

SCA Board of Directors MINUTES

December 17, 2014 10:00 AM
Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
1055 S. Grady Way, Renton 98057

1. Call to Order

John Marchione, SCA President, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Members present: Nancy Backus, David Baker, Chris Eggen, Don Gerend, Jim Haggerton, Bob Harrison, Dennis Higgins, Dave Hill, Matt Larson, Denis Law, John Marchione, Bernie Talmas
Bill Allison, Chris Eggen, Bob Harrison, and Dennis Higgins were not present at the Call to Order but arrived after the meeting began

Members absent: none

Staff present: Deanna Dawson, Kristy Burwell

Guests present: Mary Jane Goss (arrived at 10:33 AM, following the Executive Session)

2. Public Comment

President Marchione asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Marchione closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

President Marchione reported that there will be an executive session after the Executive Director's Report.

3. Consent Agenda

Denis Law moved, seconded by Bernie Talmas, to approve the Consent Agenda. There was no discussion. The motion passed 9-0.

4. President's Report

President Marchione reported that the SCA Leadership meeting with Executive Constantine was cancelled for December. President Marchione reported that in his role as a Puget Sound Regional Council's spokesperson, transportation funding continues to be a pressing issue.

Chris Eggen arrived.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson reported that the Seattle Chamber and SCA will have a reciprocal membership for 2015, and that Maud Daudon has agreed to be a speaker at an upcoming SCA event. SCA members

will be invited to attend upcoming Chamber events. Members were supportive of this new partnership.

Dawson reported on discussions that she and Mayor Larson have had with Bellevue elected officials and staff.

Bill Allison arrived.

Dawson thanked members for a very good and productive year. Dawson then thanked Past President Denis Law for his leadership on the Board.

6. **Executive Session**

At 10:10 a.m., President Marchione announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Kristy Burwell left during this portion of the meeting. At 10:30 a.m., the Board ended its Executive Session and the meeting was resumed.

Bob Harrison and Dennis Higgins arrived during executive session.

David Baker moved, seconded by Denis Law, to approve the Executive Director's 2015 salary as stated in the performance review. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **SCA Board Policies**

Dawson noted that Board members may wish to make additional changes to policies. Don Gerend inquired on the governance distribution and the reason behind its structure. Dawson replied that it predates her employment with SCA and that it may be a retreat topic along with other house cleaning amendments. Gerend asked that it be a retreat topic.

Dawson reviewed the potential policy changes in Board policy 701.2; adding subparagraph i and adding a new bullet to subparagraph c.

Matt Larson moved, seconded by Bill Allison to amend Board policy 701.2 to include:

Adding 701.2(i) to the SCA Board Policies:

- i) Each city may have no more than one representative serving at a time on any individual regional board, committee, advisory council, or task force. Further, cities are asked to not submit multiple applicants for the same committee. The process for deciding which applicant's name to submit is left to the discretion of each individual city.*

Amend policy 701.2(c) as follows:

The Public Issues Committee through its Nominating Committee shall review all pertinent information and determine a draft list of appointments for the coming year with regard to the following criteria:

- *geographic distribution*
- *size distribution*

- *governance distribution*
- *ability to serve, interest in serving, past participation*
- *knowledge of the subject matter*
- *Preference shall be given to current SCA members.*

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **2015 Appointments**

Dawson reported that the PIC has recommended a slate of nominees for the Board to consider appointing to regional boards and committees in 2015. Dawson noted that a full list has been provided and is color coded to easily identify new members and other changes. Dawson reported that PIC Nominating Committee had a robust discussion to identify the recommended slate and they also met before the PIC meeting to identify additional recommendations. Dawson asked if there were any questions and stated that once approved, staff would send out letters to appointees.

The Board discussed appointments, including one member who was disappointed to not be recommended to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board (TPB). Dawson noted that there were a few individuals who were not reappointed in 2015, due to the Nominating Committee attempting to find at least one spot for each nominee. She reminded the Board that the final decision on appointments was theirs, and that changes could be made.

Mary Jane Goss arrived.

President Marchione inquired if there was a motion on the slate of recommended appointments.

Nancy Backus moved, seconded by Bernie Talmas, to appoint, or recommend for appointment, the slate of recommended nominees to 2015 regional boards and committees, as recommended by the PIC on December 10, 2014 ([Attached](#)).

David Baker stated that an appointee's attendance record is important and inquired if an appointee can be unseated due to poor attendance. President Marchione replied that attendance is monitored. Dawson continued that there is a Board policy regarding attendance and staff does keep track of it. Dawson noted that this will be included in the caucus chair training in 2015. Dawson reported that staff reached out to some appointees this year.

Dave Hill reported that he was not reappointed to PSRC Transportation Policy Board (TPB) for 2015, but was given his first choice instead. He noted that the committee was more heavily weighted to the north in 2015. Hill asked that this feedback be provided to the PIC Nominating Committee. Dawson reported that the committee members look very closely at the geographic distribution and that they are also trying to give every nominee their first choice, and agreed to share the feedback with the committee.

Jim Haggerton stated that it is important to limit the number of committees to which one person can be appointed. If that person leaves office, then there is a larger number of vacancies that need to be filled.

Chris Eggen noted that there are two representatives from the north, east, and south. Dawson noted that under the current SCA structure, there was a “north” and a “south” caucus- but the bylaws do not distinguish between north and east. The Board agreed this may be worth discussing at the retreat.

Matt Larson stated that the PIC Nominating Committee did a good job balancing its recommendations considering the large number of appointments that SCA is involved with. Larson continued that these recommendations were included in the PIC packet that was provided in advance of the December 10 PIC meeting and any questions could have been addressed before the PIC took action. The Board reviewed the list, and noted that not all committees could be perfectly balanced. Some had more north representation, others more south. Denis Law stated that the PIC Nominating Committee did a good job attempting to balance all requests, and stated that any concerns should have been raised with staff prior to the PIC meeting, or at the PIC meeting. The Board agreed.

There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. PIC Chair’s Report

Bernie Talmas, PIC Chair, reported on the December 10, 2014 meeting of the Public Issues Committee (PIC). The PIC has recommended a number of action items for the Board.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Jim Haggerton, to adopt the following public policy position:

The Sound Cities Association supports the proposed Countywide Planning Policy PF-19A as follows:

Plan, through a cooperative process between jurisdictions and school districts, that public school facilities are available to meet the needs of existing and projected residential development consistent with adopted comprehensive plan policies and growth forecasts.

Cooperatively work with each school district located within the jurisdiction’s boundaries to evaluate the school district’s ability to site school facilities necessary to meet the school district’s identified student capacity needs. Use school district capacity and enrollment data and the growth forecasts and development data of each jurisdiction located within the school district’s service boundaries. By January 2016 and every two years thereafter, determine if there is development capacity and the supporting infrastructure to site the needed school facilities. If not, cooperatively prepare a strategy to address the capacity shortfall. Potential strategies may include:

- Shared public facilities such as play fields, parking areas and access drives;*
- School acquisition or lease of appropriate public lands;*

- *Regulatory changes such as allowing schools to locate in additional zones or revised development standards; and*
- *School design standards that reduce land requirements (such as multi-story structures or reduced footprint) while still meeting programmatic needs.*

In 2017, and every two years thereafter, King County shall report to the GMPC on whether the goals of this policy are being met. The GMPC shall identify corrective actions as necessary to implement this policy.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Don Gerend, to adopt the following public policy position: *The Sound Cities Association (SCA) recognizes that public health services are needed to ensure the health and safety of all of our residents. SCA supports increased stable and dependable statewide funding for public health through additional revenue streams dedicated to public health. These sources may include but are not limited to taxes on e-cigarettes / vaping devices with funding dedicated to public health.*

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Talmas reported on the PIC's discussion regarding the potential policy position relating to 1% property tax cap, where each city was given a chance to weigh in on the issue. The PIC did unanimously revise the policy position to change the word "lift" to "raise." There was a motion to postpone action on this issue until the January 2015 PIC meeting, but was denied after discussion. Chair Talmas also reported that Issaquah proposed different language that did not pass the vote. Chair Talmas noted that this proposed language does not identify any specific mechanism or limit. Jim Haggerton stated that he is supportive as a general subject, but seems that the legislature may need guided direction. Deanna Dawson reported that members had received feedback from legislators noting that a more flexible position may be helpful at this stage. Don Gerend reported that AWC has adopted a similar policy, and agreed that the policy should be broad rather than tying the organization to a specific formula.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Denis Law, to adopt the following public policy position:

