



SCA Public Issues Committee MINUTES

September 11, 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. 28 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Mercer Island; Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Janice Zahn (PIC Alternate), Bellevue; Councilmember John Holman, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue; Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah; Councilmember Pam Stewart, Sammamish; Councilmember Erin Stout, Black Diamond; Doug Levy, City of Renton consultant; Karen Wolf, King County staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Kelly Rider, King County staff; Colleen Kelly, City of Shoreline staff; Susan Oxholm, King County staff; Kelsey Beck, City of Seattle staff; and, Alex Herzog, City of Woodinville 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 July 10, 2019 PIC Minutes

Chair Prince asked if there were any amendments to the July 10, 2019 PIC minutes. **Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Angela Birney, Redmond, to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Prince reported that Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific is stepping down from the PIC Nominating Committee and that he would be appointing Chance La Fleur of Enumclaw to represent South Valley. He also announced that he would be reappointing the remaining members of the PIC Nominating Committee. He noted that the PIC will need a new Chair and Vice Chair for PIC, and the Nominating Committee will make nominations at the end of the year.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson introduced SCA's new Policy Analyst, Alexis Mercedes Rinck.

6. King County Charter Regional Committees

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on a proposed position statement related to the King County Charter Regional Committees to respond to a request for feedback from the King County Charter Review Commission. The proposed statement was recommended for action by the PIC at the July 10, 2019 PIC meeting.

The Charter Review Commission began meeting in 2018. During their deliberations, a proposal was made to consider consolidating the three King County regional committees established in the Charter: the Regional Policy Committee, Regional Transit Committee, and Regional Water Quality Committee. SCA has appointing authority to positions on each of the three committees. Additional background on the role and make-up of the committees can be found in the [July 10, 2019 PIC Packet](#).

In response to the request for feedback on possible consolidation of the Charter Regional Committees, SCA 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. At the July PIC meeting, members voted to consider acting on a policy statement at the PIC meeting on September 11.

At the July PIC meeting, members voted unanimously to consider action at the September meeting to recommend a position statement related to the Charter Regional Committees. PIC members were encouraged at the July meeting to provide any proposed changes to the draft position statement. SCA staff said any proposed revisions would be sent to PIC members well in advance of the September meeting so that cities would have adequate time to review. The City of Redmond proposed an amended version of the position statement that was included (along with the version considered at the July PIC meeting) in an email distributed to PIC members on August 2.

Parry said that if a policy statement was recommended to and approved by the SCA board, the policy statement would be communicated to the Charter Review Commission. The Commission is scheduled to meet next on September 25 before finalizing any ideas under consideration for public comment with a goal of wrapping up their work prior to the end of the year.

Councilmember Henry Sladek, Skykomish, moved, seconded by Council President Angela Birney, Redmond, to recommend the SCA Board of Directors adopt the following position statement to be communicated to the King County Charter Review Commission:

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.

Chair Prince asked if there was any discussion.

Council President Angela Birney, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to strike the original position statement and amend to read as follows:

The King County Charter provides that three regional committees shall be established by ordinance to develop, recommend, and review regional policies and plans for consideration by the Metropolitan King County Council; one for transit, one for water quality, and one for other regional policies and plans. SCA supports the Charter provisions for city involvement in decision-making in regional policies and plans.

SCA members believe that regional policies and plans adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council are stronger and more effective when cities are part of the decision-making process. It is crucial to have diverse 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 with the Metropolitan King County Council how the regional committees can best be utilized to improve the committee process and resulting outcomes.

Chair Prince asked if there was any discussion. Council President Birney, Redmond, said that the amended language provides a stronger focus on having a city voice in regional decision making and that it was important to provide a strong message to the Charter Review Commission.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that she appreciates the work that went into crafting the position statement and that there was strong feedback from her council not to support consolidating the committees.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that a meeting that afternoon of the Regional Policy Committee where cities were asked to engage in the discussion around creating a Regional Homelessness Authority is a good example of the role these committees can play.

Council President Birney, Redmond, suggested that SCA explore whether it would be possible for Executive Director Dawson to provide testimony to the Charter Review Commission expressing the SCA position at their next meeting on September 25, 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at the King County Chinook Building rooms 121/123.

Chair Prince asked if there was any further discussion related to the amendment to the motion. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Prince asked if there was any further discussion related to the amended motion. The amended motion passed unanimously.

7. VISION 2050 Guiding Principles

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on a proposed position statement related to the draft VISION 2050 plan update, and to guide the work of SCA members on the Puget Sound Regional

Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board and the King County Growth Management Planning Council as they engage with regional stakeholders to approve and implement VISION. The proposed statement was recommended for action by the PIC at the July 10, 2019 PIC meeting.

PSRC released a [draft update](#) to the region's long-range plan for growth – VISION 2050 – for a 60-day comment period ending on September 16. The proposed guiding principles were provided at the July 10 PIC meeting and emailed to PIC members on August 2 to solicit feedback. Additional background on the update to VISION 2050 and the proposed guiding principles can be found in the [July 10 PIC packet](#).

Parry said that the proposed guiding principles are based on comments by cities during the update to VISION 2050, feedback from staff, and PIC discussions. SCA cities providing comments during the update to VISION have broadly offered their support for focusing a significant share of future growth near transit and in compact centers at the regional level. Most noted the importance of leveraging ongoing transit investments and the benefits this provides with regard to environmental impacts, climate change, increases in transit usage, access to jobs, air quality, health, and increasing the supply of moderate density housing – the housing type most associated with affordability. Some also noted that the Transit Focused Growth alternative carries with it the greatest risk of displacement due to redevelopment and encouraged a strong focus in VISION on mitigation measures. He said many cities also stressed the need for clarity around how the distribution of growth ultimately included in the Regional Growth Strategy will be implemented. While growth targets that cities will be required to plan for in their comprehensive plans are set at the countywide level (in King County this is through the Growth Management Planning Council), those targets are required to be consistent with the policies and growth shares included in VISION 2050.

Parry noted that while the guiding principles are the action item under consideration, that at the July PIC meeting he said he would provide for PIC feedback a letter being considered by the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) related to the update to VISION. The letter was drafted by the staff team to the GMPC, which includes staff from SCA cities as well as King County and the City of Seattle. He said the letter is less specific about some topics addressed in the proposed guiding principles, such as expectations for how growth targets are set, but offers more detailed comments related to other topics such as efforts through VISION to address racial and social equity, climate change, hazard mitigation, and promoting open space planning across the region. The draft letter can be found under Item 7, Attachment B, in the [September 11, 2019 PIC Packet](#). He said any feedback on the letter would help determine how SCA staff and elected members of the GMPC should move forward.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, to recommend that the SCA Board of Directors adopt the following guiding principles to guide the work of SCA members on the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board and the King County Growth Management Planning Council as they engage with regional stakeholders to approve and implement the region's long-range plan for growth, VISION 2050:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, said his city supports preserving local control of land use and zoning decisions, and that VISION needs to recognize the unique attributes of cities. He said that it would also be important for the region to advocate for state resources for cities to implement the plan.

Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, said that extra consideration needs to be given in regional planning to the unique impacts of growth and traffic on cities that are on the boundary of the Urban Growth Area. She said these communities are particularly impacted by pass-through traffic and connected by state and county roadways that don't have sufficient capacity or funding.

Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland, said that as an SCA representative on the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) that he appreciated the feedback from SCA cities and that they have been carrying forward that feedback as members of the GMPB.

Council President Angela Birney, Redmond, said that she was supportive of the proposed guiding principles. She said that the city has significant concerns with the letter before the GMPC and felt that many items addressed in the letter are not currently in VISION 2040. She said that she would provide detailed feedback to SCA staff.

