



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

Date: October 24, 2019

Commission Members Present: Phil Coughlan, Lexi Brewer, Jade Monroe, Grace Hope, Liberty Evans-Agnes

**Commission Members
Excused:**

Commission Members Absent: Emily Pinckney, Suzanna Smith, Matthew Benedict

Others Present: Jim Parvey, Kristi Lynett, Patrick Babbitt, Francine Artis, Jeremy Stewart

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of September 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Jade

Seconded by: Lexi

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

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

Review of Agenda

Motion: Jade

Seconded by: Phil

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

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

Sustainability Small Grant Overview: Leah Michaelson

There are five small grants for quarter three 2019.

- **Center for Food Preservation Arts:** To build 20 sharing parkway vegetable gardens, with 2 12'x4'x8" raised beds per site and sharing the harvest with a sharing table for the neighborhood to use.
- **Food is Free Project Tacoma:** To build 20 sharing parkway vegetable gardens, with 2 12'x4'x8" raised beds per site and sharing the harvest with a sharing table for the neighborhood to use.

- **ForeverGreen Trails:** Annual meeting of trail users, volunteers, developers, funders and advocates providing information on progress in development of countywide trail system and education on topics related to benefits of trails and active transportation. 2019 conference title is Sustainability & Stewardship. Includes panels on Trail Safety & Sustainability and Youth Involvement.
- **Safe Streets:** Collaborate with Tacoma Metro Parks to establish a demonstration pollinator garden in Alling Park. The native and other pollinator-friendly plants selected for the garden will be used to engage and educate the Tacoma community about the many benefits of habitat gardening. The garden will also become a venue for talks on native pollinators.
- **Wellspring IV Presented by PureBlue:** Gathering of water operators, business leaders, policymakers, and water entrepreneurs to discuss solutions to key water issues, featuring plenary sessions, peer to peer roundtable discussions, tours of water research centers and networking opportunities.

Sustainability Small Grant Application Review: Fully funded no amendments

Motion: Jade

Seconded by: Phil

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

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

TPU Low Income Energy Conservation Program – Staff Presentation:

At approximately 5:15 p.m. Francine Artis, Customer Service, TPU presented low income programs including, an overview, utility bill assistance programs, background on the customer solutions office, customer assistance, and Bill Credit Assistance Plan (BCAP) and Discount Rate half year reports. She continued with marketing and outreach; including banners, counter stands, posters, and tables clothes, brochures in multiple languages, community events. Finishing with future considerations to streamline eligibility, processes, and information.

Francine introduced Jeremy Stewart, Customer Energy Programs, TPU. He presented Tacoma Power low-income energy efficiency programs including, background on the Tacoma Power customer energy programs, cost effective challenges, low income spending, deferred loan details, future program plans, and participation in the Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS).

STC-City Council Engagement Meetings – Debrief – Postponed.

Climate Change Emergency Resolution – Kristi Lynett

Kristi Lynett refers to the last STC meeting with Council Member Mello where he introduces that he is drafting a Climate Change Emergency Resolution. Council Member Mello provides the draft Resolution to the STC for review. Discussion ensues regarding drafting a letter of support, the language in the draft Resolution including the desire to take a more factual approach, with very clear and concise information and the agreement of the STC supporting the declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Comments are needed back to Council Member Mello by Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

Approval of draft letter including 1. Inherency. 2. Support to OEPS by elevating its role into the City Manager’s Office to support City-wide activities and its expanded scope of services. 3. Develop funding

and cost estimates, and adequately fund the work. 4. Support community mobilization around climate and acknowledge youth leadership. 5. Leverage partners for efficiency and effectiveness.

Motion: Jade

Seconded by: Liberty

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

Ayes: All

Abstained: None

Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) Letter of Support – Postponed.

FHWA & WSDOT Landscaping Practices:

The STC reviews the draft letter of recommendation, discussion ensued throughout regarding to whom the STC would submit the letter to. The Commission members agree on sending the letter to the City Council and carbon-copying WSDOT.

STC Subcommittee Discussion - Chair Lexi Brewer & Patrick Babbitt

Pat Babbitt gives an update as to where the Subcommittee's currently stand and who is on each. These assignments will be revisited in the November or December meeting when new Commissioners are onboarded.

Staff Updates –

Pat Babbitt reminds Commissioners about the second Urban Forestry Management Plan public survey as well as to take a Doodle poll to confirm their availability for potential November and December meeting dates. He confirms delivering the Commission's letter of support for the drafted Clean Fuel Standard resolution. He also provides a brief update on subcommittee work on a letter of support for the Urban Forestry Management Plan and research into building electrification.

Public Comment – No comments.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting:

- Attendance confirmation for special meeting in November and December
- Review of Commission Rules of Procedure
- Review of Commission subcommittees
- Debrief of Council engagement meetings
- Drafting and approval of Urban Forestry Management Plan letter of support
- Staff presentation regarding Affordable Housing Action Strategy

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Michelle Emery, Staff