metro Parks does summer camps, etc. for younger kids, but there's not much for the teenagers, especially in those later hours. It is limited.

Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma, shared in the chat that kids are used to adults not following through for them. We need to show them a different adult model.

Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma, shared in the chat that the past is our lesson; the future is our motivation. *Many links to different programs or opportunities were shared in the meeting chat, which are included as an appendix to these minutes.*

FOUNDATION FOR TACOMA STUDENTS

Ben Mitchell, Director of Advocacy & Policy, shared that the Foundation is partnering with Pierce County and will be re-granting \$575,000 throughout the county for expanded learning opportunity programs or youth development programs. To be eligible, programs should be available either in summer 2023 or they can extend into the 2023-24 school year. They must also focus on one of three things: social/emotional outcomes for youth; youth mental health; or academic learning and learning support. The goal is to provide funding to increase participation access to out-of-school time programming for youth of color and youth from low-income families.

The RFP was recently released and it's open to a wide variety of program providers. It will be competitive and there will be application and review processes. They will be transparent about how the decision will be made. Chair Walker will make sure the links are sent after this meeting.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Jacques Colon, City of Tacoma

Jacques gave a brief overview of the Community Safety Plan that's in development. The City recognizes the need for a more comprehensive plan to bring all the community safety actions together. This doesn't help answer the questions just discussed about heading into the summer. The purpose of the

plan is to answer the question: What makes people feel safe? It's a lot more than just policing. The plan will reflect the full spectrum of what makes people feel safe; will allow the City to coordinate efforts internally across departments and will allow them to support efforts externally as well. It will cover both what is being done now and what can be done in the future.

The proposed scope was shared, which includes looking at social, economic, and environmental conditions; prevention efforts with priority populations; alternative responses; improving and transforming public safety departments (TPD, TFD, NCS); diversion/restorative justice/reintegration for those who've already had experience with the criminal justice system.

Next steps and timeline:

Tacoma City is moving into the engagement phase with the community and internal stakeholders. They will move into the coordination phase in the 3rd quarter, both internally and externally. In quarter 4 they'd like coordinated drafting and review of the report, with everyone's input to make sure it makes sense. Heading into 2024, they will work on implementation of the plan. He gave an internal example using the Affordable Housing Action Strategy and an external example using New Jersey's Newark Public Safety Collaborative which democratizes sharing of public safety data to help community resources mobilize where need is shown.

Plan Development:

There are many questions that they would like to ask community partners. They don't have all the answers, and they need all the community partners to come together to do this work. They need to look at past efforts and think about how to engage and coordinate with community. They would like input especially about what you think are the most important objectives of engagement with the community on this. What is most important to consider for implementing the plan? This will be a long-term solution of how they can partner together around the issue of community safety.

Hunter George will send the presentation and the Scope Outline to JMAC members to gather feedback.

Josh Garcia commented that we as adults often attend events such as the one at Mount Tahoma to hear student voices, and everyone is excited, but then there's no follow-through. We can keep asking kids to be in these conversations and get their input, but we do need to have a next step about what's going to be done with the information. We lose the trust of our youth if we're not following through. Same with adults. We're happy to partner, but we need to know "here's what we're going to do" with the input. Jacques shared that they are 100% on the same page, and they'll be looking at immediate next steps.

TACOMA EQUITY INDEX UPDATE

Jacques Colon and Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma

Since JMAC has previously heard about the Tacoma Equity Index, the purpose of this presentation is to share new ways the tool is being used.

The following definitions were given:

- Equity – everyone has access to the opportunities necessary to satisfy their needs
- High Opportunity – areas that have better outcomes because of available opportunities
- Low Opportunity – areas that have worse outcomes due to limited access to opportunities and resources

Purpose of the Equity Index is to identify and track disparities and support data-driven decision-making. Darker colors on the map represent more opportunities, while lighter colors represent less opportunities for residents.

Examples of the Equity Index in use:

- Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) Infrastructure – prioritize areas for investment, including the installation of smart meters
- Neighborhood Planning – relies on co-creation with residents/etc. City Council chose McKinley as first space to pilot the project.
- Tacoma Creates – uses the index for the application and decision-making process of providing grants to expand access to arts, culture, heritage, and science.
- Planning and Public Works – decreased levels of contaminated recycling materials by using the index to analyze collection routes and provide additional education in other languages
- Office of Equity and Human Rights – using the index to influence fair housing outreach, especially for specific protected classes.
- Tacoma Fire Department – using the index to overlay cardiac arrest data and identify correlations between survival/outcomes and locations, and target CPR training to areas most in need.
- Facilities Advisory Group – using the index to help equitably prioritize which facilities receive capital improvements.
- Economic Development – using the index to help target the Micro Loan Program and Recovery Grant Lottery; 330% increase in \$ awarded to black-owned businesses once equity index was used.
- City Council – integrating the index into Council Action Memorandum, Council Committee memos, departmental racial equity plans, organizational budget process, and aligning partners through Index expansion

Opened floor to others who've used the Equity Index:

Hunter George: JMAC homework assignment for the May meeting – asking others to share examples of how they're using the Equity Index.

Josh Garcia – What can we do to help? Thinking about how to use this data as we think about capital investments.

Ryan Mello – great presentation. Pierce County has used Tacoma's index as a model to create a countywide Equity Index. He invited Chelsea to present to the Pierce County Council so they can see new ideas about implementation.

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS – Postponing agenda item to the May 12 meeting

STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATE

Hunter George: Legislative Session ends next Sunday.

