MINUTES
(Approved on 7-1-2020)

TIME: Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT (virtually): Anna Petersen (Chair), Carolyn Edmonds, Ryan Givens, David Horne, Christopher Karnes, Brett Santhuff, Andrew Strobel, Alyssa Torrez

ABSENT: Jeff McInnis (Vice-Chair)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CALL

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was declared.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes for the May 6, 2020, meeting were approved as submitted.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were not accepted at the meeting. No written comments had been submitted previously as directed in the agenda notice.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Capital Facilities Program

Nick Anderson, Finance Division, provided an overview of the 2021-2026 Capital Facilities Program (CFP). He explained the purpose of the CFP, the roles of City staff, the Planning Commission, the City Manager, and City Council, and how a project is chosen to be part of the program. Mr. Anderson stated that there are 13 new projects proposed for inclusion in this update, including Vision Zero Implementation, Gas Station Park, Heidelberg Soccer Stadium, Tacoma Dome South Addition, and Library Fan Wall Replacement.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the next steps for the project, and requested that the Commission begin the process by setting the Public Hearing date as July 1st, 2020 for the CFP and release the materials for public consideration.

Commissioner Edmonds moved to have a Public Hearing regarding the CFP on July 1st, 2020 and to release the documents for public review. Commissioner Strobel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Edmonds followed-up by asking about projects happening around Washington State Routes 509 and 167. Mr. Anderson clarified that the City’s portion of the project is simply a contribution to the Washington State Department of Transportation, who is the agency constructing the project. Commissioner Horne noted that the page numbers in the Table of Contents of the CFP document did not match up, Mr. Anderson stated that he would look into any typos.

2. Pierce Transit Long Range Plan

Steve Atkinson, Planning Services Division, provided some background of the Pierce Transit Long Range Plan and a summary of the Planning Commission’s comment letter. He stated that the purpose of the
meeting was to finalize the comments and approve the letter of recommendation that will be submitted to Pierce Transit. Mr. Atkinson recognized the work that Commissioner Karnes had done to put together the draft comments, and reviewed the feedback from the Commission at the previous meeting. This included a desire to review the letter to make sure it is consistent with the responsibilities of the Planning Commission, to maintain key comments and recommendations, and to evaluate if there is room to generalize and condense these comments before submitting the letter to Pierce Transit. Mr. Atkinson then went over the general themes of the comment letter, noting specific routes referenced.

Commissioner Karnes moved to adopt the letter as amended by staff. Commissioner Santhuff seconded the motion.

Commissioner Santhuff requested to make two minor corrections. The first being to clear up the reference in the section titled ‘System Network Prioritization’ from “see below re: Corridor Recommendations” to “see below: Underserved Areas and Priority Corridors”. Secondly, he asked staff to review the wording in Appendix B, under the first two bulleted sections. Commissioner Santhuff noted that he would send mark-ups of these edits to staff.

Commissioner Edmonds asked Commissioner Karnes if he was satisfied with the letter and he felt it speaks to the issues that were of most concern. Commissioner Karnes responded that the letter definitely speaks to the spirit of the original draft, and that he is happy to see the sections added referencing the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Karnes then thanked Mr. Atkinson for the work on the Comment Letter, and asked that the Downtown Tacoma to Lakewood via Tacoma Mall Bus Rapid Transit Route be referenced as a High Capacity Transit Study alongside Portland Avenue and 19th Street.

Commissioner Strobel moved to incorporate the comments made by Commissioners Santhuff and Karnes into the final letter to approve and send to Pierce Transit. Commissioner Karnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. TOPICS OF THE UPCOMING MEETING (subject to change)

1) Capital Facilities Program 2021-2026 (Public Hearing followed by a debrief and direction to staff)
2) Planning Commission Terms and Appointments

F. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Steve Atkinson informed the Commission of the following:
- The Tideflats Steering Committee’s Public Engagement Plan has been delayed due to Covid-19. There next scheduled meeting is scheduled for July 9th, where they are expected to review a draft of that plan.
- Regarding the Tideflats Interim Regulations extension process, there was a motion introducing by City Council to ask the Planning Commission to consider non-interim regulations, but that was removed based on the commitment of the Tideflats Steering Committee to consider the issue at its next meeting on July 9th.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

*These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit: http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/committees_boards_commissions/planning_commission/agendas_and_minutes/*