



SCA Public Issues Committee MINUTES

June 12, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

SCA President Leanne Guier, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. 27 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Carol Simpson, Newcastle (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien (PIC Alternate); Doug McIntyre, Sammamish staff; Brandy Reed, King Conservation District staff; Alex Herzog, Woodinville staff; Simon Farretta, King County staff; Shannon Braddock, King County staff; Colleen Kelly, Shoreline staff.

2. Public Comment

Chair Guier asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Chair Guier closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the May 8, 2019 PIC Minutes

Chair Guier asked if there were any amendments to the May 8, 2019 PIC minutes **Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Guier reported that the Executive Committee to the SCA Board met recently with King County Executive Dow Constantine. She said topics included homelessness system governance, the King Conservation District's proposed rate changes, and keeping cities informed about the waste-to-energy study being conducted by the County and the future of Cedar Hills landfill.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that it would be the final PIC meeting for SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles as she is leaving SCA to join the Seattle Housing Authority as their Policy and Evaluation Manager. Members expressed their gratitude to Valles for her work on behalf of SCA.

6. Regional Transit Committee Appointment

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, reported that the PIC nominating committee met on June 4 to consider nominations to fill a vacancy on the Regional Transit Committee. He said there were many qualified applicants and noted that several vacancies are expected on the Regional Transit Committee at the end of the year due to members retiring from public office.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to recommend the SCA Board of Directors appoint Regional Transit Committee

alternate Dennis Higgins, Kent, to the vacant member seat, and Mayor Kim Lisk, Carnation, to fill the vacant alternate seat on Regional Transit Committee. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. King County Charter Review

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry updated PIC members on the work of the King County Charter Review commission. He said that since the last time PIC discussed King County charter review, additional focus has been placed on a potential amendment under consideration by the Commission that would consolidate the regional charter committees (the Regional Transit Committee, Regional Policy Committee, and Regional Water Quality Committee) to which SCA appoints city representatives. As part of the Commission's review, the Commission has requested input from SCA via Charter Review Commission member Toby Nixon.

SCA has formed a working group including the SCA caucus chairs from each of the three committees to begin discussing a response to the request for input from the Commission. Members of the working group provided feedback that they do not support consolidating the three regional charter committees. Doing so would limit city participation in regional decision-making. Working group members said that they would like to see the charter regional committees function as originally intended when they were created as a part of the merger of Metro and King County, and provide a mechanism for cities and the county to truly collaborate when making decisions on important regional issues. Members felt that improvements could be made to the charter regional committees without amending the charter and that there would be value in exploring that topic further with the County Council.

Parry said that SCA staff would be meeting with each of the SCA caucuses on the three charter regional committees to get their feedback on the role of the committees and how they could better operate. In July, SCA staff will provide an update on those discussions to PIC and a potential policy statement to respond to the Charter Review Commission, which could then be considered for adoption by PIC and the SCA board.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, chair of the SCA caucus to the Regional Policy Committee, said that the concern he has about consolidating the regional committees is the ability for city officials to be effectively engaged.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, chair of the SCA caucus to the Regional Transit Committee, said that he would be interested in exploring having each committee adopt a set of bylaws or operating procedures to improve how they operate rather than amending what is in the charter.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that he would like to see further definition of the scope of work that goes to each of the committees.

Chair Guier, chair of the SCA caucus to the Regional Water Quality Committee, said that city officials that participate on the regional committees are accountable for the work of those committees and should have a real voice in the decision-making process.

8. Homeless Response Governance and System Recommendations

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles provided an update on efforts underway to consolidate the region's homelessness response governance system, assess existing investments, and develop a regional action plan.

Valles said the King County Executive and Seattle Mayor anticipate transmitting legislation to their respective councils in August 2019 for approval of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to create a unified entity to oversee the region's homeless response. She said it is not yet clear how detailed the ILA will be or what issues it will address, but that discussions are underway to resolve a host of issues related to the governance system's structure, scope, and authority.

Valles said the Regional Policy Committee received a briefing on June 12 and are expected to continue through September. She said a draft of the proposed ILA is anticipated to be transmitted in August.

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, said that it is important that the proposed governance changes be referred to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) to ensure SCA cities have input into the process. He noted there was discussion at the June 12 RPC meeting that indicated the County Council Chair may not refer proposals to RPC despite homeless governance system changes being included on RPC's mandatory referral calendar.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that he agreed with Councilmember Bell that it is important that the RPC have the opportunity to review the proposed system changes so that cities are represented.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, said while it is important that experts are included as part of the governance structure it is also critical that local elected officials are included to ensure local differences are considered.

Chair Guier said that the Executive Committee of the SCA Board recently met with King County Executive Dow Constantine and expressed the importance of including cities to ensure their different perspectives are accounted for.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that he would like to see more focus on defining the role of the new regional authority before deciding its structure. He said the authority and funds impacted by the new governance model would impact the level of involvement needed from cities.

Deputy Mayor Bell, Burien, said that people seem to agree that there is a problem with duplication in the current system and that it needs to be better coordinated, but that it has not been clearly articulated how the new governance structure will improve on that. He said the new structure needs to improve accountability.

9. VISION 2050

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board is engaged in ongoing work to extend the region's plan for growth – VISION 2040 – out to the year

2050. Between now and 2050, the four-county region that makes up the Puget Sound Regional Council region is projected to grow by 1.8 million people and 1.2 million jobs. The updated VISION 2050 plan will set expectations for how the region will accommodate that growth while maintaining and improving quality of life.

In February, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) was released for public comment. The DSEIS reviewed three unique growth patterns for their performance and environmental impacts through 2050: Stay the Course, Transit Focused Growth, and Reset Urban Growth. Many SCA cities provided comment letters expressing their preferred growth pattern and priorities for regional planning.

Parry said that in comment letters, SCA cities expressed support for increasing the share of the region's expected future growth around transit, especially around light rail station areas and other modes of high capacity transit. He said that some cities raised concerns about what impact focusing so much growth around these areas will have on displacement of affordable housing and wanted to see strong policies to mitigate that risk. He said that several cities expressed that setting of growth targets needs to include input from cities to ensure targets are realistic on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis and that they are not built from the "top-down" by the county or PSRC. He said that other themes PIC members have identified as being important were also reflected in comment letters, such as support for strong policies around affordable housing and displacement, social equity, climate change, and improving coordination across the region.

He said the GMPB will be working over the course of June and July to develop a preferred regional growth pattern as well as implementing policies (the Multicounty Planning Policies, or MPP's) to include in a full draft updated VISION 2050. The draft plan is scheduled for release for a 60-day public comment period beginning on July 19.

Parry asked PIC for feedback on whether they would like SCA to provide a comment letter during the public comment period for the update to VISION. If so, PIC would need to provide direction on a potential policy statement at the July meeting and recommend any action to the board at the September PIC meeting.

Parry said the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), which includes representation from SCA, King County, and special purpose districts, and is responsible for coordinating implementation of VISION at the countywide level, would also be considering whether to provide comments to PSRC. He said PIC could provide input to GMPC members and, based on the final content of any comment letter, PIC could recommend support for signing-on to that letter in addition to, or in lieu of, a separate SCA comment letter.

Parry asked PIC to provide feedback on whether SCA should work toward a position statement that could be adopted in September. He further asked PIC to identify their priorities for the update to VISION, any concerns raised from their cities, and priorities for regional growth.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that he had reviewed many of the comment letters provided by SCA cities during the public comment period for the VISION DSEIS. He said

he noted differences in city perspectives and asked whether cities should provide individual comment letters rather than seeking to adopt an SCA statement.

Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland, said that he is an SCA representative on the GMPB. He said SCA representatives have identified the need to differentiate between different types of transit service when planning for growth and that cities need to be able to designate where they want growth to occur.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that he is also an SCA representative on GMPB. He said the SCA caucus on GMPB has heard from cities that the regional plan needs to be aspirational and take advantage of transit investments, but that when growth targets are set at the countywide level they need to include some flexibility and should not be treated as caps on urban growth within cities.

