



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

June 9, 2021 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

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

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](#)).

Guests present included:

Councilmember James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC alternate);

2. Public Comment

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

3. Approval of the April 14, 2021 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the March 10, 2021 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, to approve the April 14, 2021 minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow thanked members for their continued flexibility and participation at PIC remotely. She noted that she would be ending her term as PIC chair at the end of the year. Historically PIC members have chosen to move the vice chair into the chair position and so if PIC follows past practice, then PIC will be looking for volunteers from the PIC membership to serve as vice chair in 2022. To keep PIC leadership balanced, the vice chair would come from the North or Snoqualmie Valley Caucuses. She encouraged members who were interested in serving to reach out to SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided a report. She shared the news that SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck will be leaving SCA to accept a position with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. Dawson and PIC members wished Rinck well in her new position. Dawson updated members on the work of the SCA Equity and Inclusion Cabinet. She noted that SCA recently held an event in the SCA Racial Equity and Justice series, and have two

additional planned events in the coming weeks. She invited members to attend the upcoming SCA Networking Event on June 30, and the upcoming “Lunch with the SCA Board” and “Meet the County Council” meetings on June 25 and June 28, respectively.

6. Member Roundtable

PIC members shared news about elected official retirements in 2021 and updates from their cities.

7. Affordable Housing Dashboard

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported on a recently released King County affordable housing data dashboard. She explained that this dashboard ties back to the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Five Year Action Plan. The task force wrapped up its work at the end of 2018 and released a five-year action plan. Within this action plan there are seven main goals which have strategies and action items underneath each of them, but the overarching goal of the plan is to eliminate cost burden for households earning 80% Area Median Income, with a priority for serving households at or below 50% Area Median Income. One of the key metrics identified in the five-year action plan is the countywide need to build or preserve 44,000 units affordable to households earning 50% AMI by 2024. In an effort to track progress towards this goal, the Affordable Housing Committee charter directs county staff to develop and maintain an affordable housing dashboard.

Rinck said that one of the stumbling blocks for collective action around affordable housing identified by the Affordable Housing Task Force is the lack of accessible and consistent data across jurisdictions. The new King County [Regional Affordable Housing Dashboard](#) is intended to fill that gap. This is the region’s first countywide dashboard to monitor key affordable indicators and reflects work by dozens of policy staff, data analysts, and affordable housing operators across the region. This dashboard will not only monitor progress towards implementation of the five-year plan but also support policy decisions and analysis of the Affordable Housing Committee and expand the impact of committee by serving as a communications and advocacy tool.

Rinck highlighted the jurisdictional snapshots section. Under this section, a user can select any jurisdiction within King County using a drop-down box and be able to see detailed information on affordable housing in that jurisdiction. The data available includes affordability indicators such as: cost burden by household and by race/ethnicity; total housing units disaggregated by Area Median Income (AMI) level; and income restricted units. Additionally, the user can see information on demographics and housing costs for that jurisdiction, as well as housing policies enacted to increase housing growth and diversity, reduce the cost to build affordable housing, create income-restricted affordable units, and protect tenants.

Rinck said that county staff are doing what they call a stakeholder engagement roadshow of the dashboard seeking input. The dashboard will continue to be updated as new and improved datasets are developed. There is also technical advisory group which includes city staff and other regional stakeholders to weigh-in on future dashboard iterations.

8. King County Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the update to the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's) ongoing at the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC). The CPP's are a series of policies that set the framework for what will be required in city comprehensive plans. These policies set the urban growth boundary, criteria for revising that boundary, growth targets for population and jobs, and address a variety of issues that are countywide in nature.

The CPP's are part of a cascading set of policies that start at the top with the GMA, then followed by the regional growth plan, VISION 2050, that is adopted at the Puget Sound Regional Council, then the CPP's take that regional plan and refine and apply it within King County.

Highlights of the changes being considered by the GMPC include: new requirements for jurisdictions associated with planning for and monitoring affordable housing supply; new emphasis on planning for health and equity outcomes in housing, land use, transportation, environmental, and economic policies; and a greater emphasis to climate change.

The GMPC released a public review draft of the proposed changes for comment in March and April, which were reviewed by the GMPC in late May. The public comments received were by and large very positive about the proposed updates and the direction they point the region in. Particularly the emphasis on incorporating equity throughout the policies; promoting positive health outcomes; and focusing growth into areas with access to transit and jobs.

Parry highlighted two areas where there are ongoing discussions: the first relates to growth targets and the second relates to affordable housing. Several commenters asked the GMPC to reconsider one or more city's proposed growth targets and also whether there should be a more "top-down" approach to setting targets to ensure consistency. In addition, during the public comment period several cities in South King County ask that the CPP's be further refined to recognize that cities in South King County already host a large percentage of the region's "naturally occurring" affordable housing and to ensure the region does not perpetuate existing inequities in access to opportunity and generational wealth building by having policies that drive concentrations of wealth and poverty in different geographic segments of the county. Parry noted that at the most recent GMPC meeting, County Council Chair Balducci suggested tasking the Affordable Housing Committee with looking at how to address these issues further and recommend additional changes to the CPP's that could be added in 2022 following this round of policy updates.

Parry said the GMPC will be taking up these issues and the overall draft CPP's for potential adoption at their next meeting on June 23, 2021. Changes to the CPP's recommended by the GMPC must be approved by the County Council and then ratified by at least 30 percent of cities and towns representing at least 70 percent of the total county population.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, expressed concerns about the new expectations for data collection related to affordable housing and whether smaller cities would have staffing capacity to support that work. Parry said there was a convening of planning staff and King County staff to attempt to address those concerns. He said the draft CPP's now include a technical assistance manual and more clarity about what role the county will play in those efforts, and he encouraged members or their staff to provide additional feedback.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said she agreed with the concerns raised by other cities that the region needs to do a better job of ensuring that housing is connected to access to jobs and not just concentrated wherever land values are the least expensive. She said there needs to be balance, and that it is a long-term issue everyone needs to be thinking about.

Councilmember Pam Fernald, SeaTac, said that in May the cities of Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila jointly sent a comment letter to the GMPC and that no response was received. She asked that the letter be shared with members ([Attachment C](#)). She said the GMPC schedule allowed only one week to several proposed amendments to the CPP's brought forward at GMPC, and that this was inadequate time to engage in the process. She said that SeaTac would like to see the GMPC extend its timeline by a month and meet again in July.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, spoke to the challenges created by the lack of workforce housing on the eastside and the need for everyone to do their part to expand housing options. He said that many of the people who work in Issaquah are unable to afford to live there, which leads to more traffic and environmental impacts and a lower quality of life.

Councilmember Ross Loudanback, North Bend, asked whether a proposed policy requiring coordination between the county and cities when large developments are proposed that will have impacts on rural areas. He noted that the coordination is proposed to mitigate those impacts and asked whether that would be a new requirement on cities to mitigate. Parry said that the focus in that policy was to coordinate to identify impacts that would be mitigated by the developer of the project, but that he would seek further clarification.

Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, noted that much of the region's affordable housing is concentrated in the south end, and that it is important to do more to ensure residents can live and work in the same community.

9. SCA Equity Initiatives

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck said SCA has heard from a number of members who are interested in having a better understanding the work cities are doing to advance equity. In response, Rinck worked with member cities to create an inventory SCA members can easily use to learn from each other's work.

Rinck explained that this inventory will be organized by initiative. Under each identified key strategy or initiative, it will list which city is implementing that initiative or in the process of implementing, a brief description on what that work looks like, a staff point of contact, and a link to a webpage or document if applicable. Also embedded in the inventory will be prepared resources on best practices and other helpful guides for cities.

Rinck explained that she was wrapping up interviews with member cities, and currently building out the inventory. There will be a Racial Equity and Justice Series event this summer where we will be presented. Rinck concluded by thanking the many member cities who participated in an interview for this project.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, expressed excitement over the inventory and said that this will be a useful tool moving forward.

10. Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County as well as the results of the most recent election in April. Parry noted that proposed general obligation bonds for parks and recreation improvements in Shoreline received over 72% support, but failed due to turnout being lower than required by the state constitution. The city is considering running the measure again in November 2021. The City of Lake Forest Park is also holding community conversations about a potential levy lid lift measure also in November. Parry encouraged members to send any information about measures being considered in their city.

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on topics being considered for future PIC meetings and encouraged members to let staff know about issues they would like brought forward.

12. Future PIC Meetings

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that SCA is evaluating the logistics of holding future in-person meetings of the PIC and welcome member feedback. She noted that most cities usually do not meet in August, and that typically PIC also does not meet that month.

Councilmember Chris Roberts said that he likes having an option to participate online, but that PIC could consider meeting in person quarterly but otherwise meet online.

Councilmember Pam Fernald, SeaTac, said that she misses being together and having the opportunity to get to know everyone better.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, suggested that PIC could continue to meet online but meet in person quarterly or twice a year to get to know each other.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he would like PIC to begin meeting in person again as soon as possible. He said that being present and visible is a fundamental aspect of governance and also that considering the current effectiveness being shown by the COVID vaccines it is safe to meet in person.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said that she would like to begin meeting in person again as it makes for better dialogue and decision-making.

Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, said that he supports going back to meeting in person.

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, said that it would be great to meet in person again and suggested potentially rotating meeting locations.

Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, said that his city council would be going back to in-person meetings beginning on July 6.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, said that the city council intends to go back to in-person meetings in late July.

13. Upcoming Events

Upcoming SCA events include:

- a. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 10:00 AM to noon
- b. Lunch with the SCA Board Series –Amy Ockerlander and Jan Molinaro– Friday, April 23, 2021 – Noon to 1:00 PM
- c. Meet the King County Council Series –Girmay Zahilay– Monday, April 26, 2021 – Noon to 1:00 PM
- d. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- e. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 19, 2021 – 10:00 AM to noon
- f. Meet the King County Council Series –Pete von Reichbauer – Monday, May 24, 2021 – Noon to 1:00 PM

14. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, recognized members of the Newcastle Police Department and King County Sheriff's Office for their recent work in deescalating a dangerous situation involving a young man in emotional and mental distress.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
June 9, 2021**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	none
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Athena Howes	Tom Stowe
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	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	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	none
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	none
Federal Way	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	none
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	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Benson Wong
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	none
Redmond	Angela Birney	Vanessa Kritzer
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Ed Prince
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	none
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Zak Idan
Woodinville	Gary Harris	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	none

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

SCA Public Issues Committee – June 9, 2021
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

From Leah Willoughby (SCA) to Deanna Dawson(Direct Message) : Nancy Backus is here now

From Leah Willoughby (SCA) to Deanna Dawson(Direct Message) : david rosenbaum and katherine ross

From Deanna Dawson to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Direct Message) : Thanks!

From Deanna Dawson to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Direct Message) : Katherine is back

From Leah Willoughby (SCA) to Deanna Dawson(Direct Message) : thanks!

From Deanna Dawson to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Direct Message) : Please move Tom in for Bothell - James had to go. And please note for minutes. Thanks.

From Leah Willoughby (SCA) to Deanna Dawson(Direct Message) : done

From Deanna Dawson to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Direct Message) : Thx

From Deanna Dawson to Everyone : FYI all, James McNeal had to leave (due to the reason he mentioned earlier!). Tom Agnew is now the voting member for Bothell.