



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2020

Commission Members Present:

Lexi Brewer, Tony Ivey, Nikie Walters, Matthew Benedict, Grace Hope, Phil Coughlan, Elly Claus-McGahan, Katin Kendrena (leaves 7:00), Evlondo Cooper (leaves 7:00), Ashley Sloan (leaves 7:12), Gabe Moaalii (joins 5:05, leaves 7:00), Emily Pinckney (joins 5:10, leaves 6:30), David Thompson (joins 5:40)

Commission Members Excused:

N/A

Commission Members Absent:

N/A

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, Elliott Barnett
Public: Lydia Zepeda, Cathy

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Vice-Chair Grace Hope at 5:00 p.m., including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on.

Approval of October 15, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written, except correcting the tideflats interim regulations expiration date to June 2, 2021. Motion made by Lexi Brewer.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

Approval of November 19, 2020, Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt meeting agenda as written, except adding a second public comments period to the agenda after minutes and agenda approval. Motion made by Lexi Brewer.

Seconded by: Phil Coughlan

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

Staff Updates

Staff directed Commissioners to share their pronouns on a shared document in an effort to help staff and Commissioners communicate to and about each other. This supports the Commission's efforts to be inclusive.

Staff asked Commissioners to inform their Chairpersons or staff if they cannot make the Commission's December 17, 2020, meeting.

Staff directed Commissioners to new COVID-19 protections in Washington State.

Staff identified two public engagement processes active now, including the climate justice engagement work led by Tacoma's Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability as well as the Port of Tacoma's 2020 Strategic Plan survey.

Staff thanked and highlighted the work of Commissioners outside meetings, including subcommittees working to review other communities' climate action plans and track Planning Commission processes related to the tideflats interim regulations. Finally, Staff thanked the Commission chairpersons for engaging Councilmembers Beale and Walker about their near-term priorities.

Staff additionally updated the Commission about an October 2nd meeting with Deputy City Manager Wille that Commission Chair Brewer led. The Chair discussed the five priorities for 2020 that the Commission developed. The results of that meeting include:

- Chair brief Deputy City Manager on the building electrification draft resolution
- Deputy City Manager shared budget update timeline
- Deputy City Manager expressed support for climate planning work

As a result of the Commission's engagement with City Council about the Commission's 2020 priorities, two Councilmembers have invited the Commission to meet quarterly with them to discuss priorities on an ongoing basis. Councilmembers Beale and Walker will meet with Commissioners first on November 12th. Staff will coordinate Commission participation and preparation.

Subcommittee Updates

A Commission subcommittee continues reviewing other communities' climate action plans as part of a learning process in which Commissioners will also oversee and make recommendations about Tacoma's climate planning process.

Another Commission subcommittee shared updates about the tideflats interim regulations planning process taking place through the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is taking public comment on December 2, 2020.

The Commission's Chairpersons engaged Councilmembers Beale and Walker on November 12 about their near-term priorities. The Commission again shared their 2020 priorities with the Councilmembers, which focus on climate justice, community food equity and security,

sustainable and active transportation, implementation of Tacoma’s Urban Forest Management Plan, and waste prevention. Broadly, the Commission focused its message around a green and socially just recovery to the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis.

Commission Business Items

Commission “Get to Know Each Other” Activity

Brought forward by Commission Chairpersons, this activity provided time and space for Commissioners to discuss their knowledge and interests, why they joined the Commission, what they have learned, and what they hope to learn. Chairpersons and staff will continue to direct Commissioners to topics and processes that they are knowledgeable about and interest them.

Home in Tacoma Initiative – Elliott Barnett and Beth Jarot, Planning and Development Services (PDS), City of Tacoma

Elliott and Beth updated the Commission regarding the Home in Tacoma Initiative, which was recently restarted after City Council allocated funds amid the COVID-19 crisis. Home in Tacoma is an initiative based in Tacoma’s Affordable Housing Action Strategy. Elliott reviewed the housing cost burden on Tacoma household, rising household costs, and the shortage of affordable rental units. He noted homeownership remains challenging, particularly for people of color. In addition, he recounted Tacoma housing policies, including goals to create an inclusive, livable, sustainable and prosperous city; plan and prepare for growth; prioritize equity, empowerment, and anti-racism; and practice cost-effective and accountable government. The Home in Tacoma Initiative is intended to achieve two goals: diversify housing types and improve affordability tools. The Initiative’s webpage is www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma. Community and stakeholder engagement for Comprehensive Plan changes will last from September 2020 – April 2021, tentatively. From summer through the end of 2021, City Council will review Planning Commission recommendations and consider taking action to develop new zoning and other standards.

Climate Justice Planning Update – Kristin Lynett and Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Patrick and Kristin updated the Commission about climate justice planning engagement and technical work. At this time, community participants are being on-boarded to a workgroup that will give recommendations to the City throughout the planning process. This workgroup is called the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup. Other community participants include Plan Ambassadors, who are paid to engage members of their community and gather their feedback about community needs and priorities that will guide Plan development. Kristi led Commissioners in a visioning exercise to gather their feedback about what a better Tacoma looks like in 2030.

Public Comment

One community member, Cathy, requested that the Commission and the City produce clear data about projected climate impact costs Tacoma is experiencing now and into the future; consider Pierce County in its analysis of climate action; and that the City support state-level legislative action to support electrification and fuel switching.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Subcommittee updates

- Year-in-review / year-ahead celebration and discussion
- Transportation Master Plan, Vision Zero, and sustainable/active transportation policy/program/project updates (possible)
- Update from Environmental Policy and Sustainability Office staff about Climate Justice Planning

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. with a motion made by Matthew Benedict and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Katin Kendrena, Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Gabe Moaalii, and Emily Pinckney were absent for this vote.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 248.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker