

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF WORKSHOP DINNER MEETING

Monday, December 12, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 301 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue N.

PRESENT: Mayor McGlashan, Deputy Mayor Hall, and Councilmembers Eggen, McConnell, Roberts, Scott, and Winstead

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Julie Underwood, City Manager; Debbie Tarry, Assistant City Manager; Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Programs Manager; Scott Passey, City Clerk

GUESTS: Dave Hutchinson, President, Suburban Cities Association (SCA)
Deanna Dawson, Secretary/Executive Director, SCA

Deputy Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. All Councilmembers were present with the exception of Mayor McGlashan, who arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Hall pointed out that one of the reasons for inviting SCA tonight is to discuss Shoreline's proposed amendments to the SCA bylaws that were withdrawn based on an agreement by the SCA board to review during their annual retreat in early 2012. He then invited Mr. Hutchinson and Ms. Dawson to provide information from the SCA 2011 Annual Report.

Mr. Hutchinson and Ms. Dawson then reported on various SCA issues and the successes achieved for SCA public policy positions during 2011. They discussed the effort to encourage participation in SCA and the importance of taking a regional view of the issues. They commented on the increasing presence of northend cities in the SCA, noting that the transit issue was important for Shoreline. They outlined efforts to promote SCA interests as well as the accomplishments of the Public Issues Committee (PIC). They discussed the decision not to raise membership fees, the recruitment of associate members, and the process for nominating/electing a new president. Among other issues, they also discussed the process to select a location and facilitator for the SCA retreat, which the PIC will decide. A brief question and answer period followed.

SCA Bylaws Amendments

Ms. Dawson noted that SCA is taking Shoreline's bylaws suggestions seriously. Deputy Mayor Hall noted that the bylaws can make it difficult to represent the City of Shoreline position on controversial issues. It was noted that the SCA is not supposed to take a position on controversial issues; however, it has in the past. Two examples include the 40:40:20 transit issue as well as the issue of reclaimed water. The Council also discussed concerns about the fact that SCA minutes do not include a vote count; they only indicate if a motion passes or fails. There were also concerns expressed about rules of procedure and the fact that people on the PIC have been overruled by the chair.

Councilmembers expressed the opinion that the City of Shoreline has the potential to lose its identity due to the SCA voting system, rules, and caucus/committee structure. There was discussion about the need to inform PIC members earlier and facilitate communication between city councils and SCA staff. There was agreement that the SCA does not want to put people in untenable positions. It was noted that the SCA caucus is supposed to represent the SCA majority. Because each issue is different, there tends to be a different approach to each issue.

Councilmembers reiterated the fact that Shoreline representatives are in a difficult position on the PIC. They commented that their integrity can be compromised if they are forced to vote for an SCA position when it conflicts with their personal/City opinion. Deputy Mayor Hall noted that many of the SCA positions do not support Shoreline goals, and claiming that the SCA represents one million people is not always true.

There was brief discussion about committee assignments and the fact that Shoreline is well-represented on committees. Ms. Dawson encouraged Shoreline to continue pursuing leadership positions within the SCA. Deputy Mayor Hall noted that many cities and organizations have made budget reductions in response to the economic decline. He asked SCA to consider reviewing its staffing levels, in light of SCA staff increases implemented a few years ago.

At 6:52 p.m., Mayor McGlashan declared the meeting adjourned.

Scott Passey, City Clerk