



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

December 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. 30 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present:

Councilmember Tamie Deady, Enumclaw (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Tom Agnew, Bothell (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Barbara de Michele, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Kent Treen, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Clyde Hill, SeaTac; Chris Searcy, Enumclaw staff; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Beth Mountsier, Bellevue staff; Merina Hanson, Kent staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; and Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff.

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 November 12, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the November 12, 2020 PIC minutes.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow noted it was the final PIC meeting of 2020 and thanked members for their participation and leadership during a difficult year. She said that long time PIC member and former PIC chair Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, would be rotating off of the committee and thanked him for his many years of service. She reported the SCA Board of Directors approved and sent a letter to King County Executive Dow Constantine conveying the position statement recommended in November by PIC concerning emergency management zone coordinators.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that while Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, would be rotating off of PIC in 2021 he would consider to serve on the SCA Board of Directors and, as current SCA Vice-President, he was likely to serve as SCA President in 2021.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, said that he has enjoyed serving on PIC and believes it to be one of the most powerful regional bodies around. He said his goals for 2021 would include engaging with people who have not been involved with SCA in the past; improving communications with the King County Council by meeting more regularly; improving the relationship with King County overall; and forming an SCA equity council.

6. 2021 SCA Legislative Agenda

Jackie Wheeler, SCA Policy Analyst updated PIC members on the work of the SCA Legislative Committee to develop the 2021 SCA Legislative Agenda. Wheeler reminded members that they voted at the November PIC meeting to bring back the discussed legislative principles and priorities for possible action at the December PIC meeting.

Wheeler explained that the SCA Legislative Committee met again in December and, using the feedback from PIC and the legislative priorities adopted by individual cities so far, recommends the following principles and priorities:

Draft Legislative Principles

- Advance racial equity and social justice
- Preserve local decision-making authority
- Do not eliminate the social safety net
- Protect shared revenues
- No unfunded mandates to cities

Draft Legislative Priorities

- Promote Economic Recovery
- Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services
- Address Housing Instability
- Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility
- Address Law Enforcement Reform
- Clarify the Open Public Meetings Act Regarding Remote Meetings

Wheeler noted that the PIC packet also includes some additional background information on each of the priorities and explained that SCA staff and the Legislative Committee will use the priorities adopted by PIC to finalize a more detailed agenda incorporating these ideas.

Wheeler highlighted the changes that were made to the legislative principles and priorities since the last PIC meeting. She explained that the Legislative Committee recommended changing “Limit state interference in local democracy” to “Preservice local decision-making authority” to better align with language used in other city legislative agendas to address this topic. The Legislative Committee also recommended changing “Invest in Transportation and Other Infrastructure” to “Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility” as the “other infrastructure” piece would be incorporated under the economic recovery priority.

Wheeler explained that PIC could take action tonight on these legislative principles and priorities for Board approval unless there are additional concerns or more time is needed. A more detailed one-pager with the adopted principles and priorities is expected to be presented to PIC in January.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reminded PIC members that they could take action tonight or hold off for the January PIC meeting but noted that priorities are consistent with what we are seeing so far on city agendas.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, stated that she appreciates that we have both principles and priorities separated out, noting that it sets the tone as a moral document and likes the presentation. She explained she would be supportive of voting on the agenda tonight.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, noted that the City of Tukwila has already approved their own legislative agenda and would like SCA to have an agenda put on the table early. She voiced support for the priorities, noting they are consistent with Tukwila's and aligned with the Association of Washington Cities and the National League of Cities.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to recommend the SCA Board of Directors approve the following 2021 SCA Legislative Principles and Priorities:

Legislative Principles

- **Advance racial equity and social justice**
- **Preserve local decision-making authority**
- **Do not eliminate the social safety net**
- **Protect shared revenues**
- **No unfunded mandates to cities**

Legislative Priorities

- **Promote Economic Recovery**
- **Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services**
- **Address Housing Instability**
- **Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility**
- **Address Law Enforcement Reform**
- **Clarify the Open Public Meetings Act Regarding Remote Meetings**

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that the agenda reflects good governance, and does not include anything contentious or divisive.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, explained that she agrees with her colleagues in supporting the priorities. She noted that if the vote was delayed to January, she would like to see the issue of mental health incorporated into the priorities regarding law enforcement reform and housing instability.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson explained that the SCA Legislative Committee discussed the mental health piece but felt it was incorporated under the principle on not eliminating the social safety net. She noted that this can be further fleshed out.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, stated that the City of Redmond has already adopted their agenda which aligns with the SCA priorities. As a member of the SCA Legislative Committee, Mayor Birney explained that the committee was careful to keep the principles and priorities high-level to ensure that all cities could support and that it was inclusive of priorities the committee saw on city agendas.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson added that the purpose of the SCA Legislative Agenda is to help cities amplify their own, knowing that there is the support of 38 cities.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, explained that although Bellevue has not adopted their own legislative agenda yet, she supports voting on the priorities as they align with previous legislative agendas.

There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. King County Health Through Housing Initiative

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the King County Health Through Housing Initiative funded by the recently approved countywide one-tenth of a percent sales tax for affordable housing and supportive services. The Health Through Housing Initiative is the King County Executive's proposal for expending funds generated by the recently approved countywide one-tenth of a percent sales tax for affordable and supportive services. The proposal calls for issuing bonds to move quickly to acquire single-room properties impacted by the current economic downturn, such as hotels or assisted living facilities, to house as many as 2,000 chronically homeless persons by October 2022.

Authority to issue bonds and other spending in 2021 was granted to the Executive as part of the approved 2021-2022 county budget, and the county has indicated they will move quickly in 2021 to begin acquiring properties as part of the initiative.

Beginning in 2022, expenditures of Health Through Housing sales tax funds will be guided by an Implementation Plan. Ordinance 2020-0338, which describes the elements required to be included in the Implementation Plan, has been referred to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC).

At the most recent meeting of the RPC on December 2, SCA representatives offered amendments to Ordinance 2020-0338 to clarify expectations related to consultation with cities prior to the siting new facilities; require a communication plan with cities and regional housing partnerships; and require forecasting of annual expenditures for supportive services and operational costs of any new facilities. No action was taken, and deliberation will continue at the next RPC meeting in 2021.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that in a recent meeting with legislators they discussed the legislative changes proposed by the county and city interest in clarifying what consultation is

required before new facilities are acquired or constructed within a jurisdiction's boundaries. She said that the city supports supportive housing, but that they want to be a part of the process and not caught by surprise.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said that she would be interested in seeing the Implementation Plan include an ombudsperson to support a positive relationship with the community and properties neighboring any new facilities.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said that as chair of the SCA caucus of RPC she appreciated the input from cities as the caucus worked to develop potential amendments to the Implementation Plan. She encouraged members to continue to provide any additional feedback. She said that she met recently with county staff leading the Health Through Housing Initiative and encouraged them to engage with all of the cities and get their feedback.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that she supports the amendments proposed by the SCA caucus to the RPC. She said that she would like to see reporting on how the funds will be allocated geographically across the county and the reasoning going into the placement of facilities.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said that the city is supportive of the county's proposal and also the proposed amendments from the SCA caucus on the RPC. She said that it is important that the county provides ongoing funding for supportive services for any of the new facilities.

8. SCA 2021 Priorities

SCA Executive Director said that SCA staff are looking for input from members on issues that are important to their cities as we move into 2021.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that she is very concerned about the potential that cities and counties will not be included in COVID-19 relief legislation, but that she was not sure what role SCA would have.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, recently sent a request that SCA sign-on to a letter calling for Congress to provide support for cities and counties in the next COVID-19 relief bill and asked whether members would support SCA signing-on to such a letter.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, said that transit access and economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 are priorities. She said she would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Mayor Henry Sladek, Skykomish, said that assisting small businesses is his biggest priority.

Mayor Erin Sitterley, SeaTac, said that there is concern in her city about the county's proposal to acquire hotel properties and that the council was considering a temporary moratorium.

Chair Malchow said that transit is a priority for the City of Sammamish, and that she appreciates the many trainings and events hosted by SCA and would like to see those continue in 2021.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, said that supporting small businesses and the work of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority are priority areas of focus for 2021.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said that she appreciated the events hosted by SCA throughout the year. She said she would like SCA to host another training with Ann MacFarlane of Jurassic Parliament. She said she would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, said that infrastructure is a priority and that she appreciated the support of SCA and fellow cities throughout 2020.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, said that ensuring the state Public Works Assistance Account is fully funded is important, especially to smaller cities, to providing necessary infrastructure.

Mayor Sue Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, said that she would like to see SCA continue to provide support for convenings of small groups of elected officials to work together to address shared priorities.

Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, said that as a city that contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office for policing services, they will be closely monitoring reforms to that office resulting from recently approved amendments to the King County Charter. She said that protecting small businesses and transportation were priorities for 2021.

Councilmember David Rosenbaum, Mercer Island, said that he is interested in a workshop related to the development of the King County Clean Water Plan.

Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, said that transportation and Sheriff's Office reforms are priorities for his city.

Councilmember Tom French, Lake Forest Park, said that he appreciates opportunities for cities to learn from each other and would like SCA to continue to provide forums to exchange information and best practices. He said smaller group meetings are more effective right now with meetings continuing to be held online. He said he would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said that she would like SCA to continue providing regular updates on COVID-19 related issues.