Councilmember Roberts, Shoreline, said the GMPC letter included feedback provided by members of the GMPC and that included proposed revisions to the draft VISION 2050.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, said his city council discussed VISION and supported the proposed guiding principles. He said they were also generally supportive of the GMPC letter, but felt that language around displacement was not proactive enough and that requests related to funding and local planning should be addressed to the state legislature.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, said that her city council discussed VISION and supported the proposed guiding principles. She said they have similar concerns to those raised by the City of Sammamish with regard to the impact of passthrough traffic on cities on the edge of the Urban Growth Boundary or that are connected to major regional corridors by state and county roadways without capacity or access transit.

Chair Prince asked if there was any further discussion on the proposed motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Proposed King County Regional Homelessness Authority

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided a staff report, noting that in May of 2018, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Seattle and King County to increase collaboration on homelessness services. This was in response to several reports that found that the current homelessness response system was fractured – addressing this issue has been described as necessary (but not sufficient) to address the homelessness crisis.

Seattle, King County, and All Home retained consultants to issue recommendations on homelessness governance. PIC had a workshop with those consultants in October of 2018, and the consultants issued recommendations in December of 2018 that included a recommendation to consolidate the region’s investments and efforts to address homelessness into a new agency. Following the release of those recommendations in December 2018, Mayor Durkan and Executive Constantine expressed support for moving ahead with consolidation. SCA representatives working on this issue (Mayor Nancy Backus, Mayor John Chelminiak, and PIC Chair Prince) indicated SCA would need more information about a new agency and governance board before it could support consolidation.

SCA staff presented the consultant’s findings at the January 2019 PIC meeting, and PIC also discussed this topic at the March, April, May, and June PIC meetings. Additionally, SCA and King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) hosted a briefing for all SCA member cities on this proposal on July 30, 2019. At that time, DCHS staff provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the proposal for SCA members. Members who attended the meeting gave feedback expressing general support for working together as a region to address homelessness. Members also gave feedback about the need for sub-regional planning to address the different needs of communities throughout the County, and a robust role for elected policymakers in the governance structure.

The Regional Policy Committee (RPC) has been briefed on this proposal four times since June 2019, including on September 11, 2019. At the August meeting of the RPC, SCA members on the RPC gave feedback on the proposal. Their feedback was consistent with the feedback given at the July 30, 2019 meeting. RPC members also stressed the need to allow time for all SCA cities to give feedback on the proposal.

On September 4, 2019, Seattle Mayor Durkan and County Executive Constantine transmitted legislation to their respective councils that would charter a King County Regional Homelessness Authority, along with companion legislation that authorizes the Executive to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with cities across King County.

The proposal made by the Seattle Mayor and County Executive includes forming a Public Development Authority (PDA) to address the region’s homelessness crisis response. It would not include “upstream prevention” (e.g., anti-poverty measures). It would include “down-stream prevention” (measures to assist people at imminent risk of homelessness). It includes things like outreach (although the City of Seattle’s Homelessness Navigation Team would not be included), diversion, shelter, and rapid rehousing. The scope would also include the services side of permanent supportive housing, but not include capital construction of permanent

supportive housing, or creation of affordable housing. It would not include root causes of homelessness, as identified in the One Table process. Functions of the current Continuum of Care (All Home) including coordinated assessment and referral to housing placements and the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) would also be migrated to the new PDA, pending decisions of the All Home Board.

The total value of the programs that would go to the PDA, including both funds contracted to outside entities and internal staff, would be approximately \$128 million (\$73 million from Seattle, \$55 million from King County). This includes local funds, as well as state and federal funds that flow through Seattle and King County. \$42 million of the total are federal funds that currently flow through the Continuum of Care (All Home). The majority of funds that are proposed to be overseen by the PDA will be funds distributed by contract by King County and Seattle to outside agencies.

The ILA and Charter anticipate some form of sub-regional planning to “provide capacity to work with stakeholders from geographically diverse parts of the region to analyze, identify, and implement priority services distinct to those sub-regions.” There is not a great deal of detail in either the Charter or the ILA as to how the sub-regional planning would work, and it is somewhat unclear what distinctions (if any) would be made for programs and funding in cities that sign onto the ILA, versus cities that do not, and any impact on the county, state, and federal funding that flows into cities from the current structure. SCA staff have asked for a detailed breakdown on this, and RPC members asked for this information on the dais on September 11, 2019.

