

## **Minutes**

### **Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, March 8, 2024

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 Walker called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

#### **ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE**

Kristina Walker, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit  
Rosie Ayala, JMAC Vice Chair, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools  
Marty Campbell, Pierce County + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.  
Ryan Mello, Pierce County + Pierce Transit  
Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma  
Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Sarah Rumbaugh, City of Tacoma

#### **JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

Josh Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools

#### **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Amy Cruver, Pierce County Council  
Anita Gallagher, JMAC Consultant  
Brenna Price, Pierce County Council  
Cassie Hallstone, Tacoma Fire Department HOPE Co-Manager  
Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma  
Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma  
Deborah Trevorror, City of Tacoma  
Gabe Moaalii, City of Tacoma  
Gretchen Caserotti, Tacoma Pierce County Library  
Hugh Taylor, Pierce County Council  
Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Jessie Baines, Pierce County Community Land Trust  
Juan Beltran-Gonzalez, Senator Patty Murray's Office  
Krystle Amundson, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.  
Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma  
Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma  
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, Pierce County  
Priscilla Lisicich, Pierce County Birth to 25 Advisory  
Ryan Wheaton, Pierce Transit  
Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County Council  
Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions  
Sandi Pizir, Port of Tacoma  
Victoria Johnson, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

#### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Kristina Walker provided welcoming remarks. JMAC members introduced themselves.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Chair Walker** made a tribal land acknowledgment.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented; motion passed unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 9, 2024, be approved as presented; motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion: Moving the date of the December 2024 meeting:**

**Chair Walker** proposed moving the meeting date to December 6, 2024, due to JMAC attendee conflicts. Members discussed. Chair Walker concluded that members seemed amicable to the date change but that she had to confirm with two members who were not in attendance before finalizing the decision.

## PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION

**Chair Walker** and members celebrated the approval of Tacoma Public Schools Proposition 1, which was just approved by 68.9% of voters.

**Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma**, reviewed legislative updates, noting that Metro Parks received \$400,000 for the People's Community Center feasibility project in partnership with the City of Tacoma, as well as \$200,000 for a South End community center feasibility study. Chair Walker added that there was additional funding for shelters and street medicine.

**Patti Spaulding-Klewin, Pierce County Human Services Social Services Program Specialist**, provided follow-up to the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Act (PSTAA) briefing that was shared at the February meeting. Spaulding-Klewin noted that the Request for Proposals for PSTAA funding is still open, and that the focus of the funding this year is specifically targeted to educational outcomes for youth. **Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma**, added that the Tacoma Parks Foundation is submitting a grant application for the Summer Late Nights collaboration with numerous partners. Spaulding-Klewin responded to questions, and let the committee know that volunteers are needed for the application evaluation committees. **Priscilla Lisicich, Chair, Pierce County Birth to 25 Advisory Board**, also provided additional information regarding the committees.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: HOPE TEAM UPDATE

**Melanie Harding, Assistant to the City Manager and Executive Sponsor for the HOPE Team**, introduced **Cassie Hallstone**, HOPE Team Program Co-Manager, who provided a progress update on the Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement (HOPE) Team. She also mentioned that **Aleesia Morales**, HOPE Team Program Co-Manager, was also present.

**Cassie Hallstone** shared the goals of the HOPE team which include responding to welfare checks, suicide threats, calls about loiterers and/or people walking in traffic or wielding a weapon, and getting them connected to the appropriate care and diverting from the hospital or jail. The HOPE team has two field response teams working with fire and police departments to provide physical and mental health assessments. Hallstone reviewed the HOPE team's work schedule, service areas, and availability, as well as staff needs and challenges. She noted that dialing 988 is the new national crisis line for mental health support, and 741741 is the national suicide prevention hotline. She reviewed data collected from the first 75 days of the HOPE team's response outcomes, noting that out of 147 calls received, 16% of those were diverted from the emergency department. The HOPE team has created dispatch protocols for certain call types so that the HOPE team can be dispatched along with the police or fire departments. There are also services for substance use and detox treatment, as well as services for veterans and elderly people. Hallstone responded to questions. Lastly, JMAC members, Morales, and Hallstone discussed ideas around working

with the many local services and how to coordinate the different resources and programs in a cohesive and sustainable manner.

### **BREAKOUT DISCUSSION ON JMAC WORKGROUPS**

During the roundtable discussions at the December 2023 JMAC meeting, participants noted a need to further define “community wealth building” as one of the group’s strategic themes and continue to expand on employment pipelines in the community and with local procurement/contracting opportunities and processes.

JMAC members and attendees then moved into 5 smaller Zoom breakout rooms to further discuss community wealth building, based on these two questions:

1. What does “community wealth building” mean to you? How would you define it (personally and/or through your organization)?
2. As you define community wealth building and think about the membership of JMAC, what programs come to mind that all or most of our organizations could lean into as a consortium?

### **Summary of Themes:**

- Homeownership: Traditionally, families created generational wealth through homeownership, but rising home prices have put homeownership out of reach for many in our community. Credit scores and employment are closely connected to this topic. It may be possible to facilitate more homeownership opportunities by expanding the types of homes that can be built in the city.
- Employment opportunities: Providing opportunities for youth to explore career pathways, like Jobs 253, is important. Internships, apprenticeships, job tax credits, and finding ways to lift-up the lowest-paid workers in JMAC institutions can help close the wealth gap.
- Addressing barriers for workers: Prospective workers may be unaware of high-demand career fields and experience other barriers like a lack of childcare or medical needs/expenses that prevent them from attaining living-wage employment.
- Knowledge: There are many programs in the community (e.g., GRIT and ALICE work led by United Way) intended to create opportunities for low-income individuals and households. Analysis of how these efforts intersect to create a broader system and which have been effective or ineffective would be valuable. Further, there is a need to increase community knowledge of available resources.
- Contracting: As JMAC has previously discussed, MWBE contracting can help build community wealth, especially for firms owned by Black women.

### **Summary of Proposed Actions:**

- Review previous briefings related to Community Wealth Building and inquire if those programs have grown and if there are any barriers to effectiveness that could be solved at the state legislative level.
- Identify and support programs that are effective.
- Raise awareness of high-demand career fields in marginalized communities.
- Gather data on the lowest paying jobs and find ways to boost economic and community wealth for individuals working in those jobs.
- Increase access to childcare.
- Increase access to internships and apprenticeships.
- Tacoma Anchor Network plays a lead role in this area. Invite them to present at JMAC so our members can identify ways in which they can support TAN’s work.
- Engage the Tacoma Plus Program, Next Move, and United Way (GRIT, ALICE efforts) to gain an updated understanding of how these programs are making an impact in the community.
- MWBE contracting should continue to be a focus.
- Identify ways to boost homeownership. Ideas include partnership with credit unions and exploring allowing more home types to be built in the city.
- Learn about the challenges of Medicaid and Medicare and medical expenses act as a barrier to building community wealth.

- Engage the legislative delegation by inviting them to JMAC to discuss issues related to this topic area and identify ways in which they can assist through policy and budget.

### **Raw Notes from each room**

#### **Room 1:**

- Community wealth building means all boats rise together. All residents have the ability to purchase a home or a car or other basic things.
- Ensure those opportunities exist for our community.
- Look at broader system to see what's working as well as what hasn't worked. Analysis of where community wealth currently exists and then think through how to enhance it.
- Look back at the topics previously discussed to see if those programs have changed or grown. See if legislation is needed to help make programs more effective. Examples: how to support apprenticeship or educational outcomes, credentialing.
- Jobs 253 is an example of a program where youth can try out a career to see if they want to follow that path.
- Metro Parks has ramped up their Jobs 253 student engagement.
- Provide opportunities so that people understand what the possibilities are. Sometimes people don't know about entering a field unless they are already interested. This is common in the behavioral health field.
- Part of the definition of Community Wealth needs to include "knowledge." A community has wealth in knowledge of resources, planned impacts, community safety and the like. So, is the work of JMAC to streamline information, co-create it with communities where English is not a first language, and basically help remove the access barriers to community. With more access, more wealth.

#### **Room 2:**

- Starting first with looking at our lowest paid workers in our own institutions, focusing on economic and wealth building opportunities with lowest wage works. Collecting data.
- Looking at unpaid labor, emotional labor, and labor that is inequitably distributed. Creating networks with support and building infrastructure and create pathways to pay people (ambassadors, street team, language access)
- Creating accessibility for childcare and things that prevent people from being about to go to work

#### **Room 3:**

- Black women getting less than 1% of government contracts (Nationally)
  - We are better but not the best
- Homeownership and Entrepreneurship
  - Most families' wealth lies in the home.
  - Credit/Jobs, etc. in order to get the home are part of the puzzle
- Labor - apprenticeship, internships.
- TPS working on community inclusion language.
- We'd benefit from some common language/ shared definition regarding some of these topics like apprentice, etc.

#### **Room 4:**

- Letting Tacoma Anchor Network take the lead from their perspective, but having them present to JMAC
- Being explicit about the minimum wage and the livable wage. What are those numbers and how can we work with data that reflect living wage.
- Discuss job tax credit in an effort to reduce wealth gap
- Learning more about Tacoma Plus Program and future partnerships
- Adding Next Move to the youth employment conversation
- Hearing from United Way on their efforts (GRIT and ALICE work in particular)
- What does closer partnership with credit unions look like?

- Better understanding of the work and challenges of Medicaid and Medicare and what potentials look like in a JMAC space (thought being that medical expenses are often the reason why people lose out on sustainable living opportunities)
- "Better" partnership with senators and representatives (seeing them in the JMAC space)

**Room 5:**

- Potentially explore allowing manufactured/modular homes in the city as a means to facilitate more homeownership opportunities.
- We talked about identifying areas of opportunity (schools, jobs), and working projects to increase accessibility.

**STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATES**

**Chair Walker** highlighted the Summer Late Nights program and asked for updates; there were none.

**Hunter George** provided general staff workgroup updates. He noted that the committee is drafting a letter to the Puyallup Tribe chairman to formally invite ways to engage with JMAC conversations.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Chair Walker** called for public comments; there were none.

**GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC**

**Chair Walker** provided closing remarks and mentioned that the Tacoma State of the City Address is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>.

No other comments were provided.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Walker** adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

*\*Minutes taken by Pierce County Council*