Chair Walker: Sustainability Expo on April 22 at Tollefson Plaza

Mike Griffith, Pierce Transit implemented a reduced-fare program. Started April 1st. Also, the annual report to community is on website: <https://www.piercetransit.org/2022-report-to-community/>

Hunter asked **Nora Flemming de Sandoval** about upcoming Safe Streets-sponsored conference on May 12 to address youth safety, and what organizers would like to see in terms of youth and adult participation. She said everyone is welcomed; the intent is to focus on youth voices, but the youth will appreciate having adults in the room who are listening.

Josh Garcia: We have to work to promote these things (such as gun buy-back; etc.) – please consider supporting Safe Streets – share on your websites.

Nora Flemming de Sandoval – They’re giving out free gun locks.

Elizabeth Bonbright – Thanked everyone. This is why we did the work we did on JMAC – know our work is truly going to make a difference. Thanked Josh for bringing this forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Nora Flemming de Sandoval, Safe Streets, shared upcoming events:

- 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, 7:00-9:00 pm: They started a “Get Your Mind Right” project to have an activity to help youth have a safe space to process their grief and emotions. They are hoping to branch out into Salishan in the summer and are working with the Tacoma Housing Authority to run the program there. They are also looking into creating neighborhood opportunities for the program.
- May 4th: Youth Violence Prevention panel discussion in partnership with the Tacoma News Tribune, who’re doing a long-term reporting series about issues in the city. It will be held at Bethlehem Baptist Church.
- May 12th: Youth Conference at Stewart Middle School. It’s focused for youth but is also for those who serve youth. They would like to have tables there to share opportunities for youth to engage with over the summer.
- July: They will have a data report out regarding the public safety conversation we’ve been holding all year.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the quarterly meeting with CEOs on Friday, May 12, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

APPENDIX

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools

Goal: Safe sense of belonging in the community for TPS Teenagers

What: City of Tacoma, Whole Child Safe Zones

Who: TPS Students- Grades 6-11. Students must show their student ID to enter

When: 2023 Summer, Monday through Friday, 3:00 to 10:00 pm

Session 1

6/26-6/30

7/3- 7/7

7/10 - 7/14

7/17 - 7/21

7/24- 7/28

Session 2

7/31 - 8/4

8/7 - 8/11

8/14 - 8/18

8/21 - 8/25

8/28 - 9/1

How:

100 kid capacity each place each night

Middle school or community center

Baker

Grey/Boys and Girls Club

First Creek / Eastside Center

Stewart

GMS

Hilltop Heritage / All Davies

Hunt

Truman

Meeker

Mason

*Bryant/ Wainwright kids could go to the closest location

5 employees each site - \$30 an hour, 7 hours, 5 days per week = 5,250

5 weeks x \$5250 = 26,250

2 sessions x \$26,250 = \$52,500

\$52,500 x 15% (admin) = \$7,878

\$7,878 + \$52,500 = \$60,378

\$60,378 + \$14,625 (Food) = \$75,003

\$75,000 sponsorship:

Sponsors – Need 10

Programming:

Movies, Open Gym, Swimming if possible, Games, Performances (open mike, music room)?

Supports:

Community Members (organized) pick one night a week (minimum) to come in a be with students.

Ideally each agency would do one night a week each session. We could build a schedule.

Narrative Changers

TPD

Tacoma Fire

Ministerial Alliance

Oasis

TPS Admin

City of Tacoma Elected Officials/Senior Leadership

Black Collective

Tacoma Urban League

MiCentro

APCC

Foundation for Tacoma Students Board

UWT/TCC Leadership

Others:

TPD to be in the area of each center

Centers could also have a pre-signed up field trip: Rainiers Game, Tacoma Arts Live, Zoo Night, Downtown Movie Theater - Corporate Sponsorship.

Transportation – PCT (identify routes in each neighborhood to each center and ensure they line up with the hours of operation.

Food

Can we all ask our agencies to help promote Safe Streets events?

Can we all help promote this one as well:

Childhood Safety Event (Gun Buy Back) - Sunday, April 30, 2023, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, Cheney Stadium
2502 South Tyler St., Tacoma, WA 98405.

Ben Mitchell, Foundation for Tacoma Students

Here is the link to the RFP: <https://graduatetacoma.org/elo-fund/announcement>

Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma

This is not an answer by any means, but it's a resource for families and a place where a more systemic programming availability can be promoted: <https://www.tacomalearns.org/>

Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County

Outside of Tacoma, please reach out to Pierce County Libraries as well! At PCLS, everyone serves youth. No verbal comment but will offer a reading suggestion! A book may be of interest to this group is *Palaces for the People; How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* by Eric Kleinenberg

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/37707827>

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Really interesting insights on how being in ongoing stressful environments makes it harder for young people to manage conflict and make thoughtful decisions.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/23/opinions/surprising-solution-to-gun-violence-ludwig/index.html>

Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma

I used to be involved in this program and our local Goodwill and they dropped it for lack of funding. I've talked with Lori about looking at finding some way to reinstate this good program. The kids actually hung out at Goodwill.

<https://www.goodwill.org/blog/volunteer/make-a-difference-become-a-goodguides-youth-mentor/>

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit

It may be strategic to focus sites for kids along transit lines that run until the 9/10 pm time frame.

Nora Flemming de Sandoval, Safe Streets

May 4th Youth Violence Prevention Panel Discussion

Bethlehem Baptist Church

<https://safest.org/events/youth-violence-prevention-panel-discussion/>

May 12th Youth Conference

Stewart Middle School

<https://safest.org/events/2023-youth-community-conference/>

1st & 3rd Fridays Get Your Mind Right

Safe Streets Office; Tacoma Ave & Center St.

<https://safest.org/youth-groups/youth-mental-health-initiative/>