



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