



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

May 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. 27 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included; Councilmember Kerry Garberding, Pacific; Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville Staff; Tania Santiago Pastrana, King County Council staff; and Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County 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 for those joining online would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

2. Public Comment

Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Chair Boyce closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the April 12, 2023 PIC Meeting Minutes

Chair Bill Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the April 12, 2023 PIC meeting.

Councilmember Ted Weinberg, Mercer Island, moved, seconded by Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, to approve the April 12, 2023 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Boyce thanked everyone who attended the April PIC meeting either virtually or in person and asked that members contact him or SCA Executive Director David Hoffman if they have any suggestions about how to ensure future hybrid meetings continue to be engaging and encourage participation from members. Boyce noted that the PIC typically does not meet in August, and that a motion would be brought back to a future meeting for PIC to consider cancelling the August meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman highlighted that the next SCA Networking Dinner was on May 31 and would include a discussion with a panel of legislators. He highlighted other recent SCA work, including a webinar hosted regarding the *Blake* decision and overall engagement in a very busy legislative session.

6. King County Regional Homelessness Authority Five Year Plan

SCA Policy Analyst Hali Willis shared updates to the Regional Homelessness Authority's draft Five-Year Plan. The newly updated draft responds to SCA and community feedback, centers the Plan around one goal with 6 metrics to measure success, focuses on what KCRHA can do within its existing budget, and prioritizes activities. The Governing Committee is scheduled to vote on adoption of the Plan on June 1st.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, asked about the lower number of benchmarks included in the most recent draft of the plan. Willis responded that feedback from SCA members included concerns that benchmarks related to permanent housing were outside of the scope of KCRHA's role, and that others were removed for being too detailed for a high-level planning document.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, said that KCRHA needs to provide more focus on public engagement.

Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, asked for further clarification about metrics that had been removed from the draft plan, noting that she supports the streamlined approach overall. Willis responded that many of the measures would still be collected, but may not be highlighted as much as previously indicated. She said they've sought to streamline their approach to focus on metrics that more clearly show whether they are succeeding.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that she supports the more streamlined reporting and thanked SCA staff and members of the KCRHA Governing Committee and Implementation Board for their efforts.

Councilmember Sofia Aragon, Burien, shared that the city recently had a very positive experience with the KCRHA where they were responsive and active in helping to coordinate resources and a response to a local crisis.

7. Blake and Next Steps

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry noted that during the 2023 Legislative Session, the State Legislature was unable to reach agreement on a permanent statewide law addressing knowing possession and use of a controlled substance. As a result, unless the Legislature comes to agreement during a special session, as of July 1 there will be no statewide law prohibiting possession of controlled substances.

On May 3, Governor Inslee announced that the Legislature will be called for a special session beginning on May 16. The Governor's Office in calling for the special session noted that "in the absence of a statewide policy, several cities and counties have announced their intent to pass their own ordinances which would create a confusing patchwork of policies, treatment options and penalties."

SCA sent a request for ordinances or draft ordinances being considered by member cities and has begun posting those as well as examples from other jurisdictions in Washington state on the SCA website. MRSC has also developed a webpage with information on adopted ordinances. Members were encouraged to share information about what, if any, action their city is considering.

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, said the city was working on a draft ordinance, but were anticipating waiting until the outcome of the special session before adopting anything.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he favors seeing a statewide solution but if that cannot be achieved he would like to see the region come together around a regional solution to provide consistency.

Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish, said the city has a draft ordinance that they would begin considering concurrent with the special legislative session.

Councilmember Sofia Aragon, Burien, said the city prefers a statewide solution but that they were preparing an ordinance should that not happen. She said the SCA webinar was very helpful, especially in thinking about the different impacts of making possession a gross misdemeanor or a simple misdemeanor.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, emphasized the need to address illegal drug sales. She expressed concerns about the capacity of treatment centers in King County to address growing caseloads.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said the city had begun exploring options and what other cities were considering. She said she did not support a patchwork approach, but having no law at all was untenable.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said that she agreed with others that a state solution is preferred. She said if that was not passed, she would be interested in exploring a regional approach as mentioned by Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah.

8. Hazardous Waste Management Program Annual Report

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel shared updates on the King County Hazardous Waste Management Program.

The Hazardous Waste Program is a multi-jurisdictional entity whose mission is to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality throughout King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. The Hazardous Waste Program fulfills local government responsibilities under state law (RCW 70.105.220) for managing hazardous waste from residents and, in limited volumes, from businesses and other “small quantity generators.”

There are three timely updates to share regarding the Hazardous Waste Program. First, the Program has just released its 2022 Annual Report with information about services provided in the Program’s three primary areas of work: policy, prevention, and collection.

Second, the Program’s Management Coordination Committee (MCC) voted in April to maintain current fees through 2025 and will not seek a rate increase through the Board of Health. This year the Program will conduct long-term planning and analyze needs for Program services in 2026 and beyond.

Third, the Program has just selected a new Director, Maythia Airhart. Director Airhart has served as the Interim Director for the past several months.

9. Potential Future Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry the King County Council approved placing the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy renewal on the August ballot at a rate of 10-cents per \$1,000 as recommended by the County Executive and by the Regional Policy Committee (or RPC), which includes SCA representatives. In total over six years, the levy is expected to generate \$565 million to continue funding for regional health and human services for veterans and servicemembers and their families, seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities. The levy represents nearly all of King County's dedicated human services funding. Parry highlighted recent election results from April, including the passage of the Crisis Care Centers Levy. He also noted that the Kent School District and Snoqualmie Valley Hospital District saw tax measures fail in the same election.

10. Potential Upcoming Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry highlighted upcoming discussion and training topics and encouraged members to share suggestions.

11. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 10:00 AM to Noon – Tukwila Community Center
- b. SCA Lunch and Learn – Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy – Friday, May 19, 2023 – 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Virtual
- c. SCA Networking Event – Wednesday, May 31, 2023 – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion Events Center
- d. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 14, 2023
- e. SCA Lunch and Learn – King County Overdose Trends and Response – Friday, June 16, 2023 – 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Virtual

12. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, suggested a future convening exploring federal funding opportunities for cities.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, shared that the city would be building two servicemember memorials, and invited members to an upcoming groundbreaking ceremony and 5k run.

Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore, noted that the National League of Cities is holding an upcoming webinar to assist cities with navigating federal infrastructure funding opportunities.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, thanked SCA President and Enumclaw Mayor Jan Molinaro for recently attending a Federal Way city council meeting.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
April 12, 2023**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	Brenna Franco
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell	James McNeal	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Sofia Aragon	Cydney Moore
Carnation	Dustin Green	Jim Ribail
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Gene Achziger
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Zach Hall
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Amy Falcone
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Mac Johnston	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Steve Peretti	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Paul Charbonneau
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Eric Zimmerman
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	
Redmond	Vanessa Kritzer	Angela Birney
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Pam Stuart
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	James Mayhew
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Kathy Hougardy
Woodinville	Mike Millman	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Katy Harris	

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

SCA PIC May 10, 2023

Attachment B: Chat Log