



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

November 12, 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 Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Tamie Deady, Black Diamond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue (PIC Alternate); Councilmember; James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Beth Mountsier, Bellevue staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Sariga Santhosh, Seattle staff; Angela San Filippo, South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP); Briahna Murray, Gordon Thomas Honeywell.

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 October 14, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the October 14, 2020 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow reported on a recent meeting between SCA leadership and King County Executive Dow Constantine where they discussed the rising number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in King County; the upcoming legislative session; amendments to the county charter approved by voters at the November general election; and emergency management coordination.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported on several upcoming SCA events, which can be found under Item 13 on the PIC agenda. She asked members to let SCA know who their city's voting delegate would be for the upcoming SCA Annual Meeting and noted that votes will be taken on the 2021 SCA budget and bylaw amendments. Dawson said that SCA would be holding board elections and caucus meetings on December 11. There are two seats on the board for North Caucus members up for election in 2020. Those two seats are currently held by Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, and Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island, both of whom are running for reelection. There are three seats on the board for South Caucus members that are up for election. One seat is currently held by Mayor Jeff Wagner, Covington, who is running for reelection. The two other seats are vacant. The Snoqualmie Valley Caucus and South Valley Caucus seats on the board are not up for election this year.

6. Election of the 2021 PIC Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Malchow noted that per the PIC Operating Policies, the PIC is to elect a chair and vice chair for 2021 by December 15, 2020. The PIC Nominating Committee met on October 22 and recommended re-electing Chair Malchow and Vice Chair Boyce to serve second terms. Per the Operating Policies, the chair is limited to serving a maximum of two years in the position. She said PIC could move forward with the Nominating Committee's recommendation or accept nominations from the floor. Malchow asked if there was any discussion or additional nominations.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend to elect Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, to serve as PIC Chair and Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, to serve as PIC Vice Chair in 2021. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2021 Regional Board and Committee Appointments

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met on October 22 to develop a list of recommended appointments to regional boards and committees for 2021 for PIC consideration. With the disruption of COVID-19 on the normal operation of many committees, she said the Nominating Committee did not make many changes unless members asked to step down from a committee. Since the meeting of the Nominating Committee, SCA was made aware of a new vacancy on the Regional Water Quality Committee. The Nominating Committee met prior to the PIC meeting and determined to send out a new call for nominations for that position as people would not have been aware of the vacancy when the original call for nominations was distributed. She said that unfortunately there were not enough vacant seats to allow for everyone who applied to be appointed, and she encouraged members to apply again next year.

Councilmember Ross Loudeback, North Bend, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 2021 regional board and committee appointments as shown in Attachment C to these minutes.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, noted that the SCA bylaws require PIC to make a finding recommending an exception to the six-year term limit for holding an SCA seat on a regional board or committee when it is in the best interest of SCA and its member cities.

Dawson responded that this is correct. In this case the exception would apply to Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent, who has reached the six-year term limit on the PSRC Transportation Policy Board and is currently serving as Vice Chair of that body.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Lydia Asefa-Dawson, Federal Way, to amend the original motion to include a finding recommending an exception to the six-year term limit for holding an SCA seat on a regional board or committee. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Malchow asked if there was any further discussion on the original motion. **There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

8. King County Emergency Management Zone Coordinators

SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler reported on the proposed policy position regarding the Emergency Management Zone Coordinators for consideration by PIC members and provided updates on recent developments regarding this issue. Wheeler provided a brief background on the zone coordinators, highlighting the vital role the coordinators play in supporting cities to meet their emergency management responsibilities required under state law as well as King County's intent to convert the positions from independent contractors to county staff.

Wheeler explained that at the October Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) meeting, SCA representatives to the committee presented a letter recommending that the positions remain contract positions with opportunities for performance evaluations with zone partners. PIC members were briefed on this issue at their October meeting and voted to bring the issue back in November for a potential vote on a formal position.

Wheeler noted that the PIC materials contain a draft policy position statement that reflects the recommendations of the SCA caucus to EMAC as well as feedback received at the October PIC meeting.

Wheeler reported just prior to the PIC meeting, SCA leadership met with King County Executive Dow Constantine to discuss this issue. His office proposed extending the contracts for the zone coordinators for an additional six months with a commitment from his office to work collaboratively with cities to reach a solution. Wheeler noted that PIC members could choose to adopt the draft policy position, amend the position, or defer a vote to a later meeting.

PIC Chair Christie Malchow, who attended the meeting with Executive Constantine, reported that his office has committed to extending the contracts for six months to find a solution that works best for all.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson emphasized that the Executive's Office will be directly involved in resolving this issue rather than with only working with the Office of Emergency Management.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, said that she is happy to hear that the Executive's Office is willing to work with cities. She noted that at the EMAC meetings, this issue has not received a

lot of traction and that SCA representatives have been very vocal in their concerns. She recommended that the Executive's Office could work through our existing EMAC caucus to be a representative voice in these discussions and make sure the responsibilities for these positions do not become "other duties as assigned." She concluded that she supports leaving the draft policy position as is and negotiating with the county, noting that PIC can also bring the issue back in the future if necessary.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, stated that she spoke with her city's interim Director of Emergency Management and they wholeheartedly agree with this position. She explained that her city has been concerned with losing an independent advocate and thanked the larger cities for supporting this position even if it does not directly impact them.

Mayor Benson Wong, Mercer Island, moved, seconded by Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah to recommend that the SCA Board adopt the following policy position:

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) recognizes the vital role of Emergency Management Zone Coordinators in regional emergency management coordination in King County and the essential support they provide to SCA cities, particularly small cities with limited or no fulltime emergency management staff. SCA believes it is critical that the positions retain the independent advocacy role that they currently hold to prioritize the needs of the cities we represent. SCA recommends that Zone 1 and Zone 3 Coordinators remain independent contract positions with regular opportunities for the zone partners (including fire districts, cities, and King County) to evaluate their performance. As the zone coordinators may change over time, all zone partners should be involved in the replacement selection process, due to the unique role the zone coordinators play in providing essential support to jurisdictions for emergency coordination and management in King County.

Mayor Benson Wong, Mercer Island, noted that notwithstanding the comments from the Executive's Office and the good faith effort for discussions on this, it is crucial that SCA makes its position clear.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, expressed support for the recommended position.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that his city supports this position, and his city has sent a letter expressing their concerns about the proposed changes to the zone coordinators. He said that he supports taking a position tonight, regardless of whether the negotiations continue, to help guide the conversation.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, explained that her city council has recommended abstaining from a vote tonight, but they would support whatever decision is made.

PIC Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, noted that he spoke with his city's Emergency Manager and they wholeheartedly support the position.

Councilmember Tom Agnew, Bothell, explained that he would also be abstaining but is supportive of the other cities on this position.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, shared that Snoqualmie has relied heavily on the response and coordination of the zone coordinator during disasters and fully supports this position.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, asked for clarification on why the county is pushing back on the current structure. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson explained that the county has indicated that there have been challenges supervising these positions due to the lack of clarity within the current structure. A number of cities have voiced that they feel the important component of these positions is their independence and cities having a voice in the work plan.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, said that this is such an important issue and was brought forward in the middle of an EMAC meeting with no opportunity for prior discussion or consultation. EMAC approves the grant funds for this position and members have been comfortable with doing so to this point, but she explained that she has concerns about the county using those funds, adding additional duties, and cities losing that advocate.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, noted that she was fully supportive of this position. She asked for clarification on whether the motion needed a two-thirds vote in favor to pass. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson confirmed that, per SCA bylaws, the vote would need approval by two-thirds of members present and voting.

The motion passed 28-0-3. Bothell, Kirkland, Woodinville abstained from the vote.

9. 2021 SCA Legislative Agenda

SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler reported on the work of SCA's Legislative Committee in developing a 2021 SCA 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.

Wheeler explained that the SCA Legislative Committee met again in October to continue refining the list of priorities. Because many cities had not yet adopted their city legislative agendas and were at the early stages of identifying priorities at the October PIC meeting, the draft SCA legislative priorities remain high-level. Wheeler noted that the SCA Legislative Agenda typically reflects priorities that are found in common in city agendas across SCA membership.

The committee continues to identify the priorities and principles below:

Draft Legislative Priorities

- Invest in Economic Recovery
- Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services
- Address Housing Instability
- Invest in Transportation and Other Infrastructure

- Address Law Enforcement Reform
- Clarify the Open Public Meetings Act Regarding Remote Meetings

Draft Legislative Principles

- Advance racial equity and social justice
- Limit state interference in local democracy
- Do not eliminate the social safety net
- Protect shared revenues
- No unfunded mandates to cities

Wheeler explained that the Legislative Committee discussed providing more narrative in the 2021 agenda that explains why these issues are important to SCA cities rather than how they should specifically be addressed. Wheeler welcomed input from members on this approach as well as the draft legislative priorities and encouraged members to share priorities their cities have identified since the October PIC meeting. She noted that adopted city agendas that SCA has received so far can be found on [SCA's website](#).

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson explained that if PIC members wanted to adopt a Legislative Agenda in December, members could make a motion tonight.

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, stated that Covington recently adopted their agenda and sent it to SCA. He said that their agenda includes regional transportation and infrastructure needs and includes a note that the City of Covington supports the efforts of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and SCA.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, noted that Kirkland adopted their agenda last week and largely reflects what is on the SCA draft agenda. It includes requests to protect shared revenue, provide fiscal flexibility as well as transportation and environmental priorities, and includes support for AWC's statewide law enforcement reform package.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, said that Renton would be adopting their priorities on November 23, but noted that their draft is broken down into different categories including quality of life, racial justice and social equity, transportation, fiscal matters, and public safety.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, stated that Tukwila is close to adopting priorities and they mostly align with those identified by AWC. She said that there has been an outcry for financial inclusion by de-risking the banking processes for sending money orders overseas because of the negative impacts this has on immigrants and refugees.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, noted that Burien adopted their agenda on November 2. Burien's priorities included a focus on health and thriving communities, quality of life and economic development, public safety, and advancing climate progress. She noted that advancing climate progress is especially important with the recent wildfires and Burien

supports dedicated funding towards the Department of Natural Resources' efforts for wildfire and forest health plans.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to bring the 2021 Legislative Priorities and Principles back for possible action at the December PIC meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Affordable Housing Committee Revenue Principles

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported on the shared revenue principles work at the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC). As a part of the 2019-2020 workplan, the AHC is working to analyze and identify unused and new revenue sources that would be needed to fully address the need for affordable housing development and preservation. Rinck explained that between 2012 and 2017, an average of \$306.5 million per year was invested in affordable housing in King County with nearly 75% of this funding coming in the form of federal tax credits. These investments led to the preservation or construction of between 1,000 and 2,500 units per year, but the need has continued to grow. Rinck described that the strategy the AHC is pursuing to address this workplan item is to first develop a set of "Shared Revenue Principles."

The shared revenue principles document is intended to provide context, identify the scale of revenue needed, and provide a set of principles that will guide AHC's work to identify existing and needed resources to expand affordable housing production. The shared revenue principles will also inform the AHC's legislative agenda and the future work plans to be adopted and undertaken by the AHC.

Rinck explained that the shared revenue principles were drafted through AHC staff support including staff from King County, SCA cities, transit agencies, and regional nonprofit and stakeholder groups in addition to outreach to 11 stakeholder groups.

Rinck said that the AHC is a recommending body to the Growth Management Planning Council. She explained that the intention of the shared revenue principles is that it will be a document partners and jurisdictions will look to and consider when making future decisions around revenue for affordable housing.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, asked how closely SCA staff are working with sub-regional affordable housing collaborations like A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP), and whether they are at the table as the policy is being developed or were they consulted after the fact. Rinck said that ARCH and SKHHP both participate in the staff workgroup called the Housing Interjurisdictional Team which supports the Affordable Housing Committee and have collaborated through that body.

11. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the results of the November 2020 General Election future measures under consideration locally. He noted that the two King County Charter amendments concerning making the Sheriff and appointed position and allowing the county

council to restructure the duties of the Sheriff were approved by voters. He said it will be important for SCA cities, particularly those who contract with the King County Sheriff's Office for policing services, to be involved in future discussions with the county council about the roles and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office.

Chair Malchow said that SCA leadership discussed the transition of the Sheriff to an appointed position during their recent meeting with King County Executive Dow Constantine. He reported that there will be a national search for a new Sheriff at the appropriate time and that the current Sheriff could apply for the position. He said that they would be working closely with the Sheriff's Office to ensure there is a smooth transition when the time comes.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, asked if it was known whether the current sheriff would apply for the position. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that was unknown.

Vice Chair Boyce asked if King County would now be the only county in the state to have an appointed sheriff. Dawson said that was the understanding and that while unique among counties appointing the top law enforcement official is consistent with how city police chiefs are chosen.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, said that it will be important to have cities at the table during discussions concerning the duties of the Sheriff's Office. Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, and Chair Malchow concurred with Marx.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, said that his city used to contract with the Sheriff's Office prior to contracting with the City of Snoqualmie for police service. He said their service has improved, but he worries about how any cuts to the Sheriff's Office could impact response times in the more rural areas of the county.

Councilmember Dustin Green, Carnation, said that Carnation contracts with the Sheriff's Office for policing services and that his council took a position in opposition to the Charter amendment concerning the duties of the Sheriff's Office.

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, said that Covington also contracts with the Sheriff's Office and that their council also took a position in opposition to the Charter amendments relating to the Sheriff's Office. He said that they would be closely engaged in discussions about any changes to the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, noted the Russell Wilson and Ciara recently announced the creation of Why Not You Academy, a tuition-free, charter public high school. She asked if others knew of any other activity related to charter schools in the region.

12. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming webinars that will be hosted by SCA, including the fifth installment in SCA's Racial Equity and Justice Series on Friday, November 13, 2020, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. The topic is the special challenges of running for office and serving as an elected official for Black, Indigenous, and persons of color. SCA will also be hosting a 2021

Washington State Legislative Preview on Friday, November 20, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM with a panel of local legislators. Past webinars, including the first four panel discussions on racial equity and justice can be found on SCA's [website](#).

13. Upcoming Events

- a. 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
- b. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon
- c. SCA Networking Event – Legislative Preview – Friday, November 20, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- d. SCA Annual Meeting – Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 5:30 – 7:30 PM
- e. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- f. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 15, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon

14. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, noted that the SeaWolves Rugby Football Club, who play their home games in Tukwila, will begin their season in February and season tickets have gone on sale.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
October 14, 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.

SCA Public Issues Committee – October 14, 2020

Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

- 19:05:10** **From Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Privately) :**
Wendy is raising her hand in the Attendees area...
- 19:05:23** **From David Rosenbaum, Mercer Island to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Privately) :**
Hi Leah, I missed the roll call, but Mercer island is here.
- 19:08:23** **From Tom Agnew, Bothell to All panelists :** Tom Agnew is here from BOTHELL
no video though