SCA Public Issues Committee
MINUTES
February 10, 2021 – 7:00 PM
TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call
PIC Vice Chair Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 30 cities had representation (Attachment A).

Guests present:
Councilmember James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Rick Shaffer, Duvall (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Barbara de Michele, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Pam Fernald, SeaTac (PIC Alternate); Council President Susan Honda, Federal Way; Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; John Sheller, King County Library System

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
Vice Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment.

Councilmember Rick Shaffer, Duvall, introduced himself as the new PIC alternate from the city of Duvall.

Vice Chair Boyce asked if there was any further public comment. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the agenda was closed.

3. Approval of the January 13, 2021 PIC Minutes
Vice Chair Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the January 13, 2021 PIC minutes. **Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to approve the January 13, 2021 minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Vice Chair Boyce asked PIC members to remember to RSVP in advance of meetings to receive their unique link to participate in the meeting remotely and to reduce the amount of SCA staff time spent contacting members about their attendance.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that Vice Chair Bill Boyce was recently nominated to serve on the Harborview Board of Trustees and congratulated him on the honor. Dawson also recognized that it was the birthday of PIC member Mayor Sue Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park. Dawson noted two upcoming SCA webinars. On February 22, 2021, from noon to 1:00 PM, SCA will host the second installment in a new Lunch with the King County Council Series, which will be joined this month by Councilmember Reagan Dunn. On February 26, 2021, from noon to 1:00 PM, SCA will host the second installment in a new Lunch with the SCA Board of Directors Series, which will be joined this month by SCA Vice President Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond. Dawson updated members on county efforts related to COVID-19 and rental assistance. The county distributed approximately $34 million in rental assistance through December 2020 and plan to expend an additional $45 million in early 2021. In addition, the County Council is expected to adopt a sixth supplemental appropriation ordinance related to COVID-19 response and recovery in late March.

6. Emergency Management Advisory Committee Appointment

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met on February 3, 2021 to consider nominations to fill a vacant alternate position on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC). Following deliberation, the PIC Nominating Committee voted to recommend the appointment of Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, to fill the vacancy. If approved by PIC, the recommendation will be sent to the SCA Board of Directors for final approval at their meeting on February 17, 2021.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila to recommend the SCA Board of Directors appoint Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, to fill the vacant SCA alternate position on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

7. 2021 State Legislative Session

SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler reported that the Washington State Legislature is a month in to the 2021 session. Wheeler provided an overview of upcoming session cutoff dates and explained that while committee hearings are virtual, members can still sign in and testify on bills or provide written comment.

Wheeler directed PIC members to the February PIC packet that includes bill summaries, highlighting key pieces of legislation that relate to the SCA 2021 Legislative Agenda. She noted that with the recommendation of the SCA Legislative Committee, a minor change was being made to the Legislative Agenda one-pager that provided more detail on the priorities. The revised one-pager will now list out the law enforcement reform proposals rather than linking to the Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) legislative priorities (Attachment C). Wheeler

introduced Candice Bock, the Director of Government Relations for AWC, to give an update on the work of the legislature that will impact cities.

AWC Government Relations Director Candice Bock provided an update on the status of various bills being supported, monitored, and opposed by AWC. Highlights of legislation under consideration includes proposals related to policing reform; modifying the Open Public Meetings Act concerning remote meetings; new local land use planning requirements related to affordable housing, salmon recovery, and climate change; and, transportation and infrastructure. Bock said that February 15 is the first cutoff for bills to make it out of their policy committee or else be generally considered dead unless deemed necessary to implement the budget. She said much more would be known about which legislative proposals were likely to continue moving forward following the first cutoff. Bock referred members to the Association of Washington Cities "Hot Sheet" for the latest updates on legislation they are watching.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, asked about the status of an affordable housing bill, SB 5189, that proposes prohibiting local jurisdictions from collecting impact fees. Bock confirmed that the bill is still alive this session.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, asked if there have been any recent conversations or changes to HB 1203, requiring local police departments to establish a community oversight board. Bock stated that the bill sponsor, Representative Jesse Johnson, has been working to amend the bill and scale back many of the requirements to address concerns. However, because the proposal creates a mandate, AWC remains opposed to HB 1203.

Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton, stated that the City of Renton has concerns on the current language in HB 1220 that preempts cities from prohibiting emergency housing, permanent supportive housing, or emergency shelters in multifamily, commercial, mixed use, or form-based zones where short-term rentals are allowed.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked for information on SB 5160 that would place a number of restrictions on landlords following a public health emergency. Bock explained that the bill passed out of its assigned policy committee and is awaiting a hearing in a fiscal committee, giving it a cutoff deadline of February 22. Bock stated that AWC is supporting the bill as a way to address housing stability, but they are aware of ongoing conversations on how to best help tenants without hurting landlords.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, expressed that HB 1084 is problematic for operators of natural gas utilities, including the City of Enumclaw, as it would prohibit the use of natural gas in newly-constructed homes and buildings.

8. Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on ongoing work to update the King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's). The CPP's are proposed to be updated in 2021 to align with the recently approved update to VISION 2050 and in anticipation of updates to county and

city comprehensive plans due by the end of June 2024. The current CPP's have not been substantively updated since 2012.

The CPP's are a series of policies that address growth management issues in King County. The purpose of the CPP's is to provide a consistent vision and planning framework for each jurisdiction in King County as they develop their own individual comprehensive plans. Among other things, the proposed updates to the CPP's include new requirements for jurisdictions associated with planning for and monitoring affordable housing supply; add new emphasis to planning for health and equity outcomes in housing, land use, transportation, environmental, and economic policies; provide greater emphasis to climate change; and incorporate changes to state law and the regional plan for growth, VISION 2050. The CPP's will also include the employment and growth targets that are foundational to the zoning and land use assumptions in comprehensive plans.

Staff working groups from cities, the county, and other regional stakeholders drafted proposed updates that were provided to the King County Growth Management Planning Council on January 27. The GMPC will hold its first formal discussion of the proposed amendments in late February with a goal of releasing a public review draft for comment at their meeting in late March. Feedback from cities concerning the proposed changes will be critical to ensuring the region is successful in implementing its vision for future growth.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, noted the complexity of land use planning policy and said that the city recently established a land use committee to have more focus on the issue. She said future meetings on the proposed CPP updates would be of value.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said the city council recently spoke about housing and job goals and that a topic they would like more information on is the potential impact of COVID-19 on long-range plans.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that in a briefing at the city council with King County staff, it was indicated that while a planning to meet jurisdictional growth targets is important the consequences for not hitting your target are limited.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, noted that there were issues in prior years with city comprehensive plans not being certified by the Puget Sound Regional Council because growth targets at the regional and local level were not in sync.

Councilmember Earnest Thompson, Normandy Park, asked whether long-range plans were taking into account potential future advances, such as hyperloop technology, and the affects that could have on where people choose to live and work. Parry responded that such advances and their potentially significant have been discussed at a high-level but are not directly incorporated into regional plans at this time.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, said that businesses are already reconsidering where they locate and how much space to rent in light of COVID-19, and that local government should also be looking at the impacts of COVID-19 on their land use planning assumptions.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that SCA and the region should be paying close attention to the long-range plans for flights to and from SeaTac Airport. She said regional planning should do more to take into account the air quality and health impacts of SeaTac Airport's operations.

9. King County Regional Homelessness Authority

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported that the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) Implementation Board and Governing Committee convened on February 4, 2021, and each body unanimously voted to approve the selection of Regina Cannon to serve as the first KCRHA Chief Executive Officer.

Rinck said Cannon has more than 18 years of experience leading anti-poverty initiatives addressing homelessness, supportive housing, criminal justice reform, community capacity building, and youth leadership development. Cannon is currently the chief equity and impact officer at the Center for Social Innovation, where she leads their internal and external equity and impact initiatives and directs the Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) initiative. Previously, she was Southeast Director for Corporation for Supportive Housing. She worked with communities to transform systems of care into data and performance-driven systems that provide sustainable, permanent housing to those experiencing homelessness. She has also worked for HUD, in the Atlanta Mayor's office, and has managed mental health and drug court programs as well as restorative board programs for young adults engaged with the criminal justice system. She was also an Assistant Professor at Bennett College and received Masters' degrees in Counseling and Developmental Psychopathology from Florida State University.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, explained how during the interview process she was won over by a comment Cannon made about waiting to be invited into communities and working collaboratively rather than forcing her way in and imposing policies on a community.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, agreed expressed that she was very impressed with Cannon's experience and interview, and hopes that she will accept the offer.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said she appreciated having the opportunity to participate in the candidate meet and greet for SCA members and that she is very excited with the selection.

10. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on anticipated upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County. Parry noted that the renewal of the Best Starts for Kids levy is proposed for the August 2021 ballot, and asked SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck to provide a briefing on the proposal.

Rinck reported that the Best Starts for Kids Levy is set to expire December 31, 2021, and a levy renewal proposal was transmitted by the County Executive that would authorize an additional six-year property tax levy for collection beginning in 2022 at 19-cents per $1,000 of assessed value. In total, the levy would raise approximately $811 million compared to the 2015 six-year levy that totaled $440 million. The levy would cost the owner of a $600K home in King County $114 in 2022 as compared to $69 in 2021 under the expiring levy.

Under the Executive's proposal, 22.5% of the proceeds in the first year of the levy will go towards a major new initiative to expand affordable childcare to 3,000 low-income children under five who currently do not have such access, the creation of a new Workforce Demonstration Project to provide support for low-wage childcare workers, the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention program, and technical assistance and capacity building. For the remaining years of the levy, the allocations for these specific activities will be such that the six-year total sum of levy proceeds going towards them shall be no less than $235 million. The Implementation Plan under development by the Children and Youth Advisory Board will inform the specific allocations for these activities. It is projected that the childcare subsidy program and Workforce Demonstration project would cost just over $34 million per year. For the other 87.5% of first-year levy funds, 50% would go towards supporting programs for children aged pre-natal through five; 37% would be directed to services for children, youth, and young adults aged five through 24; 8% would continue funding for Communities of Opportunity; and 5% would fund evaluation.

Drawing from the 2019 Best Starts for Kids Assessment Report, Rinck reported that in that year $83.9 million was invested across King County through work with 281 community partners and reaching 226,000. Specifically, for the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Program: 90% did not enter the homelessness system; 71% of participants exiting the program remained in or were placed in permanent housing; and 92% of participants did not require homelessness services after 12 months from exiting to permanent housing.

Rinck described that the levy ordinance proposal has a mandatory dual referral meaning it must pass both the Regional Policy Committee and then King County Council. The Regional Policy Committee was briefed on the proposal at their February meeting and will revisit the ordinance for potential action in March either at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 10 or a special meeting later in the month. The Children and Youth Advisory Board will also be advising on the levy proposal's implementation plan component over the next couple of months.

Vice Chair Boyce asked about what data is available on outcomes of the levy. Rinck answered that SCA staff will be working with County staff to get better data on performance metrics.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, expressed concern about the scale of the proposed increase when compared to the expiring levy and how communities will respond to it. He emphasized that he is supportive of the services funded through the BSK levy overall, but that it is a hard time in his community with COVID-19 and his council has tried to be really sensitive to increasing costs for services on residents.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, expressed that he is okay with the higher rate for the BSK Levy. He said childcare is one of the things they are most concerned about in his community. He also added that Shoreline is putting a $38.5 million bond for parks on the April ballot.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, asked whether it would be possible to add an extra penny to the levy and have that money go towards building affordable family housing.

Councilmember Martin Moore, Federal Way, emphasized that he is a huge advocate for early learning and would like to participate in a longer discussion about the levy; however, he is concerned about the size of the proposed levy increase.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, raised concern about millage rate. She emphasized that she understands that needs are great, but this is coming at a time when there is little appetite and ability to pay increased taxes.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, also raised the issue of capacity and the impact of piling on various levies. She emphasized that these are amazing programs but there is a need to critically evaluate what burden is being put on residents and whether that will impact the ability for cities to support police, fire and other basic services.

11. Potential Upcoming Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry highlighted topics that have been flagged for upcoming PIC discussion and SCA engagement in 2021.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that she would like to see more discussion about how cities can help ensure vaccines are being distributed equitably and said that more needs to be done to reach those who limited in their ability to leave their homes to access vaccination locations.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said that the city is working with King County on mobile vaccination teams and suggested it could be a model for others to follow.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, cited mobile units being stood-up by King County Medic One as another example of efforts underway to address the need for vaccine options for less mobile populations.