Councilmember, Bill Boyce, Kent, said that he would like to see the relationship between the county and cities improve in 2021. He said he would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said that he is concerned about the lack of federal COVID-19 relief. He said that he is very concerned about the risk of a rise in homelessness when eviction moratoria are lifted. He said he would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he is also very concerned about the “eviction cliff” when eviction moratoria are lifted and that it could affect thousands of people in his city. He said that he appreciated learning from other cities in 2020 about the creative solutions they are using to stay connected with their communities.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, said that he would like to see any stimulus funds directed to businesses, unemployment, and those most directly impacted by COVID-19. He said he would similarly like to see the statewide eviction moratorium tailored in a more limited way to support those in greatest need.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, said that priorities for her city include improvements to Hwy 203, support for small businesses and economic recovery, and long-term fiscal sustainability. She said she would like to see SCA continue to host more small group discussions and workshops in 2021. She said she would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said that economic recovery is a priority and looking for opportunities to build-off of positives of people working from home in unprecedented numbers. She said she would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, said that issues that are on the forefront for her city are ongoing collective bargaining agreement negotiations as well as completing a land swap between City Hall and their fire station. She said she believes nonpartisan local elected officials can play a leadership role in bringing the country back together.

Councilmember Dustin Green, Carnation, said that he would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief, but that his biggest concern is supporting small businesses. He said that as a city that contracts with the King County Sheriff’s Office for policing services, they will be closely monitoring reforms to that office resulting from recently approved amendments to the King County Charter.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, said that she would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief. She said that Burien also contracts with the King County Sheriff’s Office for policing services and will be closely monitoring reforms to that office resulting from recently approved amendments to the King County Charter. She said that she supports SCA providing more opportunities to convene small group discussions. She suggested SCA explore opportunities to bring different voices to the table, such as a convening of LGBTQIA+ elected officials.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, said that transportation and mobility, as well as ensuring continued or expanded funding for the RADAR Navigator Program are priorities.

Councilmember Erin Stout, Black Diamond, said that she would like to see SCA provide training opportunities to engage and educate newly elected officials.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said that concerns for her city include human services needs, supporting small businesses, childcare, and increasing pedestrian safety. She said the city is developing a framework for how it will utilize their proceeds from the one-tenth of a percent sales tax for affordable housing and supportive services and that they are exploring options to bond against some of the funds as well as how best to partner with the county. She said the city is also establishing a communities of color coordinating team to advance racial equity work within the city.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that she would support an SCA letter concerning COVID-19 relief. She said she is very concerned about small businesses and the struggles they are currently experiencing, and that the city is starting a second round of distributing COVID-19 relief funds to businesses. She said other priority issues include the “eviction cliff,” addressing homelessness, and advancing racial equity.

9. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 15, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM

10. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, encouraged members to drive through the city for the annual Redmond Lights event. She said she appreciated seeing the many photos cities have posted online of their holiday decorations.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, recognized Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, who is rotating off of PIC after many years of service. Marts expressed his appreciation for Prince as a person and a leader.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, said that “It’s a Wonderful Burien” celebration is ongoing and has great events for kids and families.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, thanked PIC Chair Malchow for her leadership in 2020.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, said their city is also well decorated for the season and encouraged members to visit.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
December 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	Vanessa 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 – December 9, 2020
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

From Sean P. Kelly, Maple Valley to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Direct Message) : sorry i'm late. to many meeting in one day

From Clyde Hill to All panelists : fwiw, yes... Clyde Hill the person from the Great City of SeaTac :-)

From Christie Malchow, Sammamish to All panelists : Thank you Clyde!

From Traci Buxton, Des Moines to All panelists : Thank you, Ed!

From Ed Prince, Renton to All panelists : Thank you Traci!

From James McNeal to All panelists : Thank you for your leadership on PIC Ed!

From Kate Kruller, Tukwila to All panelists : You are amazing, Ed! Thank you for your great service to SCA-PIC!

From Nancy Backus, Auburn : Ed rocks!

From Ed Prince, Renton to All panelists : Nancy and LeAnne are awesome!

From Ed Prince, Renton to All panelists : The House is limiting members to 7 bills a piece

From Nancy Backus, Auburn : I heard that as well!

From Angela Birney, Redmond to All panelists : WOW

From Deanna Dawson to All panelists : Just a reminder that we'd prefer people share info out loud, rather than in chat, so everyone listening gets same info! Thank you!

From Janice Zahn, Bellevue : https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NLC_Survey_November_2020_One_Pager.pdf

From Janice Zahn, Bellevue : https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NLC_Survey_November_2020_Infographic_Web.pdf

From Krystal Marx, Burien :

https://burienwa.gov/news_events/featured_events/its_a_wonderful_burien_2020

From Angela Birney, Redmond to All panelists : <https://www.redmond.gov/1139/Redmond-Lights>

From Sean P. Kelly, Maple Valley to All panelists : awesome job Christie!

From James McNeal to All panelists : Amazing job Christie!