

SCA Board of Directors MINUTES

February 19, 2014 10:00 AM
Renton City Hall, Conferencing Center
1055 S. Grady Way, Renton 98057

1. Call to Order

Matt Larson, SCA Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Bill Allison, Nancy Backus, David Baker, Chris Eggen, Don Gerend, Jim Haggerton, Dave Hill, Denis Law, Derek Matheson, Bernie Talmas

Members absent: Dennis Higgins, John Marchione

Staff present: Deanna Dawson, Kristy Burwell

2. Public Comment

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

3. Consent Agenda

Bill Allison moved, seconded by Chris Eggen, to approve the Consent Agenda. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Vice President's Report

Vice President Matt Larson reported that the SCA Leadership met with King County Executive Constantine and discussed SCA participating in the King County budget process. Executive Constantine was very receptive and welcomed SCA to participate. There was a good discussion on the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) that was generally positive. The issue of human services was also discussed and SCA's involvement is welcome. There is a push for legislation to provide a tax exemption on properties owned by Tribes but located outside of the reservation boundaries. Senate Bill 6162 did not pass out of the Senate, however House Bill 1287 did pass out of the House of Representatives. The timeframe of this issue does not provide time for the PIC to discuss and potentially recommend a policy. Denis Law suggested that individual cities weigh in on the issue and provide feedback to the Executive's office. Deanna Dawson stated that she has discussed this issue with Diane Carlson.

Larson also reported that the SCA Leadership met with Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and mainly discussed economic development and paramedic issues. Larson continued that this was the first meeting with Mayor Murray and was positive as Murray sees the value of reaching out and working with SCA for regional solutions.

Chris Eggen added that proposed Senate Bill 6008, if it passes, will make it more difficult to annex utility districts. Dawson reported that AWC is working on this issue.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the SCA Networking Dinner is scheduled for later in the day where Seattle Mayor Ed Murray will be the keynote speaker and Microsoft is the event sponsor. A few representatives from AWC will be present and provide an update on bills in legislation. AWC President Craig George will also be present in addition to more than 100 attendees.

Dawson reported on Board Committees for 2014. The SCA Events Committee will be chaired by David Baker, and this committee is where our regional associate members are invited to participate. The Finance Committee will be chaired by SCA Treasurer Don Gerend, who will be joined by Dave Hill and Chris Eggen. Dawson invited other members to join either of these committees. Dawson stated that in the past two years, there were two committees that met: Communications Committee and the Membership Committee. There doesn't seem to be enough work for these committees to meet; instead, there could be new committees to task or ad hoc groups for more specific assignments.

Dawson reported that she gave a presentation at the UW of Tacoma that was well received by both the professor and the students. There is a possibility of an internship program.

Dawson next reported that she met with Brad Gaolach from the WSU Extension Program who wants to get more involved with urban and city issues in this region. Both graduate students and faculty share this interest. Dawson encouraged members to suggest high level projects to be considered. It is likely that Brad Gaolach will give a presentation at the March City Manager and Administrator meeting.

Dawson shared a concern of a member city regarding adverse findings in audits, solely because that city uses a cash accounting basis. This method of accounting is allowed and specifically stated in the Auditor's Bar Manual. Dave Hill offered his City's Clerk/Treasurer to assist with this issue. Vice President Larson asked if the information could be sent to the Board members, to which Dawson agreed. Dawson inquired if member city finance directors could look at this issue. Don Gerend agreed that AWC should look into this issue also

Dawson stated that Cloud Peak Energy had reached out to her and to AWC. Dawson confirmed that she'll ask for some background information and to keep SCA in the loop, and also suggest that Cloud Peak Energy reach out to the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Dawson noted that SCA's media presence has increased. There are several media stories on Board officer elections, and the elected official of the week. Dawson reported that SCA is up to 315 "likes" on its Facebook page, 173 followers on Twitter, and SCA has been retweeted especially regarding the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) hearing.

Dawson continued to encourage members to contact their legislators on the importance of a statewide transportation package. Dawson suggested sending a joint letter with King County and Seattle continuing to stress the need and importance of a statewide transportation package.

Chris Eggen reported that the Sierra Club sent out a letter opposed to the Transportation Benefit District (TBD).

Dawson announced that she will be meeting with the new King County liaison for Senator Patty Murray's office on how cities can better interact with the Senator's Office.

6. City Manager's Report

Derek Matheson reported that the City Managers and Administrators met on February 5, 2014. The group received a presentation from Diane Carlson in the King County Executive's Office regarding the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Another presentation was provided by Robert Beiser, Executive Director for Seattle Against Slavery, concerning human trafficking. It's a challenging issue, but Beiser shared some good news that Washington has the best laws for regulating and prosecuting the issue. Matheson next reported that the group met the new AT&T Director Carol Tagayun, who announced that AT&T is investing 1.8B in Washington State for its LTE wireless system, starting in the industrial areas, and moving towards residential areas. Also, Super Bowl XLVIII was reported as the highest data traffic. Dawson noted that she has also met with Ms. Tagayun, and that AT&T is now an SCA sponsor.

7. PIC Chair's Report

Bernie Talmas, PIC Chair, reported that the PIC Nominating Committee made appointment recommendations to the PIC, which were unanimously recommended to the Board.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Denis Law, to appoint Issaquah Councilmember Tola Marts to the vacant member position and Redmond Councilmember John Stilin to the vacant alternate position to the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC).

