



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

HYBRID MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA
THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2023
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

This meeting will be held both virtually and in-person. In person location is the Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St, room 248.

Meeting phone line: (253) 215-8782

Meeting hyperlink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84328083947?pwd=YXo2N1dURXJhRkxpSHNMMnZhRTIGQT09>

Meeting ID: 843-2808-3947

Meeting password: 253253

Microphones will be muted and cameras turned off for all meeting participants, except for the Commissioners and staff presenters. Public comments will be accepted in meeting during the time set aside by the agenda. In addition, the Commission encourages community members to submit written comments prior to the meeting by 4:00 p.m. on April 20th. Please e-mail your comments to kristin.lynett@cityoftacoma.org put in the subject line "STC Meeting 6/15/2023", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER & EXTENDED ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVE JUNE 15TH AGENDA AND MAY 18TH MINUTES**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. STAFF UPDATES**
- V. RIGHT OF WAY TREE CODE UPDATE PRESENTATION**
- VI. 2023 CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS – DISCUSSION & LETTER APPROVAL**
- VII. HOME IN TACOMA PHASE 2 – DISCUSSION & LETTER APPROVAL**
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IX. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 18, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict, Jen Braveboy, Lexi Brewer, Mike Chang, Sheena Hewett, Tony Ivey, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair), Lowell Wyse

Commission Members Excused: Evlondo Cooper, (Co-Chair), Casey Twiggs, Laura Svencarek,

Commission Members Absent:

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Beth Jarot, Leah Michaelson and Jim Parvey (Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability); Alyssa Torrez (Planning & Development Services, Long-Range Planning)

Members of the Public: present

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Margaret Schwertner, 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, Margaret administered an extended roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance and new Commissioners were introduced.

Unanimous Approval of May 18th 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of April 20, 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 gave updates on:

- New Climate Data and Grant Analyst, Nathan Crane, starts June 5th
- Tacoma Climate Leadership Cohort applications due 5/22; please promote through your networks
- Tacoma Mall Greening Project final report now available
- Sustainability Small Grant Process update
- Important Dates:

- EnviroChallengers present at IPS, June 14th
- Urban Forestry presents at IPS, July 12th

Home in Tacoma Presentation

Alyssa Torrez, senior planner with PDS – Long-Range Planning provided an update on Home in Tacoma Phase II efforts, including impacts of recently adopted state legislation. District open houses taking place starting next Monday.

Climate Action Recommendations for City Council

Lexi and Margaret shared list of topic areas for focus of draft letter worked on by subcommittee prior to tonight's meeting. Includes: extreme heat and smoke; waste generation/waste prevention; critical staffing roles; match funding/capital funding; and natural spaces. Jen Braveboy asked that health impacts on vulnerable communities be added to the list.

Public Comment

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

City Council Meeting Sign-Ups

A google doc link will be shared with Commissioners to sign up to meet with the Mayor, City Manager or Council members through Teams in June and July. Lexi asked to be assigned to CM Diaz.

Objectives for the Next Meeting (June 15, 2023)

- Purchasing staff presentation on Environmental Services grant programs (tentative)
- Green Economy Strategy presentation (tentative)
- Community Building Decarbonization Strategy presentation
- Adopt letter to Council on CAP priorities

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, June 15, 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

Beth Jarot

Beth Jarot, Staff / Note Taker

Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC)

6/15/2023 Hybrid Public Meeting

Welcome

Commissioners

Members of the public

Presenters and staff support:

Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, and Mike Carey

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

LaTasha Wortham, Tacoma Public Utilities



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Call to Order



Land Acknowledgment

ʔuk'wədiid čət ʔuhigwəd txwəl tiit ʔa čət ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš. ʔa ti dxwʔa ti swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš ʔəstətətłil tul'al tudiʔ tuhaʔkw. didiʔt ʔa həlgwəʔ ʔal ti sləxłil. dxwəstətłils həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uyayus həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uλ'axwəd həlgwəʔ tiit bədədəʔs gwəl tixdxw həlgwəʔ tiit ʔiisəds həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uʔalalus həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'utxwəlšucidəb. xwəla ···b ʔə tiit tuyəl'yələbs.

We gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People. The Puyallup people have lived on this land since the beginning of time. They are still here today. They live, work, raise their children, take care of their community, practice their traditional ways and speak the Twulshootseed language – just as their ancestors did.



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Roll Call

Commission Members

Matthew Benedict (excused absence)

Jen Braveboy

Lexi Brewer

Michael Chang

Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair)

Sheena Hewett

Tony Ivey

Casey Twiggs

Adam Reichenberger

Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair)

Laura Svancarek

Lowell Wyse

Agenda – 6/15/2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND EXTENDED ROLL CALL**
- II. **APPROVE MAY 18 AGENDA AND APRIL 20 MINUTES**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **STAFF UPDATES**
- V. **RIGHT OF WAY TREE CODES- PRESENTATION**
- VI. **CAP COUNCIL PRIORITIES – DISCUSSION & VOTE ON LETTER**
- VII. **HOME IN TACOMA PHASE 2 – DISCUSSION & VOTE ON LETTER**
- VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IX. **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Motion)



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

5/18/2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

(Motion)



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Public Comments



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Staff Updates

- Climate Data and Grant Analyst – welcome Nathan!
- Sustainability Small Grant Application status



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Important Dates

- Council one-on-ones! Need signups



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Other Business Items

1. Right of Way Tree Codes
 - Presentation
2. CAP Council Priorities
 - Discussion and approval of letter
3. Home in Tacoma Phase 2
 - Discussion and approval of letter



Public Comments



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Objectives for Next Meeting (July 20)

Tentative Meeting items:

- ROW Tree Codes letter
- Community Decarbonization OR
- Climate Emergency resources and response
- One-on-one Council debriefs



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Adjournment

(Motion)



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability



Right-of-Way Trees: Municipal Code Update

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

June 15, 2023

Michael Carey; Urban Forest Program Manager
City of Tacoma; Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability





Overview

- Context for Proposed TMC update
- TMC Title 9 Right-of-Way Code Proposed to be Amended
 - 9.18: Trees and Shrubs – Trimming and Removal (*1927*)
 - 9.19: Trees and Shrubs – Planting (*1960*)
 - 9.20: Trees and Shrubs – View Blockage (*1990*)
- Specific Issues Addressed

WHY: Title 9 Code Updates

Big Picture

1. Fix outdated and unclear requirements for planting, pruning, and removal
2. Remove inconsistencies with industry standards and adopted City policies

Specific Issues

1. Remove prohibition on food-producing trees in the ROW
2. Clarify protections for trees in the ROW
3. Update antiquated penalty structure for illegal pruning and removal
4. Provide clarity on pruning trees for views



