



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

July 10, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Council President Ed Prince, Renton, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. 23 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember John Holman, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Council President Angela Birney, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland (PIC Alternate); Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Mercer Island; Councilmember Stanley Tombs, SeaTac; Colleen Kelly, City of Shoreline staff; Alex Herzog, City of Woodinville staff; Doug Levy, City of Renton consultant; Tom Goff, King County Council staff; Erica Harris, PSRC staff; Sarah Stiteler, City of Redmond staff.

2. Public Comment

Chair Prince asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Chair Prince closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the June 12, 2019 PIC Minutes

Chair Prince asked if there were any amendments to the June 12, 2019 PIC minutes as included in the agenda packet. **Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Prince reminded members to RSVP for PIC meetings and to let staff know whether they need a printed copy of the PIC agenda packet. Prince also reminded members that the August PIC meeting is cancelled. Prince said that he would be rotating out of the PIC chair position in 2020. He noted that current PIC Vice Chair Christie Malchow was interested in serving as Chair for 2020, and asked members to consider running for PIC-Vice Chair. He especially encouraged South and South Valley members to consider serving

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported on upcoming SCA Networking Dinners and the SCA Annual Meeting. There will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. The guest speaker is Greater Seattle Partners CEO Brian McGowan and the sponsor is Boeing. There will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at Embassy Suites Tukwila. The guest speaker is Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and the sponsor is Foster Pepper. There will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. The guest speaker is to be determined and the sponsor is Sound Transit. The SCA Annual Meeting will take place

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. All SCA Networking Dinners and the Annual Meeting are from 5:30 to 8:00 PM.

Dawson provided an update about ongoing discussions to reform the region's homeless response system and governance model. SCA is working with King County to schedule a meeting to be held with representation from all cities to discuss proposals under consideration.

Dawson said that work is ongoing with Challenge Seattle and Microsoft to implement the call to action to address the need for affordable middle-income housing in the region.

Dawson introduced King County's new Municipal Relations Manager, Tom Goff, as a guest at the meeting.

Dawson said that SCA is in the process of hiring to fill a vacant Policy Analyst position and expects to be back to full staffing in the coming weeks.

6. King County Charter Review

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on a potential King County Charter amendment proposal under consideration by the Charter Review Commission to consolidate the three charter-established regional committees: the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Transit Committee, and the Regional Water Quality Committee. He said the proposal was brought forward by members of the county council during the Commission's public outreach process and that the Commission has asked for input from SCA to inform its deliberations.

In response to the request for feedback on possible consolidation of the charter regional committees, SCA has formed a working group including the SCA caucus chairs from each of the three committees. At the June PIC meeting, members discussed potentially advancing a formal position related to the regional committees and the importance of including city representation in decisions affecting the region.

SCA staff proposed the following draft policy position for PIC to provide feedback and to consider taking action on at its next meeting on September 11, 2019:

SCA supports the structure of the regional committees as approved by voters in the King County Charter and value the role they play in ensuring cities and the county truly collaborate when making decisions on important regional issues.

SCA members have serious concerns that consolidating the regional committees would limit city participation in regional decision-making. SCA believes there is significant value in having different perspectives from cities large and small and in different parts of the county brought to bear on regional issues.

SCA would welcome the opportunity to explore how the charter committees can be best utilized to facilitate regional collaboration and communication between cities and the county.

Parry said the proposed policy position is still in draft form and that SCA is seeking input from PIC as well as members of the three charter regional committees. A revised version of the policy statement reflecting that input will be sent to PIC members well in advance of the September PIC meeting so that members have time to review with their respective councils.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that a meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 25, and that SCA could offer testimony at that meeting if a position is adopted.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said that he is troubled by the suggestion to dissolve any of the charter regional committees. He said he would like SCA to make a loud and clear statement of support for the committees as currently described in the King County Charter.

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, said the SCA caucus to the Regional Policy Committee discussed the proposal and is strongly opposed to consolidating the regional committees.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, noted that he serves on the Charter Review Commission and was tasked with doing outreach to SCA about regional collaboration and the regional committee structure. He said the Commission is looking for information and has not taken a position on the proposal. He said SCA providing clear feedback will be very helpful to Commission members.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that he agreed with Mayor Baker about the importance of sending a strong message of support for the regional committees. He said the County Council should better utilize the committees to provide a voice to cities in regional policymaking. He noted the King County Charter calls for the committees to have the power to “develop, propose, review and recommend action” on ordinances and motions affecting regional plans and policies within the subject matter of each committee. He said too often the committees are not included in the development of policy as prescribed in the charter and only brought in late in the process to review a final proposal. He said each committee adopting rules of procedure could provide for a more efficient process, but that a charter amendment is not necessary to achieve that goal if the charter is followed as written. In response to a request from Councilmember Nixon, Margeson said that he would ask City of Redmond staff to work with SCA to include additional language in the proposed policy statement about the importance of cities having a voice in regional policy development and decision-making.

Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, said that SCA should include background on the work of the regional committees in any testimony or letter to help educate members of the Commission who may not be as familiar with how they function.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, said that a recent meeting of the Regional Water Quality Committee was the best meeting in many months because it was truly a working meeting to include city input rather than just briefings about ongoing work. He said he hoped this will continue into the future.

Councilmember Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, asked if there are any issues or concerns related to which topics are brought before the regional committees. Councilmember Margeson

said that at times there have been concerns that issues that should go before the committees are not referred to them by the County Council as expected.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, to bring back to PIC for consideration at its September 11, 2019 meeting the proposed policy statement related to charter regional committees as amended by SCA staff. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. VISION 2050

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on ongoing work by the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) to update and extend the region's plan for growth – VISION 2040 – out to the year 2050. Between now and 2050, the four-county region that makes up the Puget Sound Regional Council region is projected to grow by 1.8 million people and 1.2 million jobs. The updated VISION 2050 plan will set expectations for how the region will accommodate that growth in local comprehensive plans to maintaining and improving quality of life.

In June, PIC was briefed on comments provided by SCA cities related to the update to VISION and the status of the work of the GMPB. In addition, members were asked to consider whether SCA should work to submit formal comment upon release of the draft VISION 2050.

Parry said PSRC is expected to release a full draft update to VISION on July 19 for a 60-day comment period. SCA staff drafted a proposed statement of guiding principles for PIC consideration ([Attachment B](#)) that could be recommended as feedback for SCA representatives on the GMPB, or as the basis for any comment letter signed on behalf of SCA. King County has proposed working through the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), which includes representatives of SCA, to develop and submit a joint comment letter. Feedback on the proposed guiding principles will help inform the work of members on GMPC and, based on the content of the proposed GMPC letter, PIC may consider recommending SCA sign-on to that letter rather than (or in addition to) adopting a separate statement of principles at the September 11, 2019 PIC meeting.

Parry said the proposed statement of guiding principles is an initial proposal based on [comment letters](#) provided by SCA cities, as well as feedback from staff, GMPB members, and PIC throughout the process of updating VISION 2050. He encouraged members to discuss the proposed principles with their city councils and staff and to provide any feedback or proposed changes. He noted that the GMPC will be meeting on July 24, and that any feedback before that meeting would be especially helpful. A revised version of the guiding principles based on any feedback received will be provided in August to provide additional time to review in preparation for the September PIC meeting.

Parry noted that the 60-day PSRC comment period is expected to end on September 16, which is after the September 11 PIC meeting but is two days before the September SCA Board meeting. He said that staff are working on how to address the timing of submitting comments, but that regardless of whether PIC made a formal recommendation in September or determined to continue developing feedback, those discussions would help inform SCA members of the GMPB and GMPC as they engage with other regional partners.

Chair Prince recognized Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Mercer Island, who is a member of the GMPC and a guest at the PIC meeting. Bertlin said the GMPC would be meeting on July 24 and that hearing feedback from SCA cities is really important so that she and other SCA members are able to represent those interests.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that he agrees with the direction of the draft guiding principles and recommended bringing them back to the September PIC meeting for adoption.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Barre Siebert, Clyde Hill, to bring back to PIC for consideration at its September 11, 2019 meeting the proposed policy statement ([Attachment B](#)), as amended by SCA staff.

Chair Prince asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, noted that he is an SCA member on the GMPC and said that he is concerned that GMPC may be asked to take action on a joint letter before the full SCA membership has had a chance to develop a formal policy position. Parry said the GMPC would be asked at its July 24 meeting only to direct staff to develop a joint comment letter. He said the proposed comment letter would be provided to PIC well in advance of the September 11 PIC meeting for member feedback. He said the PIC could provide feedback for GMPC members related to the joint letter in September, but acknowledged the timeline is challenging.

There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. HB 1406 State Sales Tax Credit for Affordable Housing

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on HB 1406, a bill approved during the 2019 legislative session to provide cities and counties with a new source of funds for affordable housing and supportive services. The funding comes from a credit against the state share of the sales tax, meaning it provides funding to cities and counties without any increase in the amount of taxes being paid by the consumer.

