



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

September 9, 2020 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Councilmember Christie Malchow, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 31 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present: Councilmember Barbara de Michelle, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Councilmember David Rosenbaum, Mercer Island (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Venessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Valerie O'Halloran, Renton staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Diana Hart, Woodville staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Lauren Craig, King County Metro staff; and, Mike Dee, Issaquah Schools Foundation.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using Zoom Webinar. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

2. Public Comment

Chair Malchow asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, Chair Malchow closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the July 8, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the July 8, 2020 PIC minutes. **Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, to approve the July 8, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow reported that members of SCA leadership recently met with King County Executive Dow Constantine. One of the topics discussed was his intent to pursue a countywide sales tax to support affordable housing through the councilmanic authority granted by the state legislature during the 2020 legislative session ([HB 1590](#)). She said further discussion about the proposal would occur during Item 8.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reminded PIC members to RSVP for meetings to avoid confusion over who would be representing their city at the meeting and to ensure the member

or alternate receives the proper link to join the meeting as appropriate. She reminded members to review PIC materials ahead of the meetings and encouraged members to provide any feedback about how those materials can be more user-friendly. She noted that SCA staff sought to limit the number of items on the agenda to those where there is the greatest need for feedback to allow time for discussion, and that the agenda packet also included several informational items. She said that SCA is organizing new forums to discuss important regional issues and encouraged members to suggest topics for future events. SCA is also working to set a regular meeting with King County Public Health and more information will be coming soon. She said the call for nominations to serve on regional boards and committees in 2021 would be sent to SCA members in the coming days. She also introduced Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler, who was recently hired by SCA and will be staffing SCA members on a host of regional committees, including the Regional Transit Committee, Regional Water Quality Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Flood Control Advisory Committee, and the Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

6. Appointment of 2021 PIC Nominating Committee

Chair Malchow reported that per the SCA bylaws, in October of each year the PIC chair is to appoint a Nominating Committee of the PIC consisting of one representative from each SCA regional caucus. Nominating Committee members must also serve on PIC. There is a vacancy in 2021 for a committee member from the SCA South Caucus as Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, has decided to step away from the committee after many excellent years of service. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson sent a request for nominees on August 13, 2020 and received two volunteers: Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila; and Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines. Chair Malchow said that she would be making a decision on filling the south vacancy in the coming week and make the formal appointment at the October PIC meeting. Eligible members were asked to contact SCA or Chair Malchow if they were interested in serving on the committee. The other three current members who will continue serving on the Nominating Committee in 2021 are Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw (South Valley Caucus); Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend (Snoqualmie Valley Caucus); and Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline (North Caucus).

7. 2021 Legislative Agenda

SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler reported on the work of SCA's Legislative Committee in developing a 2021 legislative agenda and requested input from PIC members on potential priorities for consideration as well as insight on where cities are in developing their own legislative priorities for the upcoming session. At future meetings, PIC will review the recommendations of the Legislative Committee and recommend a proposed Legislative Agenda for formal adoption by the SCA Board of Directors.

Wheeler referenced the SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda and end-of-session report which focused on issues related to affordable housing, transportation, and local decision-making authority. She also reminded PIC of the COVID-19 Legislative Agenda, adopted earlier in the year in anticipation of a potential special legislative session. A special session has not been convened and is not expected until possibly after the November General Election, if at all.

Wheeler explained that SCA has traditionally worked in partnership with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to either amplify their message or to focus on issues that more directly impact SCA cities. She stated that AWC's Legislative Priorities Committee recently identified five top priorities for the 2021 session, pending AWC Board review and approval. Those priorities include state shared revenue, transportation revenue package, fiscal flexibility, statewide policing reform, and housing instability assistance.

SCA's Legislative Committee met in August to begin identifying high-level legislative priorities that are consistent with those identified by the SCA Board at their 2020 retreat. Those issue areas include the following "buckets" that will be refined at future Legislative Committee meetings:

- Invest in Economic Recovery
- Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services
- Address Housing Instability
- Invest in Transportation and Other Infrastructure
- Limit State Interference in Local Democracy
- Enact Law Enforcement Reform

SCA's Legislative Committee will continue to meet over the coming months and will bring recommendations to PIC for review at a future meeting.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, asked for clarification on what is meant by "limit state interference on local democracy" in the current list of high-level priorities identified by the SCA Legislative Committee. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson responded that it is a way that some have started to explain the concept of local control and the idea that local government is closer to the people and best equipped to address many issues. Curtis said that Kirkland has begun querying councilmembers for legislative priorities, but nothing has been vetted at this point. She said the city has been talking with local legislators about a pilot project at the Kingsgate Park & Ride property to support specific public benefits, such as affordable housing, within Transit Oriented Developments on public land. She noted that council is also concerned about the presence of armed citizens at peaceful gatherings and is talking internally about how to enforce unlawful carry laws and welcome input from PIC members on suggestions.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that her city council has not started considering priorities as they are in the middle of their biennial budget process. She asked if the Legislative Committee and staff would like to hear draft ideas on legislative priorities or wait until they are more solidified. SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler stated that SCA staff welcomes any feedback on what cities are thinking even though it may be preliminary.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, stated two issues being discussed in Bellevue are childcare and support for small businesses as a part of economic recovery. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson responded that the SCA Legislative Committee is also talking about those issues as part of the economic recovery priority.

PIC Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, said that his city is still early in their process, but some issues that may come forward are streamlined sales tax mitigation, transportation, parks, and statewide law enforcement data collection.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said that they have not started discussion on legislative priorities, but she expects their legislative agenda will include priorities focused on transportation, economic recovery, and Sea-Tac Airport. She said she supports all of the issues identified by the SCA Legislative Committee.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, stated that Burien is still discussing priorities. She said they are asking legislators to focus on the airport community and environmental impacts, COVID-19 recovery, and support for school districts. There has also been a lot of support for working with Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) on a database for tracking extreme use of force and hiring practices.

8. Affordable Housing

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck updated PIC on the Affordable Housing Committee's work on two priorities identified in the Five-Year Action Plan: recommending amendments to the Housing Chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies and identifying new resources to build, preserve, or subsidize affordable units.

Rinck reported that the Countywide Planning Policies (or "CPP's") are a series of policies that address growth management issues in King County. The CPP's are developed and approved by the King County Growth Management Planning Council, and must also be approved by the King County Council and ratified by cities and towns. The role of the CPP's is to implement the Growth Management Act by creating a shared policy framework that guides the development of local comprehensive plans, provides consistent expectations and direction for issues that extend beyond a single jurisdiction, and ensures that the comprehensive plans of each city work together toward a common purpose. The Affordable Housing Committee will be providing recommendations to the Growth Management Planning Council on updates to the Housing Chapter of the CPP's. She described that the current Housing Chapter of the CPP's was first established in 1992 and was substantially revised as part of the most recent update in 2012. The intent of the current policies is to recognize that conditions affecting housing supply are different throughout the county and will require different solutions. For example, in some communities, efforts focused on preservation of existing affordable housing stock may be the most effective. In others, the more effective approach may be to capitalize on new development and tools to incentivize or require the inclusion of affordable units.

Rinck explained that the AHC has identified several priority areas of focus for the update to the CPP's, including reconsidering how overall need is defined; opportunities to increase jurisdictional accountability toward meeting housing need; and, address equity and social justice in regional planning.

Rinck emphasized that to help guide the SCA caucus of the Affordable Housing Committee as they engage in the current update to the CPP's, it is important to have SCA city feedback on the current policy framework and how it can be improved.

In addition to reviewing affordable housing policies, the Affordable Housing Committee is also engaged in an effort to analyze and identify unused and new revenue sources to support affordable housing development and preservation. As provided for in the Five-Year Action Plan, the Affordable Housing Committee is tasked with working with cities and the county to identify affordable housing revenue sources that could be implemented at the city or countywide level, and to collectively advocate for increased state and federal resources. Rinck said that other community stakeholder groups have been asked to provide input on questions related to potential revenue sources including preferred revenue tools to consider, what criteria should be used to evaluate new sources, and whether new revenue sources should be considered.

Rinck reported that the SCA caucus to the Affordable Housing Committee met recently and the consensus from that discussion is that given the fiscal realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its effect on cities' budgets and the impact on residents, members do not feel this is an appropriate time to be advocating for new taxing options at the local level. However, there remains an opportunity to provide input on priorities related to affordable housing funding in the short and long term.

Rinck referred to a current example of the new authority granted by HB 1590, approved in the most recent legislative session, to adopt a one-tenth of one percent sales tax for affordable housing by councilmanic authority. She described that this can only be implemented countywide until September 30, 2020; however, following that deadline, cities are able to authorize the tax themselves. She noted that if the County authorizes the tax after a city does so, the county must provide a credit to that city for the portion of the tax attributable to that city.

Rinck said that King County Executive Dow Constantine met with SCA leadership and expressed his intent to propose a countywide tax for affordable housing to the King County Council; however, it is unlikely that it will be implemented before the September 30 deadline, offering a window of opportunity for cities to instead implement the tax.