Adopted Policy Direction

(2010) Urban Forest Policy Element

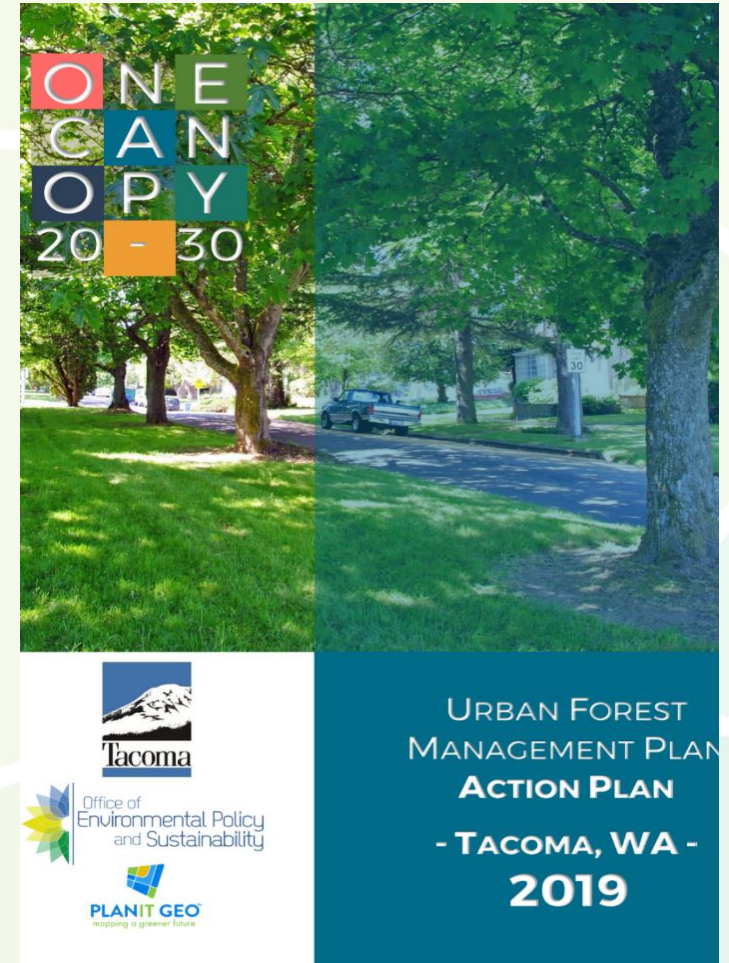
- 30% Tree Canopy Goal

(2016) Environmental Action Plan

- Improve tree regulations for the ROW and private property

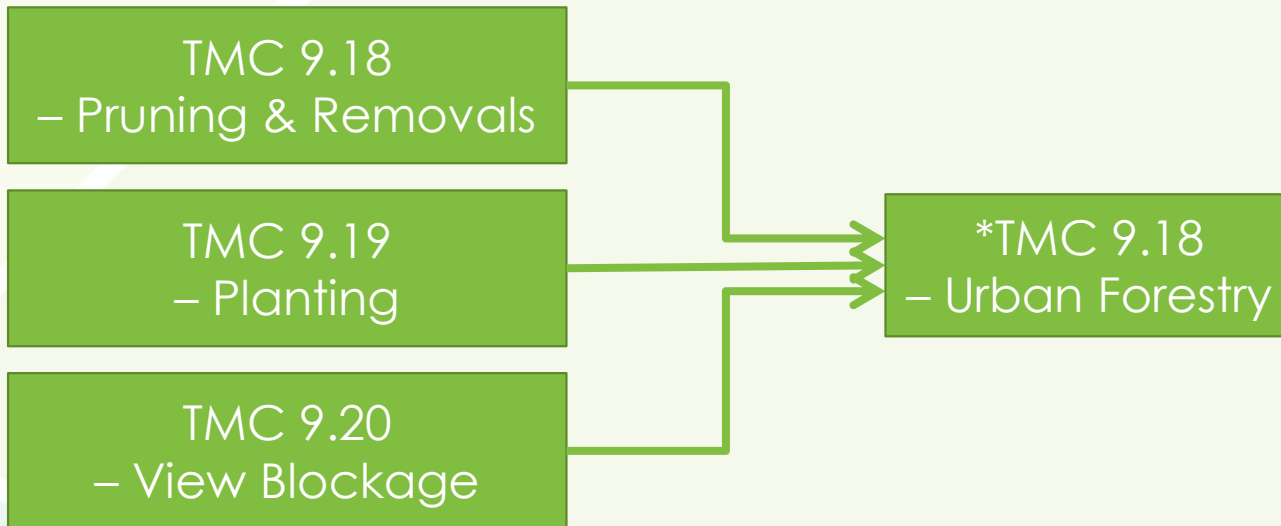
(2019) Urban Forest Management Plan

- Adopted “Pre-prospectus” based on BMPs, internal and external outreach, and Committee and Commission feedback, to include recommendations for specific TMC updates



