



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

Date: March 16, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict, Lexi Brewer, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Tony Ivey, Casey McManus, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair), Laura Svancarek

Commission Members Excused: Adam Reichenberger,

Commission Members Absent: Kendra Stauffer

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: LaKecia Farmer and Kristin Lynett (Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability),

Other Presenters:

Pat Beard (Office of Economic Development), Ryan Donahue (Green Economy Consultant), Leah Michaelson (Environmental Services Department)

Members of the Public: present

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper, 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 an extended roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of March 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of February 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

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

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff, LaKecia Farmer, gave updates on:

- Welcoming commission in new role as Senior Sustainability Analyst

ESD Staff, Leah Michaelson, gave updates on:

- Small Grant Program and it's re-launch. There was discussion on when to start advertising and when to close the application period for this session with pros and cons for an earlier and later start date. Staff will get back to the Commissions on recommendations by the April meeting.

OEPS Staff, Kristi Lynett, gave updates on:

- STC new commissioner process and timeline
 - Only 4 applicants applied, therefore DM Walker is extending open application deadline to March 23, 2023
 - Encouraged commissioners to send application to their lists and add personal notes
- Important Dates:
 - March 22, IPS
 - Home in Tacoma
 - April 18
 - City Council Study Session CAP 2022 Progress Report
 - April 26
 - IPS STC Interviews

Commission Business Items

Green Economy Strategy Update– Pat Beard of Office of Economic Development presented and introduced Ryan Donahue, the Green Economy Consultant. Ryan presented on the top strategies most relevant for Tacoma and our social and business climate. These include: creation of a Green Economy Hub that would coordinate and initiative strategies around a) evolving existing business and industries through innovation and retooling, b) developing green economy skills for workers through upskilling and networking, and c) creating new green business and industries through deploying testbeds and attracting circular economy businesses.

Sustainability Expo and Earth Month– Leah Michaelson of the Environmental Services Department presented on the sustainability Expo held on Earth Day (April 22, 2023). She encouraged commissioners to attend and also sign up for tabling shifts.

CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter- LaKecia Farmer and Kristin Lynett of OEPS presented on the 2022 Climate Action Plan Progress Report. LaKecia summarized the Mayor's Letter in the CAP Report draft. Kristin went over the high-level details of the progress report because the final report was not published yet. She went over significant and initial progress on the 10 jumpstart actions for 2022 and looked ahead to the 2023-2024 outlook. LaKecia presented draft ideas for STC to consider putting in their letter for the CAP Progress Report update. Commissioners added their comments to consider in the letter that LaKecia would then draft and send the following week for individual commissioner feedback.

Public Comment

There was one comment by a community member interested in learning about the commission.

Objectives for the Next Meeting (April 20, 2023)

- CAP Progress Report 2022
- Recognize departing Commissioners
- Home in Tacoma- tentative
- Right of Way Tree Codes - tentative

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:55.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, April 20 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer, Staff / Note Taker

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