Rinck asked PIC members for feedback on whether their city is considering imposing some or all the levy amount authorized under HB 1590 should King County not impose the full tax rate by September 30; and for feedback on the potential for the County to move forward with a countywide levy.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, said that based on the discussion at a recent meeting between SCA Board leadership and King County Executive Dow Constantine, it appears likely the county will move forward with a countywide tax. He said SCA Board leadership emphasized that any countywide levy needs to include legitimate subregional planning with cities that considers their needs for housing and for wrap-around services.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, said that the county should be working with the jurisdictions to get community support before they purchase property, and that they should also ensure supportive services are in place.

Chair Malchow stated that during the meeting with Executive Constantine she emphasized the need to make sure there is a plan before any tax is implemented.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, noted that Des Moines is a member of South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP), and she would like to see outreach to organizations that cities are investing in, such as SKHHP and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) to ensure they are consulted when considering spending the funds raised from HB1590.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said the city would not be pursuing the sales tax authority authorized by HB 1590, but if the county does so it would have the ability to pool resources and could take action quickly. She agreed that it's extremely important that there is communication between the county and cities regarding how the funds are spent, and that any properties purchased by the county need to be in the right locations where services can be provided.

Councilmember Ross Loudanback, North Bend, said he is concerned with the county unilaterally taking action and that cities should have more input on the issue.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said she understands city concerns about being involved in decisions about how any funds from the tax are spent in their cities, but she did not want to dismiss the idea of a countywide levy entirely. She emphasized that if the county works with cities, it could have some good impacts on growth in the region.

Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, said that it may be best to control one's own destiny by enacting the tax. He said his city council has not discussed the issue but would be doing so.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, reported that they have not spoken as a council, but that with some guardrails on how the funds are spent, there are some great opportunities.

Councilmember Earnest Thompson, Normandy Park, questioned what senior facilities are for sale that the county might be thinking of purchasing. He said that he would like the ability for cities to option in or out of the tax. He said he does not like the idea of the county imposing the tax upon them. He said that he has no objections to affordable housing but that his community wants to see housing built that is equal to what they already have, not superior or inferior, and that this will ensure new residents are able to blend in and be part of the community.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island thanked those who represented SCA at the meeting with Executive Constantine and that he agreed the county should be working with cities on how the new funding might be spent.

Mayor Elaine Cook, Woodinville, reported on a North King County Housing Task Force effort to build a shelter in Shoreline by January and said they too are looking at senior living facilities as potential options.

9. VISION 2050 Plan Update

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the proposed update to the regional plan for growth, VISION 2050, is being considered for action at the September 24, 2020 meeting of the

PSRC Executive Board. If approved by the Executive Board, the draft plan will then go before the PSRC General Assembly made up of all PSRC member jurisdictions for final approval in October.

Parry said the draft VISION 2050 plan sets the framework for how the four-county PSRC region will manage growth of an additional 1.8 million people and 1.2 million jobs in the next 30 years. The plan sets important expectations that will guide the development of countywide growth targets, city comprehensive plans, and sets the stage for regional collaboration on a host of important issues such as affordable housing and local infrastructure funding.

The Executive Board reviewed a limited set of amendments at their July meeting that are expected to be voted upon this month along with the full plan. Notably, the Executive Board will be asked to decide an issue that received significant debate earlier in the process related to the distribution of population in Snohomish County in the plan.

Parry said a closely split vote was anticipated at the September Executive Board meeting concerning projected population growth in Snohomish County's rural areas (growth occurring outside of the urban growth boundary). In total, the amendment would shift planning expectations for 12,000 people in Snohomish County by increasing anticipated rural growth while lowering the growth that must be planned for in "Core Cities" (Bothell, Lynnwood) and "Cities and Towns" (Brier, Darrington, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Index, Lake Stevens, Snohomish, Stanwood, Sultan, Woodway).

At prior meetings of the Executive Board, some members raised concerns about indirect impacts to a potentially more dispersed growth pattern and whether it would lead to negative environmental and transportation impacts in the region. Snohomish County and others supporting their proposed growth pattern have questioned the role of PSRC in requiring changes to what was negotiated and approved by Snohomish County and its cities' countywide planning body, Snohomish County Tomorrow. Snohomish County has also noted that they have programs in place to transfer development rights from the rural area to urban parts of the county.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, noted that she serves on the PSRC Executive Board. She said that she can understand where Snohomish County is coming from, but that their proposal works against the overall goal of the region to focus growth in centers and urban areas, and that it raises concerns about increased impacts to transportation infrastructure and the environment.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that the proposed amendment sounds aggressive, but that she would like to discuss with her council and also hear more from environmental advocacy groups that are opposing the amendment before taking a position.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he does not support growth outside of the urban growth area and cited passthrough traffic in the city of Issaquah as an example of the impacts to quality of life from growth that is not supported by necessary infrastructure.

Councilmember James McNeal said that he had concerns with the proposed amendment, and that growth should be focused in cities that have the infrastructure to support it.

Mayor Benson Wong, Mercer Island, said that his city council has a long history of involvement in sustainability and environmental issues and that while he personally did not support the proposed amendment, he would need to confer with his full council before weighing-in formally.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, noted that she serves on the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board, which previously considered the proposed amendment now before the PSRC Executive Board. She said she believes Snohomish County has worked hard to reduce the amount of growth they are seeing in the rural area and that it is unclear that their proposal would cause harm to other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said he does believe there is potential harm to cities presented by the Snohomish County amendment, including environmental impacts that affect everyone. He said many compromises were made to develop the recommendation that is currently in front of the Executive Board and he did not see a reason to make any changes now.

10. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on results of the August 4, 2020 election and measures that will appear on the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot. In August, voters approved operating fund increases for Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue, Mountain View Fire & Rescue, and South King Fire & Rescue. Measures that will appear on the ballot in November include a bond measure for Harborview Medical Center, a series of proposed amendments to the King County Charter, a fire and emergency services levy in Kirkland, and a utility tax proposal in Newcastle. Mayor Elaine Cook, Woodinville, reported that a proposal to merge the Northshore Fire Department and the Woodinville Fire and Rescue is anticipated in early 2021. Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, agreed and asked that the proposed merger be included on future reports.

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry said that SCA would be hosting the third in a series of Racial Equity and Justice webinars on Friday, September 11, and that recordings of the webinar series were being made available on the [SCA website](#).

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, complimented the Racial Equity and Justice Series and encouraged PIC members to attend or watch the recordings online.

12. Informational Items

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that three information items were included in the PIC packet covering the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, Charter Review Amendment Proposals, and Metro Service Changes. She noted that at a recent meeting of the King County Regional Policy Committee, questions were raised about proposed bylaws for the Regional Homelessness Authority and whether the proposals were in legal accordance with the Interlocal Agreement that formed the Authority. She said that SCA staff will continue to monitor the issue.

13. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- b. SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series #4 (Policing) – Friday, October 9, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- d. SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series #5 (Special Challenges of Running for Office and Serving as an Elected Official as a BIPOC) – Friday, November 13, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- e. SCA Networking Event – Legislative Preview – Friday, November 20, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- f. SCA Annual Meeting – Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 5:30 to 7:30 PM

14. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Erin Stout, Black Diamond, reported that former Black Diamond city councilmember Craig Goodwin recently passed away. She offered remembrance of Goodwin as an avid outdoorsman, fantastic photographer, and an inspirational member of the Black Diamond City Council and community. Stout also reported that the city recently hit a policy milestone many months in the making with the adoption of their school impact fee program.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said that she would like to take a moment to acknowledge the many communities impacted by wildfires.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, complimented the work of SCA in organizing the Racial Equity and Justice Series and said that he appreciated being a part of those conversations and hearing the perspectives of not only elected officials but also youth in the community. McNeal reported on recent work with teens in the Northshore School District to hold a series of conversations about race. He said it is an evolving conversation and showed promise to bring people together.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that the most recent of the Racial Equity and Justice series was a discussion with youth that included their recommendations on best practices for engaging with youth in communities through youth councils. She said more information on their recommendations would be sent to SCA mayors and city managers. Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, said that combined action by everyone in the region is the way to move forward.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, highlighted the launch of Spice Bridge, a global food hall at Tukwila Village. [Spice Bridge](#) is a food business incubator program that helps King County women of color and immigrants start and grow thriving businesses. Kruller encouraged PIC members to visit and said the food is amazing.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
September 9, 2020**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Athena Howes
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Erin Stout	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
Burien	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Anthony Martinelli
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Tony Binion
Federal Way	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	N/A
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Barbara de Michele
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Toby Nixon
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Semra Riddle
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	David Rosebaum
Milton	Jim Gillespie	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Tony Ventrella
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Ernest Thompson
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Sporaasli
Redmond	Angela Birney	Vaness Kritzer
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Verna Seal
Woodinville	Elaine Cook	Gary Harris
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.