12. Upcoming Events

Upcoming SCA events include:

- Lunch with the King County Council Series – Reagan Dunn – Monday, February 22, 2021 – Noon to 1:00 PM
- Lunch with the SCA Board Series – Angela Birney – Friday, February 26,2021 – Noon to 1:00 PM
- SCA Partner Forum on Solid Waste & Sustainability – Friday, March 5, 2021 – 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM
- SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 7:00 PM

13. For the Good of the Order
Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, introduced their newest councilmember, Rick Schaffer, who will be serving as the 2021 PIC alternate for the city.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, recognized Dr. Don Davidson for his many years of service as Bellevue mayor, councilmember, and regional leader. Dr. Davidson passed away on February 6, 2021.

Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, noted that King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn will be the guest speaker at an upcoming virtual Newcastle Chamber of Commerce breakfast on February 18. She said the event is free and encouraged PIC members to attend (registration).

Councilmember Earnest Thompson recognized that may area residents would soon be celebrating Chinese New Year, which begins on February 12, 2021.

14. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
February 10, 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	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	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 – February 10, 2021
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

From Leah Willoughby (SCA) to Tamie Deady and all panelists : Tamie, will you be in place of CM Stout today?
From Leah Willoughby (SCA) to Deanna Dawson(Direct Message) : Traci is now here for Des Moines
From Tamie Deady to All panelists : She should be here. I can stand in.

Sound Cities Association 2021 Legislative Agenda

SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION
38 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

Promote Economic Recovery

The COVID-19 public health crisis has had a devastating economic impact on Washington's businesses and workforce. Additional investments will be necessary to support the long-term economic recovery of businesses. SCA urges the Legislature to:

* Provide tools and resources for local business recovery, particularly the small business community
* Be cognizant of tax implications and do no harm to businesses already hurt by the economic downturn
* Consider greater flexibility on business regulations to encourage economic vitality

Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services

The need for cities to continue providing basic core services to residents remains essential despite the substantial revenue loss and unanticipated expenses brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. SCA urges the Legislature to:

* Provide a fair portion of any future federal or state COVID-19 relief funding directly to cities
* Ensure that state-shared revenue distributions remain whole
* Provide greater flexibility with existing revenue sources
* Replace the 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation plus population growth
* Ensure funding for Streamlined Sales Tax Mitigation
* Support local infrastructure and fully fund the Public Works Assistance Account

Address Housing Instability

The state and cities must partner to preserve existing and increase the supply of affordable housing as well as address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness. SCA urges the Legislature to:

* Address the instability resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19, including rental, mortgage, and utility assistance
* Provide local option tools and incentives to diversify the housing supply that recognizes the diversity of our communities

Clarify the Open Public Meetings Act Regarding Remote Meetings

SCA urges the Legislature to provide local governments with greater flexibility to hold virtual meetings without a physical location during an emergency.

Invest in Transportation Infrastructure & Mobility

The economic recovery and vitality of our state demands that we invest in our existing transportation infrastructure and prioritize new investments that improve the mobility of people and goods. SCA urges the Legislature to:

* Partner with cities to develop a comprehensive transportation revenue package that provides new resources and options for local governments to address multimodal transportation and mobility needs

Address Law Enforcement Reform

As cities are best positioned to understand the needs of our individual communities and police departments, SCA encourages the Legislature to partner with cities in addressing law enforcement reform. SCA supports thoughtful reforms that are timely, reasonable, and effective while recognizing local decision-making authority that ensures the needs of each community with varying levels of resources are met. SCA urges the Legislature to:

* Enact statewide law enforcement including:
    * establish a statewide standard use of force,
    * create database to track officers fired for misconduct,
    * expand grounds for decertification,
    * require officer misconduct investigations,
    * establish a duty to intervene when an officer witnesses misconduct by an officer,
    * require all officers receive regular mental health support and mental health screening for officers involved in fatal use of force.
* Provide state funding for any new statewide law enforcement programs or mandates

Legislative Principles

SCA adopts the following guiding principles through which all legislative proposals will be measured against:

* 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