While cities understand and appreciate property owners' concerns about rising costs and increased property taxes, in some jurisdictions the current 1% property tax cap has created an ever widening structural gap between revenues, and the costs of providing needed services to residents and making prudent investments in infrastructure. SCA therefore supports legislation to raise the 1% property tax revenue limit.

Bob Harrison reported that at the Issaquah council meeting, the council raised a number of taxes, included B&O, utility, and garbage fees. He understands the need for local control, but the timing of the request to increase more taxes is not favorable for the city of Issaquah. Harrison noted that he will abstain from the vote.

Dave Hill reported that Algona is not intending to rise above the 1% property tax, and that the council in general is anti-tax. Hill continued that he is supporting other cities that may need to take a larger portion of the property tax, but a city is not required to take a larger portion of the allowable tax revenue.

Chair Talmas reported that he will be voting in favor of it as the PIC Chair, however the city of Woodinville voted against it.

David Baker stated that there are a number of cities who need and want this additional revenue. Cities are not required to raise taxes above the 1% level. He supported the SCA policy to help other cities.

The motion passed 12-0-1.

The members noted that Harrison is representing the City Managers and Administrators group, and not the city of Issaquah. Harrison reported that the City Managers and Administrators do not have a formal policy position. Whether the city manager representative of the board should vote on these types of policy issues, and whether the City Manager and Administrators group should be weighing in on policy issues, is another possible area to be discussed in the future.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Bill Allison, to adopt the following public policy position:

SCA supports legislation to clarify the scope of recreational immunity in Washington State, and clarify that potential dual purposes of land does not reduce the scope of immunity provided by RCW 4.24.210.

The Washington State Supreme Court has created a disincentive for recreational facility investments in its recent interpretation of RCW 4.24.210, the state's recreational immunity statute. The Court's interpretation of the nature and role of bicycling and bicycle paths, as applied to RCW 4.24.210, creates the type of potential liability for local government, policymakers, and private landowners that discourages any investments in bicycling or other recreational trails and facilities and encourages decisions to revoke existing access privileges. This outcome is counter to the recreational, economic, and health policies and objectives of the state that underlie RCW 4.24.210.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Talmas reported that the PIC took action on Congressman Rick Larsen's "TIGER CUBS" legislation and is recommending that the population threshold be modified and that this funding be in addition to "TIGER" grants funding.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by David Baker, to adopt the following public policy position:

SCA supports reauthorization of the TIGER grant program and Congressman Rick Larsen's "TIGER CUBS" legislation with the following amendments:

- The population threshold should be modified to include cities up to 60,000; and*

- *Funding for “TIGER CUBS” be in addition to “TIGER” grants funding.*

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dawson conferred with the Board on how to share these policy positions with the membership, and stakeholders.

10. City Manager’s Report

Bob Harrison, Issaquah City Administrator, reported that at the December 3, 2014 meeting of the City Managers and Administrators, there was a presentation on the current challenges and sustainable funding for public health. AWC provided a legislative session preview including working with cities and being proactive. Harrison also reported that there was an update on homelessness in King County and the work of the Committee to End Homelessness. It was discussed that this is an issue in all communities, and it can extend beyond homelessness into issues related to drug abuse and mental health. Harrison was pleased to announce that he was selected to represent the City Managers/Administrators on the SCA Board for 2015.

11. Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County Report (EDC)

Mayor Backus reported on the recent Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County’s Executive Committee meeting on December 11, 2014. Backus handed out the EDC Strategic Plan 2014-2015 and the CEO Update. Backus reminded members that the EDC’s 43rd Annual Economic Development Forecast Conference is scheduled for January 15, 2015. Backus reported that she has agreed to work on strategies for each type of business that the EDC is looking to recruit, including real estate and banking institutions. Backus offered to help members sign up to receive the weekly EDC newsletters. Backus also reported that the EDC will be working to align its marketing strategy with regional branding to recruit new members and retain the current members. Backus reported that the EDC retreat highlighted that it should not duplicate the work that other organizations are doing. Backus reported on the projected contributions from King County, Seattle, and SCA member cities for 2015.