New Structure of TMC

Proposed Structure for *new TMC 9.18 – Urban Forestry



Tree Lined North Union Ave

ISSUE #1 - Food Producing Trees

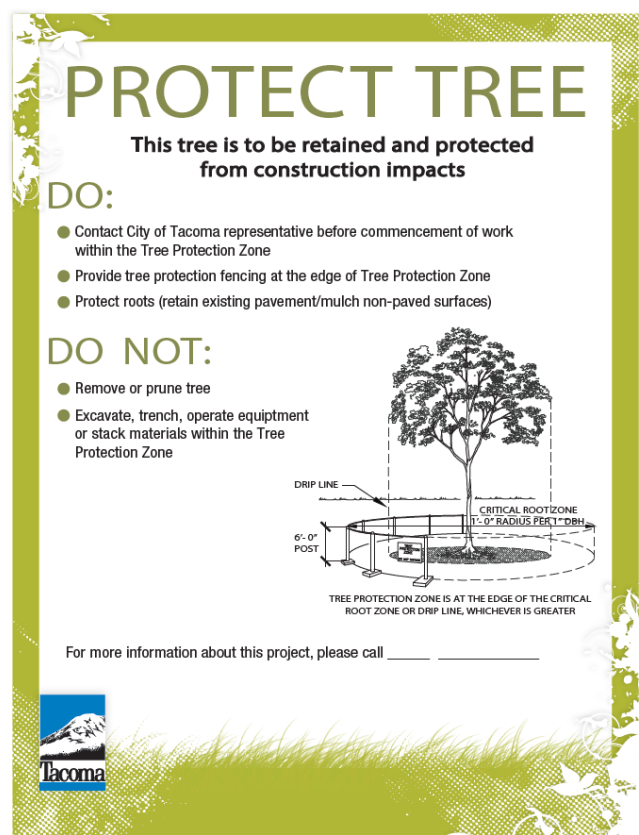
Recommendation:

- Update TMC 9.19.030 to remove fruit and nut trees from Prohibited Trees list
- Regulate the planting of fruit and nut trees in ROW through the same process used for street trees
- Develop “right tree” standards, and facilitate connections to Harvest Pierce County Gleaning program



Harvest Pierce Co. fruit gleaning

ISSUE #2 – ROW Tree Protections



Tacoma Tree Protection Signage

Recommendation

- Explicit prohibition of “tree topping”
- Update permit approval conditions based on tree health and public safety, not aesthetics.
- Clarify protection of trees during construction and infrastructure repair, replacement, and installation
- Create Heritage Tree Program for the public to identify invaluable trees in our community on both public and private property

ISSUE #2 – ROW Tree Protections



Dead tree removal Osprey Drive NE

Recommendation:

- ROW trees are protected unless they are:
 - hazard trees (professionally assessed);
 - conflict trees (in conflict with utility or ROW construction or maintenance, development of real property, or damaging existing infrastructure);
 - prohibited trees (per prohibited tree list);
 - nuisance trees (nuisance code); or,
 - significantly damaged trees (e.g. topped trees).

ISSUE #3 – ROW Tree Violations

Recommendation:

- Standardize penalty structure for ROW tree infractions.
- Adopt industry standard plant appraisal methods from ISA Guide for Plant Appraisal
- Use appraisal value, cost of assessment, and staff time for enforcement to determine penalty amount
- Adopt “Violation Review Criteria” which allows for flexibility based on the severity of infraction



Tree Assessment, Sunshine Tree Care

ISSUE #3 – ROW Tree Violations

Penalties for Violations

1. Max. monetary \leq \$10k per day
2. Min. monetary penalty (removal) is the greater of ISA Guide for Tree Appraisal or \$500
3. Damaged tree penalty \$600 per inch DB, \leq \$10k
4. Abatement required



