



**City of Tacoma
Sustainable Tacoma Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 14, 2019

Commission Members

Present: Phil Coughlan, Lexi Brewer, Grace Hope, Matthew Benedict, Todd Hay (5:20 PM)

Commission Members

Excused: Jade Monroe

Commission Members

Absent: Liberty Evans-Agnes, Emily Pinckney, Suzanna Smith,

Others Present: Kristi Lynett, Patrick Babbitt, Daniel Murillo, Paige Kelling

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 5:10 p.m.

Approval of October 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Lexi Brewer

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

Action: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion we declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

Review of Agenda:

Motion: Lexi Brewer

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

Action: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion we declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

Commission Role and Rules of Procedure:

Postponed until next meeting.

Vice Chair Nomination:

Postponed until next meeting.

Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) – Letter of Support:

STC Chair member Lexi Brewster presented a draft letter of support for the Urban Forestry Management Plan covering five primary topics. The first is to support the adoption on the plan, more so commitment from the City. Discussion ensued about the funding of new staff. The request for additional staff should be made specifically by STC committee members. The second topic was a call to the City to coordinate more efforts across departments. Lexi explained that there is no current system in place to deny the request to remove trees. There is not a current Arborist on staff to assist in the expert guidance of tree preservation. Third is a request for the City to take on active management of right-of-way trees. It was acknowledged that a hurdle to this request would be the liability that is placed on the city in regard to the ultimate responsibility of the tree maintenance. The fourth topic is to adopt a voluntary heritage tree program. This program entails that a tree is nominated based on what could be many factors such as species, age, overall size and the program would preserve the tree even if the property is sold. The final point is to support the growth of more fruit trees in right-of-way areas. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of fruit bearing trees. It was acknowledged that an updated proposal of the Nuisance Code is required to help preserve trees.

The Adoption of the Urban Forestry Management Plan Letter of Support:

Motion: Matthew Benedict

Seconded by: Todd Hay

Action: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion we declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

Affordable Housing Action Strategy – Staff Presentation:

At approximately 5:40 p.m. Daniel Murillo, Housing division manager for the City of Tacoma, presented the Affordable Housing Action Strategy with a PowerPoint presentation. He began his presentation with introducing the problem statement and statements from Tacoma residents conveying their experiences. Daniel discussed the project background and its relation to the Tacoma 2025 initiative. The presentation included the main goal of livability, development of the AHAS and the project timeline, outreach for the AHAS including the six methods used for engagement, impressions from stakeholder interviews, a snapshot of current conditions and unmet needs, a dashboard overview with key assumptions and the relationship to AHAS, the four strategic objectives, implementation plan, estimated investments, and the intended outcome.

STC-City Council Engagement Meetings – Debrief:

The meetings between the STC and city council members has been impactful. There has been positive participation from the council members and their staff has been very supportive and responsive. STC agreed upon continuing 1x1 meetings and possible group meeting with multiple members. Discussion ensued about hold STC preparation meetings before meeting with council members. The committee agreed to continue scheduling engagement meetings with council members through 2020.

STC Subcommittee Assignments:

Postponed until next meeting.

Staff Updates:

Pat Babbitt discussed the work STC has done regarding letters and resolutions. A letter of recommendation has been submitted to council for landscaping along Interstate 5 and State Route 16. Positive feedback has been received by three of the council members. There are no updates of the Climate Change Emergency resolution, Council Member Mello will introduce topic at next Study Session this Tuesday. Tide Flats Interim regulations topic does not have any significant changes, Grace Hope explained that during a meeting she attended earlier this week an amendment was introduced stating there is not enough data regarding fossil fuels in the Port, this is directing the City Manager to collect data over the next six months.

There will be a Sound Transit presentation at Transportation of Planning Commission beginning at 5:00 PM on November 20th in the council chambers. This will host an opportunity to see a presentation from Pierce Transit regarding the Long-range Plan. They plan to discuss expanding their services which is relevant to the STC.

Kristi Lynett updated everyone on promoting climate change in trees by collaborating with Metro Parks to use the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020. Further meetings to support this event will continue over the next month, any updates regarding progress will be reported to the STC at future meetings.

Public Comment:

No comments.

Objectives for the Next Meeting:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be a special meeting and will be rescheduled from December 26, 2019, to December 12, 2019, at the regular meeting time and location: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Paige Kelling, Staff