RPC members were informed that the PDA would not have taxing authority. Any PDA would need to have state legislative authority to seek this. However, the proposed charter specifically states that the PDA would have power to:

“Recommend to the United States, a state, and any political subdivision or agency of any of them, such tax, financing, and security measures as the Authority may deem appropriate to maximize the public interest in the County.” This seems to anticipate that the PDA would seek taxing authority in the future.

How this new PDA would be governed has been the subject of much discussion. Initial proposals and recommendations from the consultants would have removed elected officials entirely from the governance. This was the subject of concern for many PIC members, as well as some of the county council.

The current proposal from the Seattle Mayor and King County Executive includes a three-tiered governance structure.

The proposal includes an 11-member governing board made up of experts, with no elected officials or government staff. This is the board that would oversee the day to day operations of the entity.

The proposal would have the 11 members of the governing board appointed by City of Seattle, King County, and people with lived experience with homelessness – with no appointees from SCA member cities.

The proposal also includes a “Steering Committee” of up to eight members. These would include two Seattle members (mayor and one councilmember), two King County members (Executive and one councilmember), two members representing stakeholders who have experienced homelessness, and one SCA member, with the opportunity to add one more SCA member if 20 or more SCA cities sign-on to the ILA.

The proposal also includes one or more advisory committees, including one that would serve as the board for the federally required Continuum of Care (which is now All Home).

SCA cities and RPC members have expressed some concerns about the role of SCA in this governance structure. Specifically, they have given feedback on need to have sub-regional representation in the new entity, noting that just as SCA cities may differ from Seattle, they also differ in meaningful ways from each other. At a minimum, representation from the south, and the north/east has been suggested.

They have also expressed some concerns about the limited role of the proposed Steering Committee. Under the proposal, the role of elected leaders would not be to make policy, but to confirm a five-year plan without amendment, and confirm a budget without amendment. The governing board would be responsible for developing and approving the budget and plans.

As also noted in PIC materials, a Regional Action Plan is being developed by consultants retained by philanthropic leaders. It is staff’s understanding that this Plan is anticipated to guide the PDA in its work, but it is not anticipated that any elected officials will approve this Plan.

Following the release of this proposal from the Mayor of Seattle and the County Executive, Councilmember Reagan Dunn also released a series of recommendations. These include convening a countywide summit of elected officials. He has also suggested funding a “homeward bound” program to pay to reunite people experiencing homelessness with family or other supports outside the region. It is unclear at this time whether Councilmember Dunn’s proposed legislation will proceed in tandem with the legislation on homelessness governance.

Dawson proposed a series of topics to guide discussion including:

- Do members generally support the idea of a regional governance structure to address homelessness?
 - A question was raised at RPC about whether formation of a PDA is necessary to achieve the goals of the proposal, or whether another model (e.g., a public health model) could better achieve the goal
- What feedback do members have about the proposed governance structure?
 - What role do SCA members think is appropriate for city elected officials?
 - How should the governance structure reflect sub-regional planning efforts?

- Do members support the concept of a board of experts, who are insulated from political pressures?
- If members are generally open to the idea of the proposed structure, what specific feedback do members have on the role of the Governing Board, and Steering Committee?
- Should SCA have a role in appointing members to the Governing Board?
- Should the Steering Committee have sufficient SCA representation to ensure that different parts of the County are represented, and that sub-regional planning efforts can be reflected?
- What other feedback on the role and makeup of a Governing Board and Steering Committee do members have?
- Until a Five-Year Plan is presented, what guiding principles should drive the work of the PDA?
 - What will be the role of the “Regional Action Plan”?
 - Should cities have an opportunity to weigh in on the Regional Action Plan?
 - RPC members gave feedback suggesting that SCA members should have opportunity to weigh in
- What feedback do SCA members have on sub-regional planning?
- What remaining questions do SCA members have about how the proposed PDA would function?
- What questions do members have about what is proposed to be included, and what is not, in this new structure?
- What is the best way for SCA members to give feedback as the County Council considers the proposed legislation?
 - Do members support the proposal from Councilmember Dunn to convene a regional homelessness summit?
 - Do PIC members support taking a formal position on the proposal?
 - What should the timing of this look like?
 - RPC Chair vonReichbauer indicated this would not be “fast tracked” and that it would be done right, not fast

