



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

Date: February 16, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Evlondo Cooper, Kendra Stauffer, Lexi Brewer (Co-Chair), Tony Ivey, Matthew Benedict, Laura Svancarek, Margaret Schwertner, Adam Reichenberger

Commission Members Excused:

Commission Members Absent:

Nikie Walters
Casey McManus

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Beth Jarot (Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability), Lucy Klug (Sustainability Specialist Americorps, OEPS)

Other Presenters:

Kyla Wilson (Pierce County), Sara Bowles (Tacoma Power)

Members of the Public: present

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper at 5:02pm, 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 discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of February 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item or in writing prior to the meeting.

Staff Updates – Lucy Klug, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

City staff, Lucy Klug and Beth Jarot, gave updates on:

- Right of Way Tree Codes – IPS on Feb 22nd

- \$30 tree coupons available through online application thru March 15th, with purchase by March 31st at 8 participating nurseries.
- New Senior Mgmt Analyst LaKecia Farmer starts on Feb 27
- Climate Data and Grant Analyst (Sustainability Analyst) new position should be posted this week.
- Sustainability Expo Vendor Recruitment OPEN NOW! Ask for shout out of possible organizations and businesses, we can follow up with them.
 - Does STC want a booth?
 - Likely yes, will follow up once they see if enough commissioners are available for that date/time. Will let Kristi or Lucy know (likely Kristi at next month's meeting).
- EnviroChallengers are working the libraries over the next months to promote "If it hits the ground it hits the sound" and recycling with student and adult audiences.
- Professional development series for teachers is starting this week. Working with TPU, Pierce County, PCD. Over 250 teachers have signed up. EC focused on Wastewater and climate change.
- Next Move internship has started this week with 16 high school interns - cohort meeting with Jacqueline every Thursday.

LaTasha Wortham (TPU) echoed the Professional Development series and mentioned the new Tacoma Water coloring book. Will be back next week with more information to share.

Commission Business Items

Co-Chair Elections– Evlondo gave a speech, wants to continue work with Commission, feels confident in role after the year-long term just served. Margaret gave a speech, wants to continue to provide support for Commission. Matthew gave a speech, explained previous time on Commission, highlighted that he wants to allow others to have a chance in the co-chair position but will step up if that's what the STC wants.

Votes on slate for Evlondo and Margaret:

Tony - yes

Laura – yes

Kendra – yes

Adam – yes

Lexi – yes

The commission unanimously voted to elect Evlondo and Margaret as Co-Chairs.

Pierce County Sustainable 2030 Plan & GHG Inventory Presentation – Kyla Wilson started the presentation by opening a discussion and asking how much people know about the Sustainability 2030 Plan/if they have read it. After a brief discussion, she explained the actions and focus areas within the plan. She highlighted GHG contributors in Pierce County, and analyzed how emissions are changing over time. She then dove into each section of the plan and discussed some specific actions taking place in the county now (such as expanding tree programs, supporting transit electrification, eelgrass and kept inventory, and workforce training). She closed out the presentation by providing a few discussion questions for the group.

Commission follow up and questions included: Increasing mass transportation as an alternative to needing EVs, 27% tree loss as a GHG contributor in Pierce County, challenges with promoting EV from a personal consumer perspective, Pierce Transit ballot for a sales tax in 2024

Tacoma Power Income Qualified Rental Program Presentation – Sara Bowles kicked off the presentation with a brief overview about why conservation is beneficial. She then explained the income qualified rental program and how customers can benefit. She highlighted that this program aims to support municipal goals, TPU equity goals, CETA low-income goals, and address the split incentive challenge. She displayed the qualifications for the program, as well as new offers within the program (such as insulation, upgrading heating systems, and upgrading single-pane windows). Finally, she explained the steps to participate in this program and best practices learned since starting the program.

Commission follow up and questions included: How to prevent home owners deciding to end the lease early and move back into home, what happens with a change in tenant, clarification of participation qualifications, asked if the Affordable Housing Consortium has been a contact they are connected with yet

Public Comment

There was one comment by a community member who thanked Lexi for her continued commitment and leadership in STC. They also wanted to thank Mattew for being willing to lead, as well as lead from the back.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Draft CAP Progress Report, including STC letter
- Earth Month/Expo update and how STC can engage
- Possible Home in Tacoma update
- Possible Green Economy Strategy update
- ADDED: Extended roll-call

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:59pm.

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

Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chairs

Lucy Klug, Staff / Note Taker