



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

37 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

## SCA Board of Directors Minutes

March 22, 2017 10:00 AM

Kent Centennial Building

North and South Conference Room (1st floor)

400 W Gowe Street, Kent WA 98032

### 1. Call to order

David Baker, SCA President, called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Members Present: David Baker, Nancy Backus, Jim Ferrell, Leanne Guier, Will Ibershof, Denis Law, Hank Margeson, Tola Marts (arrived at 10:06 AM), Dana Ralph, Catherine Stanford, Debbie Tarry, Jeff Wagner, Amy Walen (arrived at 10:43 AM)

Members Absent: Denis Law

SCA Staff Present: Deanna Dawson, Kristy Cole

Guests Present: Suzette Cooke

### 2. Public Comment

President Baker asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, this portion of the agenda was closed.

### 3. Consent Agenda

**Nancy Backus moved, seconded by Hank Margeson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

### 4. President's Report

President David Baker reported on legislative items including: SCA's legislative priority on lifting the 1% property tax cap and current challenges for cities to make up for funding shortfalls due to this artificial limit; the Public Works Trust Fund; and State Senate Budget and impact to cities. President Baker attended and gave a report on Seattle Mayor Ed Murray's State of the City Address.

Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent, welcomed the SCA Board of Directors to the City of Kent. (*Tola Marts arrived at this time during the meeting.*) Cooke discussed concerns relating to cuts to the Federal and State budgets and the impact on cities. Cooke asked about timing on SCA discussing PSRC's work on Regional Centers. Deanna Dawson and Hank Margeson responded that PSRC will be taking the issue up later in 2017, and SCA will be discussing further as the issue comes before the GMPB. SCA held a pre-PIC

workshop on this topic earlier. Cooke stressed the importance of the definition of centers to cities including Kent.

### **5. Executive Director's Report**

Deanna Dawson provided the Executive Director's Report. Dawson sought recommendations from members on insurance carriers, as had received notice that its insurance carrier providing Directors and Officers Insurance was no longer going to provide coverage to non-profit organizations. Hank Margeson offered to provide a recommendation. Dawson provided an update on recent caucus chair training for SCA members and the value that members have already put into action at regional meetings. She reported that at the State of the County Address, Executive Constantine spoke of the great partnership between the county and SCA. Dawson provided an update on city visits; she and President Baker met with Bothell Mayor Andy Rheume and new City Manager Jennifer Phillips for a positive meeting. Rheume commented on SCA events and the welcoming atmosphere at these events. On that note, Dawson asked for volunteers to be greeters to welcome attendees to the March 29 SCA Networking Dinner. Nancy Backus, Catherine Stanford, and Hank Margeson volunteered.

### **6. Finance Committee Report**

Treasurer Will Ibershof reported that the SCA Finance Committee met on March 21, 2017. Ibershof called attention to pages 12 and 13 of the Board meeting materials highlighting the reserve policies and draft reserve levels for 2017. The Finance Committee discussed the reserve levels established by the Board in past years, and discussed whether the SCA Board policies should be updated to be more specific. The Finance Committee recommended keeping the formal Board policies more fluid, but adopting 2017 reserve levels consistent with the past couple of years. Deanna Dawson provided a handout outlining assets, expenditures, and recommended reserve levels for 2017. In response to a question from Tola Marts, Dawson walked members through the reserves and offered to discuss further in depth as requested.

**Will Ibershof moved, seconded by Jeff Wagner, to approve the 2017 Board Designated Reserves. [Attachment A](#). The motion passed unanimously.**

Ibershof continued that the Finance Committee is recommending that the office remodel expenses be approved at \$10,358.52. Dawson provided a handout on the final costs of the remodel and reminded members that they discussed this expenditure coming from undesignated reserves.

**Leanne Guier moved, seconded by Catherine Stanford, to approve the office remodel expenses from undesignated reserves. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ibershof also reported that staff continues to work with City of Tukwila IT department to upgrade internet service to the office and software to Office365. Members were supportive of the upgrade to resolve IT challenges the organization has experienced. Dawson provided a handout outlining the projected costs of the IT improvement project and stated that final costs will come back to the Board at a future meeting. Ibershof recommended that this expense should also come from undesignated reserves. The Board agreed.

## **7. Personnel Policies**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, gave a report on proposed changes to the SCA Personnel Policies. The proposed policies have been reviewed by the SCA Executive Committee and Finance Committee, who recommended approval. The proposed policies have also been reviewed at a high level by Auburn's HR Director, and in detail by Renton's HR Director. SCA's insurance provider Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF) also reviewed and gave input on the proposed changes. Dawson provided members with a copy of the proposed changes in tracked changes ([Attachment B](#)), which had also been previously provided to the Board. Dawson also provided members with a handout on the fiscal impact of proposed changes ([Attachment C](#)).

**Catherine Stanford moved, seconded by Nancy Backus, to approve the revisions to the personnel policies. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **8. PIC Chair's Report**

PIC Chair Tola Marts reported on the March 8 PIC meeting and the pre-PIC workshop on the regional centers framework at PSRC. He noted there was a lengthy discussion at the PIC meeting on the PSRC Regional Economic Strategy (RES). He noted that there was a robust conversation on the proposed Cultural Access Levy. Proponents of the levy provided public comment on the proposal, and the proponents were able to hear the discussion from PIC members and to provide answers to questions that PIC members had. Marts gave an update on action taken by the PIC regarding appointments to committees.