Chair Prince asked Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, and Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue, if they wanted to give feedback on the proposal, as members of the Executive Leadership Group (ELG).

Chelminiak noted that Backus and Prince had been doing a very good job of protecting SCA city interests. He noted that the process had been difficult at times. He stated that members of the ELG were getting updates, but had not been negotiating terms of the Charter and ILA. This is an ILA between Seattle and King County. It will not be possible to merely replace Seattle’s name with that of another city. He noted that the message from Seattle and King County had been clear that they were moving forward and that cities need to come together sub-regionally, and express what they want to see. Chelminiak noted that he had concerns about the proposed Governing Board setting regional policies, noting that if elected policy makers were not on the governing board, it should not be setting policy. He expressed concerns about whether cities would need to change their local policies if they signed on.

Backus noted that addressing the homelessness crisis is a lofty goal. She noted that many believed there was value in a regional approach. But she noted concerns about how much of the proposal was based on what would be good for Seattle, and had questions about how this would impact other cities in the region. Backus expressed concern that the proposal took an academic approach, and was focused on the needs of the largest city in the region, and may not reflect what we need in SCA cities. Backus expressed hope for a positive conclusion. But she noted that the proposal showed the new entity would not be responsible for upstream prevention, leaving that for individual cities to address, but the new entity would be responsible for shelter. Will that mean that the County will be providing shelters in our communities? Will they pass funding along to allow cities to continue working with their shelter providers? Will we be able to do the things we know are working? Or do we have to do something different to be eligible for funding? Backus stressed that she is committed to working on this issue, but that we need to be a part of the solution.

Chair Prince praised Backus and Chelminiak for their work on this issue to date. He stated that he wants to be able to get to “yes” on a recommendation. He said it is vitally important to have elected officials involved. Elected officials are the ones who are accountable to the people, and who people will question if the approach is not successful. He expects to see changes in the proposal through the legislative process. He wants to see a regional approach, but there is still more work to do.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, noted that in recent discussions on housing initiatives, SCA members had wanted to see a roadmap of the existing ecosystem and that would like to see something similar regarding homelessness. He noted that housing and homelessness are interrelated. He said the fact that this proposal involves \$128 million in public funding demands that elected officials be involved in governance. The public would not support an approach that removes their representatives from the process. He pointed to the E911 steering committee that worked alongside a staff working group, wherein the steering committee of elected officials made policy decisions, as a process that worked effectively. He is unsure of direction for SCA at this time, as there are too many question marks.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, stated that we need to recognize within the county that we need more places with multiple services for people experiencing homelessness, and not send people from city to city to get the services they need. The more places where people experiencing homelessness can get a comprehensive suite of services the better. He noted that at this point, his community would likely take a wait-and-see approach to ensure that providers they are currently working with and support would not be harmed. He took issue with the part of the proposal that would grant the governing board authority to sell property. He said that this was the type of decision that needs to be made by elected officials.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, was overall supportive of the direction. She is supportive of South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP) representing the South County subregion. She was also concerned about impact on providers. She noted value in hearing the perspectives of experts and those with lived experience, but said that the final approvals should go through elected officials. She also noted the need to recognize different needs in different parts of the county. She does not want a Seattle-centric approach. She said that it feels like

“extortion” to require 20 cities to sign onto an ILA for SCA to have a second seat, noting that SCA represents over one million people and should have a seat at the table.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, stated that she still has more questions than answers. She had questions about what a budget would look like. She questioned the need for a PDA/a separate bureaucracy. She questioned whether overhead would take away from services. She said she would support SCA working through and adopting a set of guiding principles, and get more specific from there. She noted that funds contributed from King County actually come from residents of our cities. We know our cities well, we know our challenges, we know how to bring those voices into the discussion. She expressed concern that Seattle does not have a good track record in dealing with homelessness.