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by David Baker, to appoint Redmond Councilmember Hank Myers, Issaquah Councilmember Mary Lou Pauly, and Lake Forest Park Mayor Mary Jane Goss as alternate members to the King Conservation District (KCD) Advisory Committee.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

On the Transportation benefit District (TBD) item, Chair Talmas reported that at the February 12, 2014 meeting of the PIC, the body performed an exercise referred to as the round robin discussion, where each member provides its feedback and position on the issue. Talmas continued that the majority of members were favorable to the amendment provided by Redmond. Chair Talmas and ED Dawson filled the Board in on the discussion held at the PIC.

Dawson gave the Board additional detail about the Motion passed by the County Council regarding the TBD, including information on a low income rebate for the car tab fee and a low income bus fare. The motion also addressed the need for an interlocal agreement. Finally, there was a modification in the motion to the split between roads and transit. The revenue is would still be split 40% to cities for roads, and 60% first to Metro to fill the transit gap. Any extra funds, after the gap is addressed, would be split 50% to transit, 50% to county roads. Members were concerned of the recent change; however the split to cities remained at 40% and the transit crisis is addressed. Members therefore felt that the change was one they could live with.

There was extensive discussion about whether to modify the PIC position accordingly, based on this motion. After discussion, the Board determined that it would be best not to modify the position, given the extensive work done by cities and at the PIC. The Board did note that the modification to the proposed ballot measure did not change their support for placing the matter on the ballot.

Bernie Talmas moved, seconded by Chris Eggen, to adopt the following policy position, as recommended by the PIC on February 12, 2014:

Sound Cities Association (SCA) supports the formation of a countywide Transportation Benefit District (TBD) in King County and a public vote to raise revenue for a countywide TBD to address critical transportation needs facing the County and cities throughout the County, provided that:

- 60% of the funds are distributed to Metro for transit service and 40% of the funds are directly distributed to the County and cities based on population to be used for transportation needs authorized under state law, including maintenance and preservation of roads and bridges, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and additional transit, as determined by each jurisdiction,
- An annual Vehicle License Fee up to \$60 per vehicle and imposition of a sales tax up to 0.1% shall be the maximum amount submitted to the voters by the King County TBD, and
- Any resolution adopted by the King County TBD submitting a transportation funding ballot measure to the voters shall require that an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) shall be developed and executed by the cities, County and the King County TBD prior to the collection of any revenue, which shall address risk management and provide for 60% of the funds to be distributed for Metro transit service and 40% of the funds to be directly distributed to the County and cities based on population for transportation needs, as determined by each jurisdiction, as long as the Transportation Benefit District collects revenue from any source.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. **SCA Conflict of Interest Policy**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, noted for the record that each member of the Board has signed the conflict of interest policy for the year. If any member would like a copy of the signed document, please contact Kristy Burwell, kristy@soundcities.org.

9. **SCA Board Retreat Debrief**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, noted that a draft matrix of the work done at the retreat was included in the meeting material packet. Members made a few minor edits to language. The final matrix as amended is attached to these minutes as [Appendix A](#). Members also commented that the retreat went well and Andrew Ballard was a good facilitator. They thanked him for his work.

10. **SCA Staffing Update**

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, handed out a memo to aid with the discussion of this item.

There was consensus among members to replace the Senior Policy Analyst position and to work towards hiring additional staff. The Board members noted that adding additional staff was a high priority identified at the retreat. They noted that they had asked staff to take on significant additional work without adding new staff. They tasked the Finance Committee with coming up with funds to hire an additional staff member.

The Board also discussed dues. They noted that SCA had, like many organizations, frozen dues during the recession. The Board discussed the need to potentially raise dues both to pay for additional staff, as well as to keep up with cost of living, health care increases, etc. They expressed interest in tying future dues increases to CPI. They also noted SCA's reserves, and the fact that it is hard to justify raising dues when there are still reserves in excess of those needed to meet contingencies. The Board also noted that many SCA cities budget biennially, and the need to time any proposed dues increase to the cities' budget process.

The Board also noted the need to reach out to membership to determine what value the membership sees in SCA, and what other programs and services are needed by member cities.

11. For the good of the order

Don Gerend stated that the Senate hearing on SB5887 regarding allocation of marijuana revenue to cities is scheduled for the afternoon of February 19, 2014. Gerend encouraged members to talk with their legislators.

Vice President Matt Larson announced that he attended the King County Cities Climate Change Collaborative, where he received good information and achievable strategies.

Larson encouraged members to attend next year's State of the County address made by the Executive. It's important for the county and cities to partner regionally.

David Baker announced that the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference starts March 8, 2014. There are some new levels to the NLC University and more in depth training sessions.

12. Adjourn

Chris Eggen moved, seconded by Don Gerend, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

SCA 2014 Priorities Matrix

Team A	Team B	Team C
Headlines		
Governor signs SCA transportation plan	SCA's regional priorities are adopted by King County Council and Seattle	SCA model is best in nation
Long-range Goals (2020)		
Long-range strategy of effective partnership with King County	SCA breaks down partisan log jam	Provide significant value to all members
Priority Projects for 2014		
Develop proactive policy positions with evaluation criteria, and stay unified (6 votes)	Seek outside expertise (8 votes)	Hire additional staff (8 votes)
Build alliances with other organizations through regular communications and additional media strategies (5 votes)		
Meet with King County Council leadership quarterly and with each individual Council member (4 votes)		
Priority Issues for 2014		
Same	Transportation funding, equity provision of transit service	Same
Same	Human Services	Same
King County budget (6 votes)	Solid Waste (2 votes)	Economic development (5 votes)