In order to secure the ability to access these funds, cities are required to adopt a resolution of intent to implement the tax credit by January 28, 2020 and implementing legislation by July 28, 2020. If a city does not adopt a resolution of intent by the statutory deadline, the ability to access those funds is transferred to the county.

Many cities in King County have begun initially discussing options for implementing the sales tax credit individually or in concert with other jurisdictions as authorized by the new law. In addition, the King County Affordable Housing Committee was recently briefed on HB 1406 and will be considering if there is support that committee could provide for implementing the tax credit or recommendations for a regional strategy for use of those funds.

The maximum rate that cities may retain under the bill is either .0146% or .0073% of local sales depending on whether the city has adopted a “qualifying local tax” prior to July 31, 2020. If a

city does not have a qualifying local tax, the city and county are each eligible to receive a credit of .0073% of local sales. The City of Seattle is the only city in King County that has a qualifying local tax currently in place. If a city chooses not to implement the .0073% credit, the county is then authorized to retain the full .0146% of local sales generated within that city. Parry noted that approximate annual revenues by city, based on 2017 sales figures, can be found in the PIC Packet on [page 24](#).

Qualifying local taxes include:

- The affordable housing levy authorized under [RCW 84.52.105](#);
- The sales and use tax for housing and related services authorized under [RCW 82.14.530](#);
- The sales tax for chemical dependency and mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts authorized under [RCW 82.14.460](#);
- The property tax levy authorized under [RCW 84.55.050](#) if used solely for affordable housing.

Parry noted the process to accept the tax credit can be confusing, and encouraged members to utilize a helpful [HB 1406 overview created by the Association of Washington Cities](#).

Parry encouraged PIC members to share information about the status of discussions related to implementation of HB 1406 within your city; priorities for expending tax credit funds; guidance for what support could be provided regionally to make the most efficient and effective use of tax credit funds; and, feedback on how SCA can support city priorities.

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, said the tax credit is on an upcoming city council agenda and that they will be considering partnering with other cities through the South King Housing and Homelessness Partners ([SKHHP](#)).

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said the tax credit is on an upcoming city council agenda and that the city is considering partnering with other cities through A Regional Coalition for Housing ([ARCH](#)).

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said the Redmond city council recently discussed the tax credit and that they are considering options including partnering with ARCH or bonding against the funds.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that the Auburn city council would be discussing the tax credit and that she is supportive of partnering with SKHHP.

Councilmember Margeson said that cities have a July 2020 deadline to impose a qualifying local tax if they wish to collect the full amount of the credit rather than a share being collected by the county. Colleen Kelly, Shoreline staff, noted that the qualifying local tax sources cities are eligible to implement would require a ballot measure.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, thanked staff for providing information about HB 1406 and said that she supports partnering with each other to determine the best ways to utilize the credit.

Councilmember Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, asked what cities with very small sales tax credit amounts could do to best utilize those funds. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that cities with smaller credit amounts may benefit from partnering with groups like ARCH, SKHHP, the King County Housing Authority, or King County to leverage their funds. Cities have the option to pass a resolution of intent by the end of January 2020 to ensure they collect the funds and then can enter into an agreement with other cities or regional organizations at a later date directing how those funds are spent.

Mayor Backus noted that jurisdictions are authorized under the law to collect the funding over multiple years if they would like to save for a project that could not be adequately supported by funding from a single year.

9. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on future levies and ballot measures in King County. He noted several bond and levy measures that will be considered by voters during the August 2019 election, including: renewal of the countywide parks and open space levy; an operations levy proposed by the Seattle Public Library; capital bonds proposed by EvergreenHealth; and, an operations levy proposed by Puget Sound Regional Fire.

Parry also highlighted that the City of Shoreline is discussing potentially going to voters with a Community Aquatics Center bond measure in November 2019. Dawson noted that King County METRO has indicated that a levy to support the METRO CONNECTS plan may be considered in 2020 or 2024.

10. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that a pre-PIC workshop is scheduled for November concerning the impact of the *Martin v. City of Boise* decision on city homelessness policies. SCA is also working on pre-PIC workshops related to equity and inclusion, and on best practices related to city and elected official use of social media.

11. Upcoming Events

Chair Prince said there will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. The guest speaker is Greater Seattle Partners CEO Brian McGowan and the sponsor is Boeing. There will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at Embassy Suites Tukwila. The guest speaker is Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and the sponsor is Foster Pepper. There will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. The guest speaker is to be determined and the sponsor is Sound Transit. The SCA Annual Meeting will take place Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center, with sponsor Comcast. All SCA Networking Dinners and the Annual Meeting are from 5:30 to 8:00 PM.