Council President Angela Birney, Redmond, noted that she was a member of the RPC and has been involved in ongoing discussions. She agreed that getting more financial details was huge, and looked forward to seeing that information. She appreciated hearing that people want to get to yes, noting that something needs to be done differently to address this crisis. Determining what that something is, is the challenge. She said that many SCA cities do a lot to address homelessness in their communities, noting that Redmond spends over \$720,000 annually to address the issue. She feels that city contributions are being discounted by some, because they do not see the whole picture. She believes that there may be efficiencies that can be found by combining forces between Seattle and King County, and wants the discussions to keep moving forward.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, noted that no matter what we do, we will need regional cooperation to make inroads on the homelessness crisis. He feels like smaller cities are along for the ride, that their county councilmembers will be advocating for them. He was very concerned about the self-perpetuating board. He questioned “where the rip cord” was, and what would happen in five years if the process was not working.

Dawson noted that the question of an “out” if the process was not successful was also raised at the RPC meeting earlier, and is an active topic of discussion.

Chelminiak noted that while consultants have been talking to providers, he does not think that they have vetted this proposal for structure widely.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, also raised concerns about the self-perpetuating board, noting that after the initial appointments the board would appoint its own members. He stated that this did not go over well with RPC members. We all want something done, but as designed this does not feel like a regional approach. Rather, this is a Seattle and King County approach, with a lot of money from our communities. He stated that there are many layers to questions that need to be addressed. He wondered about the role of ARCH and SKHHP. He doesn’t think this feels like a holistic approach to addressing homelessness. It is not tied to affordable housing. He believes the steering committee needs more authority. A mere up or down vote is insufficient. He disagrees with having no policy makers on the governing board. He agreed with Birney that we need to educate Seattle and King County on what cities are doing. He feels that what is being proposed is very cumbersome. He noted that Seattle and King County Councilmembers

seemed to be listening to SCA concerns. He stated that it was very positive to see SCA members coming together to address the crisis.

Mayor Elaine Cook, Woodinville, agreed with many of the comments made by Stokes. She worried about the multiple layers of proposed board structure and time it might take to get things done. She asked about the recent trip that some had taken to Los Angeles to learn about their work. Dawson noted that the consultants had indicated that they had looked to Los Angeles, Portland, and Houston as governance examples. Dawson referred members to the consultant's website for more details on recommendations and basis:
www.regionalhomelesssystem.org.

Councilmember Chance La Fleur, Enumclaw, stated that the proposal feels half-baked. He stated that elected officials need to be in charge of the funding. It appears that there is not enough focus on substance abuse, mental health, and other root causes of homelessness.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, stated that he agreed with a regional approach. He had many questions, and asked for a date by which cities should communicate questions. Dawson suggested sending questions to her, and SCA staff would work to get answers to the questions. She suggested getting questions to SCA staff by September 25 so that staff could get answers for the October PIC materials. She noted that SCA may wish to take a policy position, and staff would seek Board feedback on this as well. If so, PIC could consider draft principles in October, and possible adoption in November.

Backus noted that there was both urgency to address the crisis, and need to take time to get it right. At the end of each meeting, she wonders "what have we done today to shelter or house people?" Having meeting after meeting is frustrating, but will be worth it if we can get results that help people. She is not supportive of adding any additional funding until we can show that the funding we have currently is being spent effectively. She commends Seattle and the county for recognizing there may be overlap on programs and seeking to eliminate those inefficiencies. She is concerned if we don't address behavioral health challenges we may not be addressing the challenge holistically. In One Table we looked at root causes. We need to address the causes, not just symptoms. All SCA members seem to agree there should be at least two SCA representatives. There should be no condition placed on this, but if there were, having one based on population versus number of cities may make sense. SCA is the voice of more people than Seattle and unincorporated King County combined. Elected officials need to be involved. They are accountable to the public. Backus noted that there was a discussion on this topic at the All Home meeting earlier. SCA staff will draft a summary of that meeting.