**Tola Marts moved, seconded by Hank Margeson, to appoint Councilmember Kathryn Campbell, SeaTac, as an alternate member to the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (KCFCDAC); and Councilmember Dave Asher, Kirkland, as a member and Councilmember Brenda Fincher, Kent, as an alternate member to the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **9. City Manager/Administrator Report**

Debbie Tarry provided the City Manager/Administrator report. Topics at the last City Managers/Administrators meeting included: presentation on the proposed Arts and Culture Levy; legislative update from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC); International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Fellowship Program; and, an update on the State budget, including shared revenues to cities. Tarry provided a preview for upcoming topics at the April meeting including a presentation from the City of Auburn on its Safe Auburn For Every Resident (SAFER) Program, and an update on the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

## **10. Discussion Items**

### **a. Breakfast with Governor Inslee**

Members discussed what topics to raise with the Governor. Members agreed the primary topic would be revenue. Board members will share stories about how state budget impacts their cities. This will likely take up the bulk of the conversation (estimate 40 minutes out of hour). On a related note, members agreed to discuss challenges that cities are facing when it comes to the heroin and opiate crisis, including challenge on human services provision, homelessness, and a spike in crime rates in their cities. This relates to both cities' budgets (increasing needs in terms of public safety and human services, while at potential loss of funding), as well as the State budget as far as funding for addiction treatment, human services funding, and other items. Also related, cities have increasing transportation

funding needs, and there is a large unmet need on regional roads. Members agreed if time remaining, discussion could focus on increase in hate crimes and/or bias related crimes in the region, and the nation, and the State's role in addressing this. Members also agreed that the topic of welcoming communities would be timely. Finally, the Board agreed to invite the Governor to be a guest at an upcoming SCA event. *(Amy Walen arrived at this time during the meeting.)*

b. Current and upcoming projects:

i. Economic development

Dawson reported that a follow-up meeting to the Economic Summit held in December 2015 is scheduled for May 8 at the Microsoft Campus in Redmond. Event details are forthcoming.

ii. Affordable housing

Dawson reported on a new report being transmitted to County Council on affordable housing, and a new regional task force will be convened. Dawson asked for feedback from members on the draft proposal. Members were pleased that SCA was proposed to have four seats on the task force. Other feedback included wanting to see a formal role for SCA in the proposed staff group; ensuring that all votes on the task force would be equal; and that all members of the task force should be elected officials.

c. Upcoming potential networking events, trainings, workshops

Dawson asked for suggestions for the program of the March 29 networking dinner event with Attorney General Bob Ferguson. Tola Marts suggested asking the AG whether he would be comfortable asking questions regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policies.

Dawson noted possible upcoming event speakers, including Senator Maria Cantwell; Seattle Mayor Ed Murray; joint meeting with National League of Cities (NLC) first tier suburbs; legislative debrief. Dawson asked for feedback on other possible speakers of interest to the group. Will Ibershof suggested that inviting CEOs of healthcare providers. Tola Marts suggested Cliff Mass, and a presentation on climate change and weather. Hank Margeson noted a compelling presentation from Pierce County Public Health Director Dr. Peter Chen, and the addition of public health elements into comprehensive plans. This may also be a good topic for a PIC workshop. Margeson also suggested Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib as a possible speaker for a networking event. Will Ibershof noted he has a friend who works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and asked if members may be interested in a tour. Amy Walen suggested that more information be made available regarding follow-up from the mayors' roundtable on heroin and opioid addiction. Dawson reported on progress since that meeting, and an upcoming pre-PIC workshop. Nancy Backus mentioned that an excellent presentation was given at the Federal Way Library focused on Suboxone treatment for heroin and opioid addiction. President Baker suggested that Peter Kageyama, author of *For the Love of Cities*, be considered as the speaker at the Annual Meeting. Members were enthusiastic about this suggestion.

Members discussed additional possible ideas for SCA trainings and workshops, including those noted above, and the heroin and opioid crisis, and related property crime; human services and funding of those services; and One Center City. Members discussed concerns relating to the One Center City process, and proposed bus route restructures. Dawson noted an upcoming May 5 event for eastside cities convened by County Councilmember Claudia Balducci to address this and other eastside transportation challenges. Members requested a pre-PIC workshop (likely in May) on One Center City,

d. Continued discussion on retreat priorities

Dawson gave an update on action items agreed to by the Board at the retreat. SCA hopes to conduct a membership survey in 2017. President Baker and Dawson are making visits to member cities. Dawson

reminded members of the commitment to have Board members serve as “ambassadors” to member cities at SCA events and other events, and to assist in sponsorship recruitment. An email was sent to all members with talking points and potential sponsors. Dawson reported that the next SCA Women’s Leadership event is scheduled for April 1 and will be hosted by Amy Walen.

e. **April Board meeting**

Dawson reported that the Public Issues Committee cancelled its April 12 meeting. Members agreed to keep the April Board meeting on calendars, but to grant discretion to President Baker to cancel the meeting.

**11. Upcoming Events**

The next SCA Networking Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the Inglewood Golf Club. The keynote speaker will be Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

An SCA/King County Information Session on Immigrant and Refugee Issues will be held on Friday, March 31, 2017 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the Renton Community Center Banquet Hall.

The next meeting of the SCA Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM at Renton City Hall.

The next meeting of the SCA Public Issues Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Renton City Hall. (April meeting was cancelled by the PIC.)

**12. For the good of the order**

Deanna Dawson announced to the Board that she will be having a baby in August. Members congratulated her on the news. The Board asked the SCA Executive Committee to meet with Dawson and to craft leave provisions that can be brought back to the full Board in May.

**13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.