



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 16, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Katin Kendrena, Emily Pinckney, Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Tony Ivey, Evlondo Cooper, Elly Claus-McGahan, Margaret Schwertner

Commission Members Excused:

Adam Reichenberger

Commission Members Absent:

Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Lauren Choi

Members of the Public: Heidi Stephens

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chairperson Lexi Brewer at 5:02pm, including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements.

Approval of December 16, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda as written. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Elly Claus-McGahan

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Approval of November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Katin Kendrena

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Public Comment

No public comment was delivered in writing or given in meeting.

Staff Updates – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Commission staff liaison Patrick Babbitt recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) November meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission. Following up on November meeting activities, Patrick reported that staff

New notices included an update that staff supported a Green Economy Subcommittee meeting and Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset Subcommittee. Both subcommittees are expected to continue in January or beyond, with dates still being scheduled. In addition, staff recounted recent City Council action, including adoption of Tideflats Regulations, the 2030 Climate Action Plan, and Home in Tacoma ordinance. Patrick noted that Sustainability Small Grants quarterly applications are due December 31 and Commission Officer nominations will occur at the January meeting.

Discussing other important news related to the Tacoma community, staff shared recent Health Department reporting about COVID-19.

Jim Parvey communicated Tacoma City Council's unanimous adoption of the 2030 Climate Action Plan and that all Council Members seemed enthusiastic in its support and about the need to resource the Plan. He responded to a Commission question about implementation, explaining upcoming budget, grant-seeking, and other management processes to attain and coordinate financial and staff resources to support climate action implementation. To support the Commission's advisory and oversight role, staff will seek to incorporate regular budget process updates as part of the Staff Updates portion of Commission meetings.

Staff thanked Commissioners for participating in subcommittees focused on green economy research and getting program updates from Solid Waste Utility staff about waste prevention and recycling work.

Subcommittee Updates

Commission Chair Lexi Brewer shared that she and Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict met with Solid Waste Utility staff to learn more about waste prevention and recycling programming. They determined to set a follow-up meeting to go into depth about specific program areas. They also discussed potential areas for Commission attention or recommendations, including supporting budgeting for a potential waste characterization study as well as multi-family recycling education.

Commissioner Elly Claus-McGahan shared that a Green Economy Subcommittee met to prioritize research areas for future subcommittee work. Staff member Jim Parvey asked the subcommittee for support brainstorming a City approach to business engagement, and will seek to attend an upcoming subcommittee meeting.

No further updates were provided by Commissioners regarding other subcommittee activities.

Commission Business Items

2022 Commission Meeting Day/Time – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Patrick discussed considerations for setting Commission meetings at their current time, on third Thursdays or each month from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Patrick and Commission Chairpersons asked Commissioners whether adjusting the day or time of Commission meetings would better support Commissioner participation. The Commission determined no change to meeting day or time was needed.

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability; Chair Lexi Brewer, Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict

Patrick recounted the Commission's work during 2021, including its initial priorities set for the year, month-by-month meeting agenda items, subcommittees, recommendation letters, priorities communicated to City management and City Council, awarded Sustainability Small Grants applications, and other Commission and community-wide accomplishments. Other staff and Chairpersons communicated their thanks to Commissioners for a productive and impactful year of service amid very challenging circumstances.

Patrick invited anonymous or non-anonymous feedback through an online survey or direct email or other communications so the Commission and staff can continually improve.

Commissioners communicated a few priorities for 2022 beyond those set for 2021, including tracking decarbonization studies and supporting future work, supporting further Home in Tacoma work, and seeking opportunities to support engagement with the Puyallup Tribe.

Commission Networking – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Commissioners participated in a networking activity where they shared more about their sustainability knowledge and interests, connections to the Tacoma community, and winter traditions.

Commission Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict requested that networking be incorporated into Commission meeting roll calls at least quarterly.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
- Officer Nominations – Discussion
- Sustainability Small Grants Applications – Review & Award
- Green Economy – Presentation (tentative)
- Subcommittees: Green Economy, Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 6:47pm.

Adjournment of December 16, 2021 Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, January 20, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker