

Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee

Friday, January 12, 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 8:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE

Kristina Walker, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma, and Pierce Transit
Rosie Ayala, JMAC Vice Chair, Metro Parks Tacoma
Elizabeth Bonbright, Tacoma Public Schools
Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma
Ryan Mello, Pierce County and Pierce Transit
Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma
Sarah Rumbaugh, City of Tacoma

JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Adam Kulaas, Tacoma Public Schools
Alex Mather, Pierce Transit
Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools
Amy Cruver, Pierce County Council
Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma (JMAC alternate)
Anita Gallagher, Consultant
Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma
Christopher Chase, Tacoma School District
Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma
Colleen Meiners, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.
Deborah Trevororrow, City of Tacoma
Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County Library System
Hugh Taylor, Pierce County
Hunter George, Metro Parks
Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma
Juan Beltran, Senator Patty Murray's Office
Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma
Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma
Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma
Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma

WELCOME

Chair Kristina Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roundtable introductions were given as there were new elected officials in attendance this year.

New 2024 JMAC representatives include **Commissioner Don Meyer** with the Port of Tacoma, **Commissioner Tim Reid** with Metro Parks Tacoma, and **Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh** with the City of Tacoma.

Chair Walker also wanted to share with the new committee members that the JMAC Staff Liaison is **Chrisy Vindivich** with the City of Tacoma. She provides all email communications and meeting invitations on behalf of the committee. **Chrisy** also manages the hybrid meeting via Zoom, as well as hosting duties in conference room 248 at the Tacoma Municipal Building as an in-person attendance option. Her email is cvindivich@cityoftacoma.org.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Walker made a tribal land acknowledgment.

LEADERSHIP ELECTION FOR 2024

Every January, JMAC holds an election for a Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Current JMAC **Chair Walker** asked for nominations for the 2024 JMAC Chair.

County **Council Member Ryan Mello** nominated Tacoma **Council Member Kristina Walker** to remain in the position of JMAC Chair. No other nominations were declared. The vote to approve the nomination of **Council Member Walker** as JMAC Chair passed unanimously. **Chair Walker** thanked the committee and looks forward to her 5th year on JMAC.

Tacoma Public School **Board Member Elizabeth Bonbright** nominated Metro Parks **Commissioner Rosie Ayala** as JMAC Vice Chair. No other nominations were declared. **Chair Walker** then thanked previous Vice Chair **Ryan Mello** for serving in this role in 2023. The vote to approve the nomination of **Commissioner Ayala** as JMAC Vice Chair was approved unanimously. New **Vice Chair Ayala** thanked everyone for their support.

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 17, 2023 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of December 8, 2023 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION

Recap and thoughts on December 2023 Year-End Meeting:

JMAC Chair Walker opened the discussion for any thoughts from the year-end presentation and table discussions held on December 8th at STAR Center. Themes from the JMAC Table Discussions document and attendee insights were shared on screen.

Chair Walker started the conversation by sharing that her table discussion was focused on workforce development and the connection to the Tacoma Anchor Network, and that JMAC should reflect on this topic in our 2024 agenda.

Board Member Bonbright was very pleased with the attendance and enthusiasm at the event. There was a lot of consistency between the conversations at all the tables. She also shared that the community has taken notice of the work that the JMAC is focusing on, and how we can expand a version of JMAC at other agencies and in smaller groups. This will help us align our strategies across the City and County.

Vice Chair Ayala shared that there is a great opportunity to align our JMAC efforts with non-government agencies. There is a chance to engage in a holistic approach to address common challenges. This includes policy alignment and funding alignment between the agencies.

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR 2024-

Hunter George, Metro Parks, then walked through the “Themes from JMAC Table Discussions” document which was co-developed with Consultant **Anita Gallagher** after the December event. JMAC members then discussed topics for inclusion on the 2024 priorities list. There were broad themes identified, as well as specific topics that were discussed to set JMAC priorities for the year.

Areas of interest from the table discussions included contracting and procurement, grant opportunities, pathways to apprenticeships, expanding late night activities and job opportunities for youth development and safety, expanding access to childcare, and further alignment of behavioral health response systems.

