



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

Date: July 15, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Margaret Schwertner, Lexi Brewer (Chair), Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Tony Ivey, Ashley Sloan (leaves 7:00pm), Evlondo Cooper, Elly Claus-McGahan (leaves 7:00pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters

Commission Members Absent:

Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moalii

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: LaTasha Wortham, James Parvey, Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison)

Guest Presenters: Lewis Griffith from City of Tacoma Solid Waste Utility

Members of the Public: David Thompson, Barbara Menne

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chairperson Lexi Brewer at 5:05pm, 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 July 15, 2021, Meeting Agenda

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

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters, Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moalii

Approval of June 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes

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

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters, Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moaalii

Public Comment

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

Staff Updates

Patrick Babbitt, the Commission's staff liaison, recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) June meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission. New notices included an update that Commission meetings will remain remote until further notice; a Tacoma Link Light Rail fare input survey organized by Sound Transit is accepting comments through July 25; staff will coordinate recruitment over coming weeks for open Commission positions; and that staff are delivering an annual Commission report to City Council's Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee in the next few business days.

Staff thanked Commissioners for their work outside meetings, including subcommittees.

Subcommittee Updates

Patrick updated the Commission that its Waste Prevention and Recycling Subcommittee initially scheduled to meet on Wednesday, June 23 is to be rescheduled based on staff and Commission availability following changes in Commissioner availability. Lexi reported that Tacoma's Tideflats Advisory Committee, which she participates on as a local environmental leader, may seek someone to fill her position while she takes temporary leave. Evlondo communicated interest in coordinating an outreach-focused subcommittee that would support review and implementation of the new climate action plan as it reaches a final draft and potential adoption. Lexi noted that Katin may be interested in an outreach subcommittee. No further updates were provided by Commissioners regarding other subcommittee activities.

Commission Business Items

Tacoma-Pierce County Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan – Lewis Griffith, Solid Waste Utility, City of Tacoma

Lewis, the division manager for the City's Solid Waste Utility, delivered a presentation regarding the joint city-county plan to coordinate solid and hazardous waste policies and services. The plan is required by the State of Washington to document practices and ensure appropriate planning. A draft of the plan will be publicly available in about a month, when Lewis will work with staff to ensure the Commission has a copy to review. The joint plan envisions "A solid waste system that is equitable, protects environmental and human health, and is resilient to the known and unforeseen changes that are coming our way". The plan considers various 20-year challenges, including greenhouse gas emissions, affordability, food waste, extended producer responsibility and recycling, growth, equity, and services after the landfill is full. To contend with challenges and achieve its vision, the plan has goals related to resource use, sustainability, communication and education, partnerships, and its system and infrastructure. Sustainability goals include reducing waste, improving recycling, protecting environment and human health, reducing toxins, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, delivering solid waste services, and making

services more accessible and equitable for all customers. Notably, the city and county use different materials recovery facilities (MRF) and services, which serve different populations.

Sustainability Small Grants Applications Review – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Patrick refreshed Commissioners about the purpose of the Sustainability Small Grants program and the Commission’s process in reviewing and awarding grants. He discussed each of the three applications briefly, and then Lexi led the Commission through a detailed consideration of each application. Commissioners discussed the merits of grants one-by-one to determine potential awards in line with rules and available budget.

Small Grants Application Decision – Food is Free Washington “FIG Preserve”

Motion: To award this grant application with full funding (\$4,900) with standard Sustainability Small Grants program requirements. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters, Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moaalii

Small Grants Application Decision – Sandra Ford “Blueberry Park Beautification Project”

Motion: To award this grant application with full funding (\$4,221), with standard program requirements and special stipulations that staff confirm use of adequate matching funds; confirm pet waste stations use will confer surface water benefits and that waste stations are used and maintained beyond the grant; and that someone is responsible to maintain native plants planted through these funds beyond the grant. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Margaret Schwertner

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters, Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moaalii

Small Grants Application Decision – Zero Waste Washington “Waste Reduction by Supporting the Local Repair Economy”

Motion: To award this grant application with full funding (\$5,000), with standard program requirements and a special stipulation that grantees seek to include Tacoma community members (such as local businesses, organizers, and activists) in the project wherever possible. Motion made by Tony Ivey.

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters, Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moaalii

Home in Tacoma Recommendation Letter – Evlondo Cooper and Lexi Brewer, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

Evlondo and Lexi introduced a draft recommendation letter put together by Evlondo. The letter conveys the Commission's support for the proposed Home in Tacoma project with a few suggested provisions. The project offers a comprehensive, inclusive, forward-looking policy that would increase housing supply, affordability, and choice for current and future residents. This housing policy would be important for positive climate impacts, since housing affects both energy and transportation. Together, the buildings/energy sector and transportation sectors compose about 63% of Tacoma's greenhouse gas emissions. To strengthen the project's policies further, the Commission recommends a stronger emphasis on anti-displacement; review of parking requirements; inclusionary zoning; elimination of the 8-year Multifamily Property Tax Exemption; investments in local and regional transit; review of short-term rental code; and review tree preservation codes. The letter emphasizes that housing policy is at the crossroads of justice, equity, affordability, diversity, transportation, and climate.

Lexi will work with staff to finalize the letter and deliver it to the City Council's Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee.

Home in Tacoma Project Letter

Motion: To approve the letter as written with final general edits and formatting to be completed before delivery. Motion made by Margaret Schwertner.

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Katin Kendrena, Adam Reichenberger, Nikie Walters, Emily Pinckney, Gabe Moaalii

High Impact Climate Actions List – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Patrick shared a list of five high-impact climate actions, which was requested by Tacoma City Council during the Commission's meetings with City Council Members and staff over the past few months. Proposed climate actions are limited to those that are a good fit for one-time internal or external funding, are within the influence of the City to complete, and that address key gaps or priorities across a mix of program areas. The five projects are: a cost-share pilot project focused on retrofitting 20 low- to moderate-income multifamily properties; a loan loss reserve fund to assist homeowners to retrofit existing single family properties; a 2,000 tree planting project focused on neighborhoods with heat islands; an A Street Bicycle Boulevard providing active transportation connections to bus rapid transit on Pacific Avenue; and coordination, planning, and monitoring processes to support shoreline and tideflats climate preparedness. Altogether, these projects could cost approximately \$3.75 to \$6.75 million. The proposal will be delivered by staff to Tacoma City Council in business days following this

meeting, and staff invite Commissioners to submit comments to staff during this meeting or after in an email format.

During this agenda item, 7:00pm passed and quorum was lost as two Commissioners left at that time.

Public Comment

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

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
- Climate Action Planning update
- Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment recommendation letter (tentative)
- Environmental Services Department Equitable Engagement Framework (tentative)
- Stormwater Management Plan (tentative)
- Green economy industries presentation (tentative)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 7:05pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, August 19, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker