



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

July 12, 2023 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Vice PIC Chair Chris Roberts, Shoreline, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. 28 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park (PIC Alternate); Dana Parnello, Maple Valley (PIC Alternate); Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue Staff; Amy Tsai, Redmond Staff; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County Hazardous Waste Management staff; and Tania Santiago Pastrana, King County Council staff.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated in hybrid format. 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

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

3. Approval of the June 14, 2023 PIC Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Chris Roberts asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of June 14, 2023 PIC meeting.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend to approve the June 14, 2023 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Vice Chair Roberts welcomed PIC members to the July meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman encouraged members to attend the SCA Summer Social networking event on July 26 and thanked Amazon for partnering on the event and lending their facilities in Bellevue for the event. Hoffman reported he recently attended the AWC Annual Conference in Spokane along with numerous SCA members, and that the conference was educational and engaging again this year. Hoffman reported that SCA Policy Analyst Hali Willis announced that she will be leaving SCA to join the staff of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness. Hoffman thanked Willis for her outstanding work supporting SCA members over the past two years.

6. Regional Board and Committee Appointments

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on vacant SCA positions on regional board and committees. The PIC Nominating Committee met on July 7 and voted to recommend nominees to serve on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee; Puget Sound Clean Air Agency; and, Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, to recommend the SCA Board of Directors approve the following appointments:

- **Appointment of Councilmember Eric Zimmerman, Normandy Park, to fill a vacant alternate position on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee;**
- **Reappointment of Councilmember Satwinder Kaur, Kent, to fill a vacant member position on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council. This includes a finding of circumstances warranting waving the six-year term limit for member appointments;**
- **Appointment of Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish and Laura Mork, Shoreline to fill vacant member positions on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.**

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Salary Setting Processes for Cities

SCA Policy Analyst Hali Willis shared different ways that cities can set salaries for elected officials, including passing an ordinance, creating code to apply automatic salary increases, or establishing salary commissions. Salary changes go into effect at different times depending on which body recommended the change, which office's salary is being changed, and whether the proposed change is an increase or decrease in salary.

Willis proposed the following questions for PIC members to discuss:

- Does your city have a salary commission? If not, are you considering establishing one?
- What have been the benefits and challenges of having a salary commission?
- In your experience, what are best practices regarding setting salaries for elected officials?

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, shared that Kirkland has a salary commission that meets annually. City staff provides information on the city budget to support the commission in their work to balance the city budget with equitable compensation. Curtis shared that Kirkland provides healthcare, transportation benefits, and other benefits to elected officials. Salary commission members are appointed by the city council.

Vice Chair Roberts, Shoreline, shared that Shoreline has a salary commission that first met last year, and will meet once every five years. Roberts added that the salary commission removed some benefits and increased councilmembers' salaries.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, shared that Auburn has a salary commission that since 2015 has set the salaries for both the mayor and for council members. The commission is made up of five members that are selected by the mayor and approved by the council.

Councilmember Cara Christensen, Snoqualmie, shared that Snoqualmie's salary commission has been helpful to adjust salaries for inflation.

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, shared that Covington does not have a salary commission, and that salaries for city employees are reviewed by Human Resources annually, and council salaries are reviewed every few years.

Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way, shared that Federal Way's salary commission meets every other year in odd-numbered years, and members are appointed by the mayor and approved by the council.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, shared that Redmond had a salary commission that was recently disbanded.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, encouraged more conversation within SCA on how to make elected office more accessible to working class people. He shared the political difficulty of discussing raising salaries for public officials, especially in a small city with limited resources. Charbonneau also shared the difficulty of balancing work with participating in regional boards and committees, since many meetings take place during the workday.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, shared that Normandy Park councilmembers and mayor are not paid. She shared that it is difficult to discuss compensation for elected officials, but bringing up issues like this at PIC can inspire more conversation at the city level.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, shared that Issaquah has a salary commission that met this year and increased council salaries. Marts shared that Issaquah aims to set council salaries in the second quartile as compared to others and will apply annualized adjustments going forward. He said if the city reduces staff by more than 2.5%, no annualized adjustment will be applied to council salaries the following year. The salary commission also added life insurance coverage, and an additional stipend for elected officials with household incomes below 80% of the area median income. Elected officials also have access to a deferred compensation program and are eligible for PERS.

Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish, shared that Sammamish does not have a salary commission, and all staff salaries are reviewed with the assistance of a consultant. Lam noted that council salaries could also be reviewed by the consultant and that councilmembers currently receive a monthly salary, vision, dental, and life insurance.

Councilmember David Baker, Kenmore, shared that Kenmore has a salary commission, and that has helped increase fairness in compensation. Baker shared that salaries are automatically increased each year based on the consumer price index.

Councilmember Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines, shared that councilmembers get paid a stipend per meeting but do not receive benefits, and that Des Moines does not have a salary commission.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, shared that the mayor, council and planning commission get a stipend for meetings attended rather than a salary and that the city does not have a salary commission.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, shared that Tukwila does not have a salary commission, so any changes to salaries cannot be made before the next term for elected officials. She said the Mayor's salary is proposed as part of the city budget, which can be passed or amended by the council. Kruller shared that elected officials are eligible to enroll in PERS and receive dental and medical insurance.

Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton, shared that Renton has had a salary commission since 2015. The commission includes five members who must be citizens of Renton and registered voters and is staffed by the City Clerk and a human resources administrator who conduct a salary survey of other cities to provide context. Pavone shared that before the salary commission was established Renton had not updated their councilmembers' salaries for 20 years.