10. King Conservation District Proposed 2020-2024 Rates and Charges

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles reported that the King Conservation District (KCD) has worked with its Advisory Committee, including SCA representatives and City of Seattle and King County staff, to develop a new 2020-2024 work plan and an accompanying rates and charges budget to support it.

Valles said that at the April 17 KCD Advisory Committee meeting, committee members reviewed various rate options provided by KCD staff. Advisory members discussed whether to support a resolution to the KCD Board of Supervisors endorsing a program of work that would require an average per parcel rate increase of \$3.70 per year, generating \$8.9 million annually - up from \$6.1 million currently generated. Committee members decided a letter that simply forwarded the proposal on to the KCD Supervisors for consideration was more appropriate.

Valles said that recently the King County Executive has determined that KCD's rate proposal would benefit from additional review. Consequently, the Executive is discussing a one-year rate extension option with KCD. It is not yet clear at this time what a rate proposal for a one-year extension will look like. Initially, the Executive envisioned a "status quo" rate but KCD is now requesting a "maintenance rate," presumably so that it can cover on-going expenditures incurred during the 2015- 2019 rate period using one-time funds. As a result, it's possible a one-year rate extension could include a rate increase that is higher than the current rates but less than what KCD is seeking for 2020- 2024. KCD has until August 1 to hold a public hearing and transmit a proposal to King County.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that he is concerned about the rate of increase proposed by KCD, and noted that cities are limited to increases in property taxes of only one percent per year.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that he is a member of the KCD Advisory Committee. He said the committee has worked through a transparent process in which they worked to incorporate feedback from cities. He said that inflation is a driving factor in the rate increases proposed by KCD, and that the Advisory Committee has heard from many parties

about the value and importance of KCD's services. He said KCD operates one of the most successful conservation programs in the country.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that she agreed with the comments of Councilmember Stokes. She said KCD has been responsive to requests from cities to streamline their programs and to increase transparency. She said they provide important services that should receive the support of cities in King County.

11. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on measures that will be considered by voters at the August 2019 election. Measures include the renewal of the countywide parks and open space levy, an operations levy proposed by the Seattle Public Library, capital bonds proposed by EvergreenHealth, and an operations levy proposed by Puget Sound Regional Fire.

Parry encouraged members to share information about retiring councilmembers in their cities, particularly of members who are on regional committees or PIC. Members noted there are a significant number of city council seats up for election in 2019 and shared updates about their respective cities.

12. Potential Upcoming Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that there will be a pre-PIC workshop in July with staff from PSRC presenting on the update to VISION 2050. He said SCA staff are also working to organize a pre-PIC workshop on homelessness and the impacts of the *Martin v. City of Boise* decision on cities.

13. Upcoming Events

Chair Guier said there will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 5:30 PM at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. The guest speaker will be Brian McGowan, CEO of Greater Seattle Partners.

Chair Guier said the next PIC meeting will be held on July 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Renton City Hall.

14. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Kate Kruller shared that the Seattle Seawolves Major League Rugby (MLR) team, which plays their matches in the City of Tukwila, would be competing in the MLR championship game over the weekend in San Diego (*the Seawolves defeated the San Diego Legion 26-23 to become back-to-back MLR champions*).

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, shared that the City of Burien would be celebrating the opening of the new Highline Heritage Museum on June 14, and that the city's annual Strawberry Days festival would take place on June 15 and 16. He encouraged PIC members to take the opportunity to visit the City of Burien.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
June 12, 2019**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	John Stokes	Janice Zahn
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Davina Duerr
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Matt Mahoney
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Anthony Wright	Mike Sando
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Martin Moore
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Chris Reh
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Jay Arnold
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Linda Johnson
Medina	Sheree Wen	Alex Morcos
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Tom Acker
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Mary Tompkins
Newcastle	Allen Dauterman	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	Angela Birney
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Karen Moran
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Zac Idan
Woodinville	James Evans	Elaine Cook
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Christa Valles Cynthia Foley

Voting members are highlighted. Cities represented are **bolded**.