12. Discussion Items

SCA Caucus Meetings, Voting Procedures:

Deanna Dawson stated that this discussion item was brought forward due to multiple conversations that the Board has had. Dawson reported that she researched the history of Board member elections since 2004. Since the policies do not lay out a specific process, Dawson asked for direction from the Board.

Bernie Talmas stated that the process should continue as it has been done in the past and that if a change is going to be made there should be a discussion. The Board agreed. They also agreed that this may be a good topic for discussion at the 2015 SCA Board retreat.

SCA Retreat Topics:

Dawson stated that there may be a need to do a deep dive into specific SCA policies and bylaws. Dawson noted that there has been interest to look at the caucus structure and address the north versus east geographical issue.

Dave Hill added that in the South Valley caucus, Black Diamond and Enumclaw are included however they are located up on the hill and are not in the south valley area..

Dawson reminded the Board of past discussions at the Board about reviewing financial policies at the retreat, including investment policies.

Matt Larson commented on the need for SCA to be very effective in a few areas as opposed to trying to do too much and not necessarily be effective in any.

President Marchione stated that the retreat should help focus on governance, and prioritization.

Larson reminded members that the 2015 Board meetings will be rotating to each of the cities represented on the Board. When calendaring, Larson asked members to add some extra time at the end to tour the city.

Dawson stated that the retreat will be held in Auburn. Backus added that the city will provide the meeting space and lunch. Larson added that Andrew Ballard, Marketing Solutions, is donating his services in kind for continuing to be a Regional Associate Member of SCA. Dawson also added that Lori Rock, Big Idea Zoo, is willing to attend and graphically capture the retreat.

PSRC RPEC representation:

Dawson reported that this discussion item was brought forward by the city of Kent and that Monica Whitman, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Kent, has been working on the issue. She referred members to the memo in their packet.

Dennis Higgins reported that this issue affects all cities as adequate representation on regional committees is very important.

The Board agreed that they were supportive of looking at amending representation on RPEC. It will come before the Operations Committee, on which SCA is represented by Mayor Marchione, with Mayor Backus as alternate.

State Regulatory Agencies:

Dawson reported that this discussion issue was brought forward by Denis Law. Law reported that many cities likely share the same frustrations as Renton. Law would like to gather stories of the cost and amount of time dedicated to dealing with often conflicting and duplicative requirements of state regulatory agencies and convey a message to the Governor that change is needed. The Board agreed that this was an issue. Some members noted that it would be helpful to hear what sorts of challenges other cities were facing. Strong mayors and city managers may have a better handle on exactly what challenges exist. Mayor Law agreed to take the lead on putting together examples to start the conversation. An SCA committee could be tasked with next steps.

Transportation Updates:

Dawson passed out the current version of the summary from the October 31, 2014 transportation forum. Members discussed and made some suggestions for updates.

13. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA South & South Valley Regional Caucus Meeting – Wednesday, December 17, 2014 – 6:30 PM – Kent Senior Center
- b. SCA North & Snoqualmie Valley Regional Caucus Meeting – Thursday, December 18, 2014 – 6:30 PM – Redmond Senior Center
- c. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, January 21, 2015 – 10:00 AM – Redmond City Hall
- d. SCA Appointee Orientation – Wednesday, January 28, 2015 – 6:00 PM – SeaTac City Hall
- e. 2015 SCA Board Retreat – Friday, January 30, 2015 – Auburn

14. For the good of the order

Denis Law reported that King County is proposing a \$5M cut in the county jail budget. It has been proposed that individuals will be booked and released if they are being charged with non-violent felonies. He requested that SCA work on this issue.

The Board discussed when to hold meetings in 2015. They agreed that they would keep the start time at 10 AM. An optional tour, with lunch provided by the city, would follow each meeting.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.