Chelminiak stated that Backus's point was very important. We are talking about people. Our residents are experiencing homelessness. Having an entity focused on emergency housing, as long as root causes are also addressed, could make sense. But we need to answer the question of what we hope to accomplish. We need to state that through our efforts, the number of people living on the streets will be reduced by X percentage. X percent will have access to rapid rehousing. X percent will have access to the services they need. We need to identify outcomes and agree on what success will look like.

9. Affordable Housing

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an update on the work of the King County Affordable Housing Committee (AHC). The AHC was created out of a recommendation of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force in its Five-Year Action Plan adopted in December 2018. The Committee is an advisory body, and includes representatives from SCA as well as King County, the City of Seattle, housing providers, private sector partners, housing advocates, and philanthropy. The intent is for the committee to be a focal point for moving affordable housing policies forward and measuring results.

The Committee began meeting in June, and for their first items of work they have been considering recommendations related to implementing the sales tax credit for affordable housing created by the legislature in 2019 (HB 1406). In addition, they are developing their work plan, which will identify where the committee focuses its discussions and recommendations over the coming year.

Parry noted that members previously discussed HB 1406 at PIC, and the feedback from many cities was that they were exploring how to best utilize these funds, and that many were looking to maximize impact by partnering through subregional collaborations like ARCH or SKHHP. Parry noted that AHC supported this approach of pooling funds considering the limited annual amount that will be collected by many individual cities. He said some Committee members have also suggested that jurisdictions prioritize construction and preservation of homes affordable to those earning at or below 30% of Area Median Income; and recommendations related to partnering with at-risk communities. He said these recommendations were expected to be finalized by the AHC in late September and would be distributed to PIC members for their consideration as they look to implement HB 1406.

Parry said the AHC is also developing a work plan, which will identify several priority actions from the Five-Year Action Plan as the focus of the Committee's work over the coming year. He said SCA has heard feedback from cities that the focus of the AHC should be to provide technical assistance, recommend policies, and support the work of cities to implement housing strategies; as well as measuring the results of those efforts. The Committee is already expected to lead an effort to create a regional dashboard that monitors affordable housing countywide and what policies are most effective in that regard. He said that some AHC members have expressed that the biggest priority for the committee should be to create a funding strategy that looks at the total need for affordable housing and sources at the federal, state, and local government level. He said others have said the Committee should prioritize providing technical assistance focused on different goals: such as increasing affordable housing around transit, tenant protections, or preserving existing manufactured housing communities. Another strategy being discussed is potentially developing through the committee a state and federal legislative agenda to coalesce around support they can provide.

Parry said the AHC is expected to sift through the many recommendations from the Action Plan at their next meeting on September 20, 2019. He said following that meeting he expects a refined list of priorities will be made available in October for more specific review and comment.

10. SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that SCA is looking forward to partnering with the Association of Washington Cities throughout the 2020 legislative session to keep members informed. Dawson said the SCA Legislative Committee is expected to meet in the coming week and she asked that member cities provide information on their legislative priorities to help the Committee craft an SCA legislative agenda to recommend to PIC.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that she participated in a recent AWC meeting to set legislative priorities for 2020. She said there was a lot of interest from cities to advance Tax Increment Financing legislation, to address city funding constraints, and to explore options for increasing state transportation funding.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson asked members to provide any information on legislative priorities being considered by September 25, 2019 so that it could be distributed to members for discussion at the October PIC meeting.

11. Domestic Violence Awareness Month

SCA Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley reported that in August, SCA members of Domestic Violence Initiative sent a letter inviting cities to participate in Domestic Violence Awareness month in October. She reported that twenty-five cities have communicated their planned activities for 2019.

As of September 11, 25 SCA cities communicated that they are planning to participate in raising awareness about Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 2019. Cities that have already or are planning to pass proclamations include: Algona, Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Burien, Covington, Duvall, Des Moines, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, and Woodinville.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, shared that the City of Tukwila is considering an ordinance that makes it a gross misdemeanor to expose minors to domestic violence, and offered to share additional information upon request (*Note: [ordinance adopted by the Tukwila City Council on September 16, 2019](#)*).

12. I-976

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on potential impacts to state and local transportation funding if I-976 is approved by voters in the November 2019 election. PIC was previously briefed on the potential impacts, including a reduction to state transportation funding by over \$4 billion, and elimination of motor vehicle excise tax as a funding source for locally approved transportation benefit districts (impacting 12 SCA cities). King County Metro recently completed analysis of impacts on local transportation funding, including estimates for losses from reduced funding in the state Multimodal Account. Detailed analysis as provided by Metro is included under Item 12, Attachment A, in the [September 11, 2019 PIC Packet](#).

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, said the City of Burien recently adopted a position in opposition to I-976. Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said the City of Kenmore also recently adopted a position in opposition to I-976.

13. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on recent election results and upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County. Several measures were considered by voters during the August 2019 primary. This included approval of the King County Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space levy; approval of the Seattle Public Libraries proposed operations levy; and, approval of Puget Sound Regional Fire's proposed levy. Capital bonds proposed by EvergreenHealth received 58.5% of the vote in support, but failed as it did not reach the statutorily required 60% threshold for approval. Parry said the City of Shoreline recently took action to approve placing on the ballot a \$103 million bond measure for an aquatics, recreation, and community center, and authorizing a portion of those funds to be expended for other priority parks and open space investments. Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland, requested additional information about the King County Parks Levy and precinct-level vote totals.

14. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that there will be a pre-PIC workshop in October on the topic of toxic social media. In November, a pre-PIC workshop will be held on potential impacts to city policies related to homelessness stemming from the *Martin v. City of Boise* decision. SCA Board elections will take place during the December pre-PIC.

15. Informational Items

Chair Prince noted that an informational item is included in the PIC packet related to the King County Clean Water Plan.

16. Upcoming Events

Upcoming SCA events include:

- a. SCA Networking Dinner (guest speaker Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, sponsor Foster Pepper) – Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – Embassy Suites Tukwila;
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, October 9, 2019 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM (6:00 PM Pre PIC Workshop on Social Media) – Renton City Hall;
- c. SCA Partner Forum with Seattle/King County Building Trades (topic: Community Workforce Agreements) – Wednesday, October 23, 2019 – 11:30 AM – Local 32, Renton;
- d. SCA Networking Dinner (guest speakers SCA Past Presidents Mayor Ken Hearing, Mayor Denis Law, and Mayor John Marchione, sponsor Sound Transit) – Wednesday, October 30, 2019 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion Event Center;
- e. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM (6:00 PM Pre-PIC Workshop on Martin v. City of Boise decision and implications for cities) – Renton City Hall;
- f. SCA Partner Forum with CenturyLink (topic: infrastructure and economic development) – Thursday, November 21, 2019 – 3:00 PM – location to be determined;
- g. SCA Annual Meeting (guest speaker University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce, sponsor Comcast) – Wednesday, December 4, 2019 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion and Event Center; and,
- h. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM (6:00 PM SCA Board Elections) – Renton City Hall.

17. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, recognized that it was the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and members held a moment of silent reflection and remembrance.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal way, stated that Federal Way would be considering a proclamation recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Council President Angela Birney, Redmond, said that Redmond PIC member Councilmember Hank Margeson was unable to attend the evening's meeting due to family medical reasons.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, said that Sumner and Pacific received a [2019 VISION 2040 Award](#) from the Puget Sound Regional Council for their joint Manufacturing Industrial Center subarea plan. The awards recognize innovate projects and programs that help ensure sustainable growth in the region.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting

September 11, 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	Chance LaFleur	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	Elaine Cook	
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Cynthia Foley Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

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