



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2023

Commission Members Present: Matthew Benedict (in-person), Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Sheena Hewett, Tony Ivey, Casey Twiggs, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek, Lowell Wyse, Mike Chang (in-person), John Doherty (in-person), Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair),

Commission Members Excused: Lexi Brewer

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: LaKecia Farmer (in-person), Jim Parvey (in-person), Kristin Lynett (in-person)– all from Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Rochelle Gandour-Rood (in-person) from Tacoma Public Utilities

Kenny Coble, City of Tacoma Media & Communications Office

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper at 5:01 pm, including an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public. Then, Evlondo administered a roll call, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of October 19th, 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of September 21st, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff gave updates on:

- Sustainability Grants
 - awarded \$650k from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) for shoreline climate resilience and habitat restoration planning
- Urban Forestry Language Justice Pilot at Branch Out, Nov 4th
- Green Economy Strategy- for the kickoff, looking to get tours from businesses and companies expanding green buildings for educational and awareness purposes
- October 31st is the study session featuring ROW tree codes

Additional updates:

- Rochelle Gandour-Rood was introduced as the liaison from Tacoma Public Utilities temporarily replacing Latasha Wortham

Participatory Budgeting- Discussion

Kenny Coble gave an update on the Participatory Budgeting Project in Tacoma's District 4 (Lincoln District, East Tacoma). There were two specific projects related to sustainability picked for the voting round, but the winning project is cultural and after school programming for a year. Although not directly related to sustainability, staff and commissioners were interested in having sustainability tied to the educational programming. Commissioners asked what happens to the 2 sustainability projects that didn't win, Kenny responded that the City of Tacoma did get feedback on those projects. Additionally, Kenny presented on the upcoming project in District 2. They are looking for 10-20 people to join the leadership team. There is already interest and opportunities for beautification, climate justice, young people and the Port of Tacoma related interests. Finally, Kenny presented on the WA State funding, \$37 Million statewide, which is designated for participatory budgeting in "overburdened" communities affected by poor air quality. There will be approximately 3-7 areas of focus in the state, Kenny is hoping Tacoma is one of them since South and East Tacoma are considered "overburdened" by air pollution.

Climate Commitment Act Letter

The commission finalized a letter detailing their recommendations for City of Tacoma to advocate for during the legislative session regarding the Climate Commitment Act.

Public Comment

No further public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Commission Updates

STC Commissioner Mathew Benedict gave an update on the Environmental Services commission which he sits on behalf of STC, including an update on impact fees.

Tentative Objectives for the Next Meeting (November 16, 2023)

Community and municipal building decarbonization

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 7:00pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday November 16th, 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper III

Margaret Schwertner

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer Carson Brock

LaKecia Farmer and Carson Brock, Staff / Note Takers