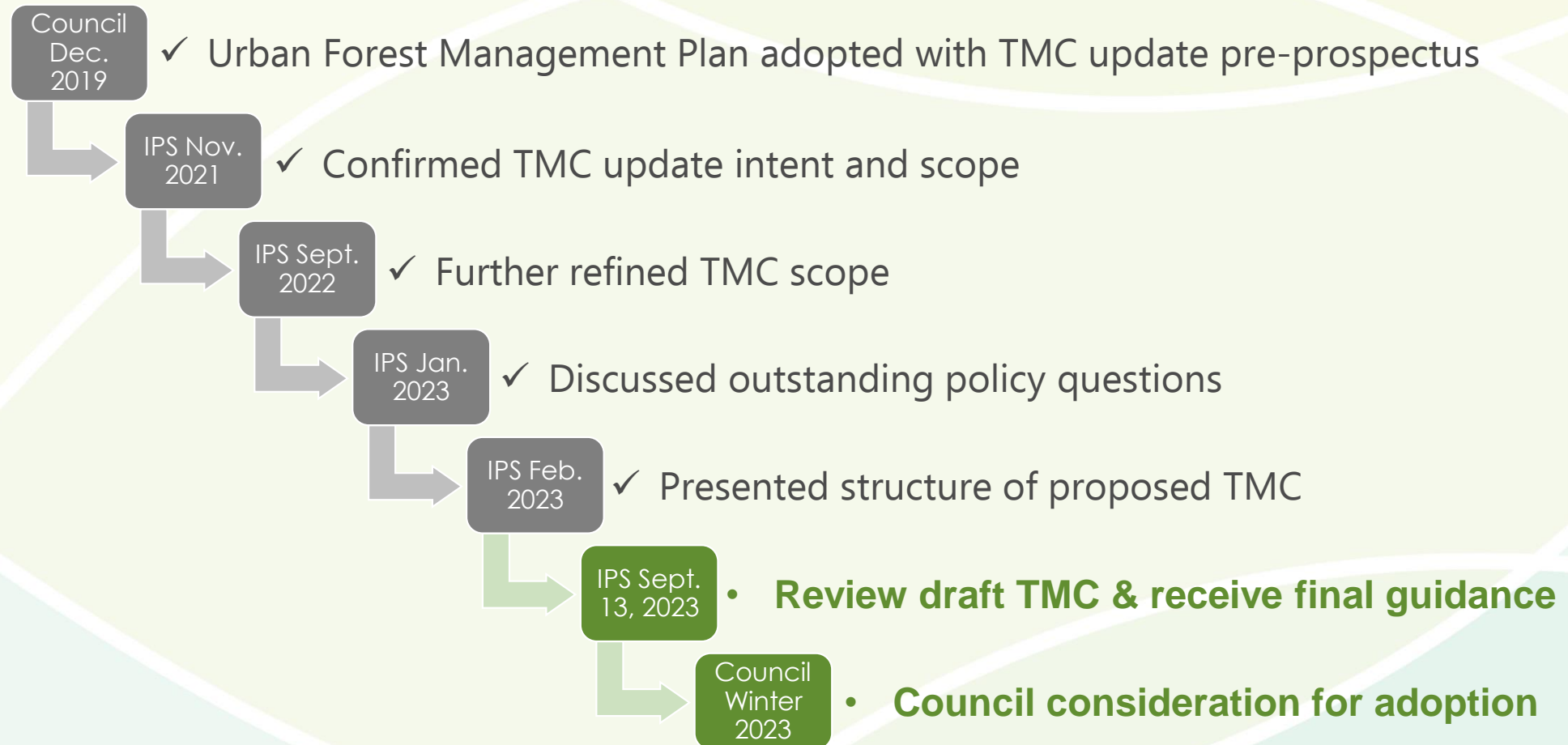
ROW Tree Violation

Issue #4 – Pruning Trees for Views

Tree Pruning on Public Property for View Enhancement

1. Members of the public can request trees to be pruned (not removed) on public property for the purpose of scenic view enhancement.
2. Costs shall be paid by the entity requesting tree pruning, including:
 - City's administrative costs to review the request and to manage, administer and inspect the work;
 - preparing a tree pruning plan;
 - applying for and obtaining required permits; and,
 - planning for and performing tree pruning work.

TMC Update Schedule





Right-of-Way Trees: Municipal Code Update

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

June 15, 2023

Michael Carey; Urban Forest Program Manager
City of Tacoma; Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability

