



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

HYBRID MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
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.

The Tacoma Municipal Building is served by Pierce Transit bus routes 1, 2, 11, 16, 45, and 57. Visit www.tripplanner.piercetransit.org to find your route. The Tacoma Municipal Building also has bike racks at the Market Street and St. Helens Ave entrances. Visit www.cityoftacoma.org/mobility for a map of Tacoma bikeways.

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 January 18, 2024. Please e-mail your comments to lfarmer2@cityoftacoma.org put in the subject line "STC Meeting 1/18/24", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE JANUARY 18 AGENDA AND DECEMBER 14 MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. OFFICER NOMINATIONS - DISCUSSION
- VI. RULES OF PROCEDURE REVIEW - DISCUSSION
- VII. YEAR-IN-REVIEW & YEAR-AHEAD – PRESENTATION
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IX. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING



X. ADJOURNMENT



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

Date: December 14, 2023

Commission Members Present: Matthew Benedict (in-person), Lexi Brewer (in-person), Mike Chang, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), John Doherty (in-person), Sheena Hewett, Tony Ivey, Laura Svancarek, Casey Twiggs, Lowell Wyse (in-person)

Commission Members Excused: Devynee Lee, Adam Reichenberger, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair)

Others Present:

Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability: LaKecia Farmer (in-person), Kristin Lynett (in-person), Carson Brock, Mike Carey (in-person), Perry Spring (in-person)

Rochelle Gandour-Rood, Tacoma Public Utilities

Elliott Barnett, Planning and Development Services (in-person)

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper at 5:05 pm, 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, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of December 14, 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of November 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

Jess Stone is present to listen to meeting about Tree Code. Courtney Davis is excited about City Council tree code, and is a part of Tacoma Urban Tree Friends who advocated for updated codes for protection on trees on private property.

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff gave updates on:

- Lakecia gave updates on Sustainability Small Grants: City is reviewing grants in terms of legal issues. OEPS is able to continue Sustainability Small Grants in 2024 and should have a website update in January, and hopefully should be able to award starting in April.
- Kristin gave an update on Jim Parvey's Retirement party
- Kristin gave an update on Green Business Tours and networking: going to start in January with Richlite and will happen every other month

Additional updates from STC Commissioners:

- Commissioner co-chair Evlondo Cooper gave an update about deconstruction conversation with Deputy Mayor Walker, will have her come and talk to STC and potentially sponsor resolution to address process for supply and demand, codes, etc. Will have STC start draft on resolution possibly in January

Home in Tacoma Phase 2- Landscaping Standards- Presentation

Elliott Barnett and Mike Carey gave their presentation on the potential landscaping standards code changes as a part of the Home in Tacoma Phase II package. In addition to the slides presented, Elliott and Mike gave several updates. The landscaping code updates, as a part of the package, will be going out for public comment soon, and they are looking to other urban communities on how to structure this program. Additionally, there will be a variety of small, medium, and large trees: creating the right soil volume is critical in ensuring trees that are planted are healthy.

Commissioners asked questions about private trees, and how to ensure people can't cut trees they want to for developing. Additionally, presenters answered questions around tailoring tree credits for areas that already have tree coverage versus others. Staff responded that these landscaping standards as written would work on tree coverage for all sites and not pick and choose which areas should have more trees or not depending on neighboring areas. A commissioner asked a question about soil volume and if the amendment will address future problems with the tree, such as with sidewalk improvement surrounding the tree. Staff explained that this amendment is making sure these trees can thrive in these environments and will help with stormwater infrastructure and ADA sidewalk compliance.

Landscaping Standards/Trees Subcommittee- Discussion

The Home in Tacoma Phase II landscaping standards (trees) subcommittee have been meeting about these issues and are developing a draft letter to review in the upcoming months on their thoughts around this package. Various members gave comments so far on their takeaways: They want the same priority and timing of enforcement as other Home in Tacoma policies, Tacoma would be the first city in the state to implement common-sense regulations for housing density and tree retention at the same time.

Other commissioners gave initial comments, including around figuring out who is going to decide if the tree can or cannot be replaced, there may be issues with people cutting corners and arborists should be doing this work to review and evaluate if this tree is healthy or a hazard.

Trees are Stormwater infrastructure and want to make sure that the City isn't removing trees for rain gardens. Trees need to be in the conversation when discussing stormwater mitigation.

Commissioner Twiggs brought up a concern that the biodiversity code is outdated and needs to be a balance of sustainability and development. To her, the code is confusing and is creating barriers for affordable housing. The WA Dept of Commerce is directed by HB 1220 that instructs all jurisdictions that they need to plan for and accommodate affordable units. Commerce then created housing allocation numbers for each jurisdiction showing how many units of all income levels need to be built by 2044, this is called the Housing All Planning Tool (HAPT).

Municipal Building Decarbonization- Presentation

Perry Spring gave his presentation on the Municipal Decarbonization Strategy/Fleet EVSE Action Plan. In addition to the slides presented, Perry gave several updates. TPU was not in the Decarb study that looked at the 9 different buildings. The study includes the cost of carbon and also looks into the savings to more efficient technology. The study does not talk about carbon just energy usage and intensity. Not all campuses are all homebase (i.e. with police vehicles, they have a lot of at home vehicles that don't stay on campus). Not all sites for the city have the same charging infrastructure, the City has to determine what is the best charging for each site. The City added more chargers in the downtown corridor, from grant funding the city received. The city is looking at more grant funding for getting more EVSE and changing fleet vehicles to EV. The City received grants for EV garbage pickup trucks and the grant comes with fast charging stations. Perry and OEPS is preparing for the next budget cycle.

Public Comment

No further public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Tentative Objectives for the Next Meeting (January 18, 2024)

- End of year survey and look ahead for 2024

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 7:06pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday January 18th, 2024, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer and Carson Brock, Staff / Note Takers

Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC)

1/18/2024 Hybrid Public Meeting

Welcome

Commissioners

Members of the public

Presenters and staff support:

City of Tacoma, Office of Environment Policy and Sustainability:

LaKecia Farmer, Kristi Lynett, Carson Brock, Nathan Crain

Rochelle Gandour-Rood, 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

Lexi Brewer

Mike Chang

Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair)

John Doherty

Sheena Hewett

Tony Ivey

Devynee Le (Welcome!)

Adam Reichenberger

Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair)

Laura Svancarek

Casey Twiggs

Lowell Wyse

Agenda – 1/18/2023

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- IX. **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**

(Motion)



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

12/14/2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

(Motion)



Office of
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Public Comments



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Staff Updates

- Small Sustainability Grants



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Other Business Items

- Officer Nominations - Discussion
- Rules of Procedure Review - Discussion
- Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead – Presentation



Other Business Items

- Officer Nominations - Discussion



Other Business Items

- Rules of Procedure Review – Discussion
- The Commission may send other agencies and public entities (such as Pierce County Transit and Metro Parks) communications only if it is clarifying information or asking questions.
- The Council has no role in permit decisions, therefore the Commission should not adopt recommendations in the permit review stage.
- Anything else to discuss?



Other Business Items

- Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead – Presentation



Office of
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Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead 2023 Impact

- ROW Tree Codes
- Home in Tacoma Phase II
 - Landscaping standards
- CAP Progress recommendations
- CCA Funding recommendations
- Meeting with Council
- Mid Mod Budget requests funded



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Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead

2023 Reflections

What STC did well

- Requesting info and staying informed on City's pressing sustainability and climate justice efforts
- Recommendations to Council
- **Building relationships with Council**
- Open discussion and strong engagement within commission
- Strong advocating
- Encouragement of public participation
- **Bringing Accountability to Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals**
- Letter writing coordination

What STC can do better

- Communication with presenters
- More subcommittee meetings
- **More community outreach and education of community members**
- More preparation and research on agenda items
- **More timely transparency and accountability of CAP**
- **Developing more autonomy and leadership of commissioners**
- Keeping on being engaged
- Monitoring of Impact (letter responses)
- More transparency on commission guidelines

Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead 2023 priorities (carryforward)

- Metro Parks climate work and resiliency
- Front and Centered
- Tribal coordination
- Transit Planning and Coordination
- Infrastructure Planning (facilities, ES Asset Mgmt, Power and Water)
- OEPS Leadership
- Transportation Master Plan – visioning & Feedback
- Transportation Impact Fees
- I-5 Crossing Study
- Greenroads
- Resilience Hubs Assessment



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Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead

2024 Future topic & issue explorations

- Community share gardens
- Waste mitigation and recycling efforts
- Permitting processes
- IRA funding related to CAP
- Housing & homelessness
- Food access and Justice
- Climate Adaptation and resilience
- Home in Tacoma PII
- Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan updates
- OEPS transition
- Tideflats interim regulations
- CAP progress report
- Energy efficiency
- Zoning
- Transportation access and equity
- Air quality



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Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead

Social events and meeting in person

- You CAN have social events, as long as STC items are not discussed



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Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead

2024 Work Plan

January 18

- Welcome youth seat member
- Year-in-Review / Year-Ahead
- Officer nominations
- Rules of Procedure review
 - Guidance on interacting with IPS
- Staff Updates: Sustainability Small Grants
 - recruitment challenge

February 15

- Officer elections
- Home in Tacoma Phase II
 - Landscaping standards subcommittee letter draft

Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead

2024 Work Plan

March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Earth Day/Month, Expo update, how STC can engage (vendor recruitment, promotion)▪ Urban Forestry: Grants and Community Tree Program (w/TTF)
April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sustainability Small Grants review▪ CAP Progress report▪ STC recommendations for Council/Management▪ Goodbye Commissioners w/ expiring terms!
May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Welcome new members (networking)● Annual Council Recommendations – review and prepare

Year-In-Review & Year-Ahead 2024 Work Plan

June 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● One-on-one council prep● Open Public Meetings/Ethics
July 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Debrief STC one on ones
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extended roll call (networking)
September 19	
October 17	
November 21	
December 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Year-in-Review / Year-Ahead



Public Comments



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Objectives for Next Meeting (Feb 15)

- Officer elections
- Urban Forestry: Grants and Community Tree Program (w/TTF)
- Home in Tacoma Phase II
 - Landscaping standards subcommittee letter draft



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Adjournment

(Motion)



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