A great takeaway from the December event was that we shouldn’t just be aligning systems, as the system itself may be broken – move from partnerships to system alignment and integration. Systemic barriers must be broken down to create true collaboration; don’t just conform to partnerships.

Continuing to coordinate legislative agendas across agencies was shared as a common theme, as this has been a successful impact of JMAC over the past several years.

There were several suggestions to engage the faith community more to help with major community issues, such as youth development.

One proposed focus area for 2024 is the task to “Take JMAC on the road” sponsored by **Board Member Bonbright**. Telling the JMAC story could include presenting at each of the JMAC members councils and commissions to share the priorities and ways we can collaborate.

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit suggested adding an “Advocacy” bullet to the 2024 priorities. She shared information on the “2023 Regional Priority Projects” list created by Snohomish County leaders. The list compiles and prioritizes economic development projects that need funding. We recommend that Pierce County create a similar tool, which has proven successful for Snohomish County.

Commissioner Tim Reid liked this document and recommended to have the projects sorted by “shovel-ready” or project dependent on funding to begin, as this would be helpful to differentiate.

Commissioner Don Meyer shared that this would be a priority tool for infrastructure funding, and it is critical to our community for economic/social sustainability. This would be beneficial for communities to collaborate on these projects, as they typically see more success when they coordinate their requests.

Commissioner Deanna Keller echoed that this is a valuable tool and is already being discussed with several internal groups.

Board Member Bonbright thanked **Alex Mather** for bringing this to the table as this is a perfect example of where JMAC can collaborate.

Since we have several new committee members, **Board Member Bonbright** thought it would be helpful to review how we select JMAC projects and why. She then reviewed the 3 strategic themes that guide the JMAC priorities and focus areas.

These strategic themes are:

- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)—Innovation in this area reduces systemic racism, sexism, and other biases that hold our community back.
- Public Health and Safety—Innovation in this area reduces vulnerability to health, wellness, and safety challenges.
- Community Wealth Building—Innovation in this area aids local entrepreneurship and wealth accumulation, especially for sectors traditionally excluded from opportunities.

Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh inquired how community health looks in the Tacoma Public School System. There are concerns on how sex education and communications are being built out for students, and how the information can be transformational for them.

Board Member Bonbright responded that Mount Tahoma contains a clinic that is supported by MultiCare for this purpose. This clinic supports the health needs for students, and there are conversations on how we can fund more clinics at the high school level. If you'd like to discuss more, we can take this offline, and include Adam Kulaas with Tacoma Public Schools.

Adam Kulaas confirmed this information, and that Lincoln is also on the list for a clinic in partnership with SeaMar. It is a continuing necessity to address this need for our youth.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING: MARITIME 253 SKILLS CENTER-

Adam Kulaas, Director of Innovative Learning and Career and Technical Education, Tacoma Public Schools;

Matthew Mauer, Government Affairs Manager, Port of Tacoma

Adam Kulaas, Tacoma Public Schools gave a progress update on the Maritime 253 Skills Center in partnership with the Port of Tacoma. This program will serve Pierce County through advanced workforce development and community partnerships that amplify the Port's global economic impact. As this program aligns with the mission and philosophy of JMAC, he is excited to share the progress with the committee.

Past milestones include the following:

- Completed an OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) Skills Center Authorization application which highlighted a robust feasibility study that emphasized analysis of connected maritime career pathways.
- Solidified Port of Tacoma partnership and Interlocal Agreements.
- Design build team process with site visits, exploration, and ideation of campus and skills center design elements which were created to empower our youth and developing workforce pathways.
- Maritime 253 partner database launched with currently over 100 individual members, representing over 75 unique entities.

Current program milestones include:

- The design build process continuation with collaborative calibration with the Port of Tacoma and other entities.
- Identification and launch of Maritime 253 Design Advisory Committee.
- Program design teams in identified programming pathways: Advanced Manufacturing, Technology, Sustainability, Skilled Trades, and Transportation & Logistics.
- Technology integration and physical equipment demos for identified program pathways.
- Inter-district agreement processing with over a dozen South Puget Sound school districts.

Where Maritime 253 is heading:

- Continued personalization of partner participation.
- Program and content development. (New and existing); Framework creation/expansion, identified Industry Recognized Credentialing (IRC), and Dual Credit alignment. We have been partnering with many JMAC agencies, and we are currently in year 12 of the Jobs 253 initiative which has helped thousands of students. This new direct access to maritime industry programs/employment is a great collaboration with their Jobs 253 credentialed opportunity. This work is evolving, and it only becomes richer to expand into the other districts as well as their summer programming.
- Grant identification, completion, and submission. We are being very aggressive with innovative grant opportunities.
- Design build process is ongoing.

Adam Kulaas has been meeting with various Superintendents and CTE Directors from other districts to understand their unique and innovative elements that are identified in the existing Skills Center infrastructure.

Kulaas also shared that he has worked with many organizations nationally and globally, and he has never seen a community rally around actionable partnership like he has seen with agencies in Tacoma. It has been extremely evident on his work with the Maritime 253 Skills Center. It has been a truly community-driven experience.

If you are interested in becoming a partner or simply excited to learn more, please contact maritime253@tacoma.k12.wa.us.

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma, updated JMAC on the parcel of land for this Maritime 253 project. It sits on what used to be called “the boot” which is significant to the Puyallup Tribe. The Port has been working with the Tribe’s historic preservation team for over a year on this project to develop a sampling plan for cultural resources and environmental testing.

The project has conducted 117 borings on the site to learn about potential cultural resources and any kind of contaminants. So far, they have not encountered any pre-decolonization or post-European settling. Also, because of all those borings, a 3D model has been developed to show the traditional/original shoreline. That boot area was part of the third mouth to the Puyallup River.

However, and not unexpectedly, **Mauer** shared that the studies found contamination, which will require a remediation plan. Project leaders are confident in the ability to clean it up in coordination with the Tribe and the Department of Ecology. A big portion of that cleanup work is going to be summer 2025.

JMAC Chair Walker thanked both **Kulaas** and **Mauer** for this valuable update, and asked about opportunities to connect, provide feedback, and coordinate on current or future funding.

Adam Kulaas replied that they can contact him via email or use the QR code in his presentation. Interested parties can join the program now and fill in any capacity they determine best fits. Innovative opportunities on legislative elements currently exist, and they will take this conversation offline to confirm the timelines for future requests.

STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATES-

Hunter George thanked everyone for their feedback on the 2024 priorities. He also wanted to share with the new JMAC members that he and **Anita Gallagher** meet with both the JMAC Chair and Vice Chair twice per month. This meeting reviews the agenda items, priorities, and other critical items to best support the committee meetings.

Hunter George also works closely with the government relations officers from each agency to schedule the JMAC agenda items for greatest opportunity of collaboration and action. He also wanted to reiterate that he is a phone call/email away if anyone has any feedback, agenda recommendations, etc. He’s excited to work on the 2024 meetings, as well as the presentation for “Ambassador Bonbright’s” roadshow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC-

Board Member Bonbright shared that Tacoma Public Schools has a \$650 million bond measure on the ballot this February 13. She expressed appreciation to all the elected boards and commissions that have voted to support it. This bond measure also includes critical funding for the Maritime 253 Skills Center.

Vice Chair Ayala shared that there is an MLK Day celebration on January 15th and a Tet Lunar New Year Celebration at the Eastside Community Center on January 28th. The following website lists all upcoming Metro Park events:

https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/events/?tribe_event_category=0&mp_search=&location=0&tribe_paged=1&tribe-bar-date=2024-01-01&featured=1&action=tribe_list

Chair Walker shared that the annual City of Tacoma’s MLK Day community event will be held on January 15th at the Tacoma Convention Center at 11 AM.

Chair Walker also wanted to point out/remind attendees that the list of JMAC’s strategic themes is at the end of every JMAC monthly agenda.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

**Minutes taken by City of Tacoma*