8. Affordable Housing Committee Charter Review

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on proposals being considered by the King County Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) to update its Charter. As the AHC nears the end of its first five years of existence, the Committee is considering changes to its structure and make-up to ensure it is an effective body moving forward. Since its formation, the AHC has worked to recommend updates to affordable housing policies in the Countywide Planning Policies; launched a dashboard to track and report progress toward policy implementation and affordable housing goals; and served as a convening body to discuss emerging affordable housing topics, including approaches to implementing recent state and federal legislation. Members were asked for input to support this ongoing work by SCA representatives serving on the Affordable Housing Committee and to share efforts underway in their communities to address the affordable housing crisis.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said that Bellevue is interested in pursuing its own seat on the AHC as the largest city on the eastside and one that is collecting funds that were authorized by HB 1590.

Mayor Angela Birney, Bellevue, noted that other cities have also collected funding authorized under HB 1590 and asked whether adding a seat for Bellevue would reduce the number of seats appointed to represent SCA more broadly. SCA Policy Director Brian Parry responded that initial discussions have been that a Bellevue position would be sought in addition to current SCA membership on the committee.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, said that Bellevue’s affordable housing policies have impacts that go beyond their city boundaries and that it makes sense for them to have their own position on the committee.

9. Regional Emergency Management Coordination

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel shared updates on regional emergency management coordination, including recent work at the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC). The King County Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) and its subcommittees advise the King County Executive, the King County Council, and the Office of Emergency Management on a variety of issues in the areas of emergency management, homeland security, and regional planning and policies.

EMAC has several subcommittees, which are open to any interested city elected officials and staff. EMAC subcommittees are currently addressing several issues that may be of interest to SCA elected officials and emergency management staff, including the development of emergency management educational materials for elected officials, engagement on updates to the County’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), and a variety of regional coordination issues. Elected officials seeking to be involved in any of these discussions are encouraged to join the Executive Communication and Public Policy subcommittee; emergency management staff seeking to be involved are encouraged to join the Regional Coordination subcommittee. There are also several subcommittees addressing specific subject areas within emergency management, including Mass Care and Community Outreach.

Members were asked to provide feedback on the following discussion questions:

- What emergency management training topics would you find useful in your role as an elected official?
- In recent emergency scenarios, how has your jurisdiction coordinated with other jurisdictions, agencies, etc. in the region? Did you encounter any notable gaps in regional emergency management coordination?
- Has your jurisdiction sought state or federal disaster assistance? If so, how was that process?

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, suggested several ideas for emergency management training topics for city elected officials, including Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the role of elected officials in responding to emergencies, and emergency communication. Kruller noted the challenge of emergency communication in cities where multiple languages are spoken, as well as the intersection of poverty, homelessness, and emergency services in Tukwila.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, recommended additional training topics, including effective public communication in emergency situations and an overview of emergency powers. Marts noted that the recent after-action review of the 2022 East Fork Flooding revealed that regional and multi-agency coordination was a strength. Multi-agency coordination with internal and external partners was accomplished by daily coordination calls, facilitated by the Issaquah Emergency Operation Center. King County Emergency Management coordination was facilitated through their Zone 1 Liaison. A similar approach will be utilized for future incidents. Marts also

noted a few areas where coordination could be improved, including mass care and sheltering, communication and sharing of situational awareness as an event unfolds, and transparency of resource request tracking and prioritization for regional events. Finally, Marts shared that Issaquah received FEMA reimbursement for costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The process was straightforward, and staff appreciated the support of their FEMA Region 10 Program Delivery Manager.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, reiterated the importance of the CERT program, and expressed a preference for city events that bring together the community to participate in emergency preparedness activities.

Deputy Mayor Amy Lam, Sammamish, shared that Sammamish recently received the results of an evacuation time study, which revealed that it would take eight hours to evacuate the city under some wildfire scenarios. Sammamish will be reviewing policies and emergency plans to address this finding. Lam also noted that the city participates in Cascadia Rising and has found some internal gaps in processes through that experience.

Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton, suggested that information about the relationship between emergency management incident command and policymakers would be a useful training topic. In addition, Pavone requested that additional information be shared on regional memoranda of understanding and plans that would be useful for cities to leverage or sign onto. Mayor Pavone also noted the importance and vulnerability of regional communication.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, advised that elected officials should have a foundation in what their cities' specific vulnerabilities are, how to get into incident command structure, and how to connect with state and county programs. Klaas also noted that there are good training programs available online.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, reiterated the importance of clarifying the role of elected officials in emergency situations under different council configurations, including strong mayor versus council-manager models. Zahn also noted the need for more regional exercises as well as coordination of staff across cities, explaining that many of Bellevue's staff live outside of the city.

10. City Outlook and Summer Events

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman led members in a discussion of upcoming city events as well as takeaways from the recent Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference that was attended by many SCA members.

11. Potential Future Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said that the Kirkland City Council would soon be making a decision about placing a levy on the ballot to support parks.

12. Potential Upcoming Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry referred members to the materials in the packet regarding potential upcoming issues to be discussed at PIC or other SCA convenings in 2023 and encouraged members to provide feedback on additional topics and priorities.

13. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, July 19, 2023 – 10:00 AM to Noon – Tukwila Community Center
- b. SCA Summer Social – Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – 5:30 - 7:30 PM – Amazon Everest Building
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 9, 2023 – Virtual

14. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
July 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	Kerry Garberding
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 Jul 12, 2023

Attachment B: Chat Log