Chair Prince said the next PIC meeting will be held on September 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Renton City Hall (pre-PIC workshop at 6:00 PM).

12. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, invited members to come out to the [79th Annual Redmond Derby Days](#) summer festival on July 12 and 13.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, invited members to participate in the [2019 Wellness Walk for Black Men's Health](#) on July 20 at Renton Memorial Stadium. The annual event is part of the National African American Male Wellness Initiative to empower black men through awareness and free health screenings to take charge of their health. The Wellness Walk was first launched in Ohio and has since expanded to six cities outside of the state, including the City of Renton. Families and community members are all encouraged to join in the event to raise awareness and address disparate health outcomes.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, said the city would be sending an advisory measure to voters asking whether the city should lift its existing moratorium on marijuana retailers.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, asked whether in light of recent earthquake activity on the west coast SCA should host a pre-PIC workshop on disaster preparedness. SCA Executive Director Dawson noted that a pre-PIC workshop on emergency management was held in January, but that if there was interest from members in another workshop that could be considered.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
July 10, 2019**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	John Stokes	Janice Zahn
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Davina Duerr
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Matt Mahoney
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Anthony Wright	Mike Sando
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Martin Moore
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Chris Reh
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Jay Arnold
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Linda Johnson
Medina	Sheree Wen	Alex Morcos
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Tom Acker
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Mary Tompkins
Newcastle	Allen Dauterman	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	Angela Birney
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Karen Moran
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Zac Idan
Woodinville	James Evans	Elaine Cook
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Christa Valles Cynthia Foley

Voting members are highlighted. Cities represented are **bolded**.



Attachment B:

**PROPOSED STATEMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE UPDATE TO
VISION 2050**

If approved by PIC, the final guiding principles would be used to guide the work of SCA members on the GMPB and GMPC as they engage with county and regional stakeholders to approve and ultimately implement the update to VISION 2050.

1. Maximize the benefits of the region’s significant investments in high-capacity transit by setting ambitious regional goals for attracting housing and jobs in proximity to this transit.

The Transit Focused Growth alternative analyzed in the DSEIS performed comparably better regionally in modeling potential environmental impacts of 1) air quality and community health; 2) the degree of forecasted climate change; 3) increases in transit use and thus access to jobs; and 4) an increased supply of the moderate-density housing most associated with increasing access to affordability.

The draft Regional Growth Strategy includes an ambitious goal to “attract 65% of the region’s residential and 75% of the region’s employment growth to high-capacity transit station areas.” PSRC has previously affirmed this numerical goal as an aspirational regional statement and not as a standard applied to individual jurisdictions and their station areas and this should be clearly stated in the plan. Implementation of a transit focused strategy should not be one-size-fits-all and significant analysis will be required to determine what can be realistically achieved within individual jurisdictions while promoting improved quality of life.

2. Incorporate policies and regional actions that mitigate displacement risk, ensure equitable outcomes and access to opportunity, and support affordable housing preservation and development most suitable for each city and town across the four-county region.

Because focusing growth near transit emphasizes redevelopment, it also carries a relatively greater risk of displacing existing affordably-priced housing and vulnerable populations. SCA supports the development of effective displacement mitigation tools and strategies for centering equity in regional planning. This work should be supported by the development of a regional housing needs assessment and through direct PSRC technical assistance to develop effective affordable housing goals, strategies, and programs. Providing tools to address affordability is preferable to “top-down” mandates as cities and towns address the

region's affordable housing crisis within the constraints of their own local housing markets.

3. Conduct further work by PSRC and member jurisdictions to mutually clarify expectations related to local plan growth targets.

It is critical to include counties, cities, and towns in a process to transparently set targets, and in developing the guidance that PSRC will provide. Local targets must: 1) be based on real-world circumstances; 2) reflect the ability of jurisdictions to provide necessary services and infrastructure; and 4) recognize that market forces often act independent of local policy.

Meeting the goal of encouraging efficient use of urban land requires that the Regional Growth Strategy not be used to set caps on growth when it can be demonstrated that existing or planned infrastructure—including access to transit—is available to accommodate that growth.

4. Provide technical assistance and advocate for resources for cities and towns to implement VISION 2050.

Developing local comprehensive plans is complex and demands significant resources. It is critical that the four-county region advocate for state resources for local planning, necessary infrastructure investments, and provide technical assistance for cities and towns, especially smaller jurisdictions, to effectively implement VISION 2050.