



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019
4:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

TACOMA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
747 MARKET STREET, ROOM 243

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2019 MEETING NOTES
- III. REVIEW OF AGENDA
- IV. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES
- V. STAFF UPDATES
- VI. TIDEFLATS SUBAREA PLAN STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
- VII. UNDOING INSTITUTIONAL RACISM PRESENTATION – PUYALLUP WATERSHED INITIATIVE’S JUST AND HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEM COMMUNITY OF INTEREST
- VIII. URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM UPDATE – STAFF PRESENTATION
- IX. SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION’S 2019 PRIORITIES – DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILMEMBER BEALE
- X. OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT
- XI. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- XII. ADJOURNMENT



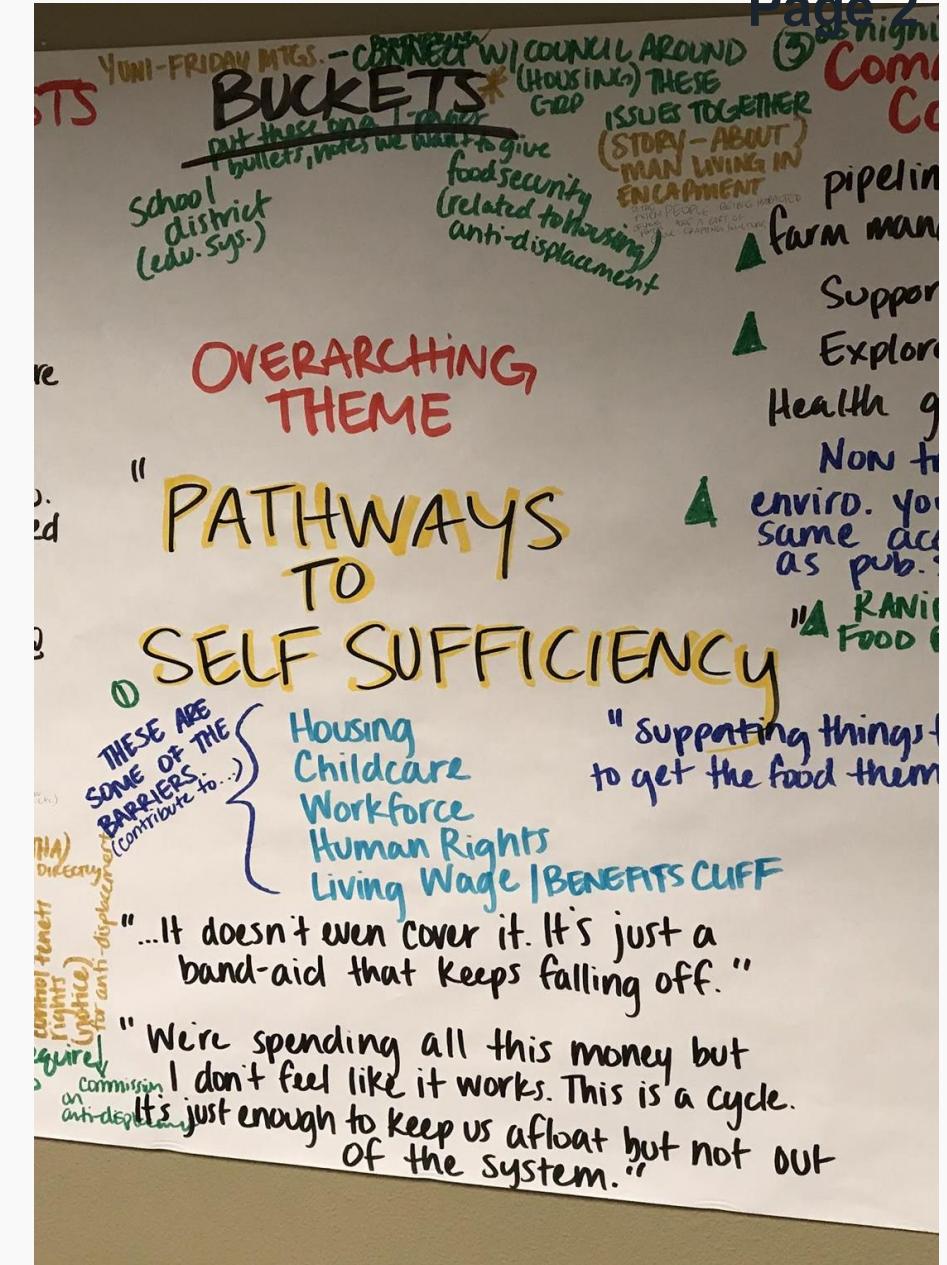
Just & Healthy Food System COL:

The Who's & Hows, and What You Can Do

Who are we?

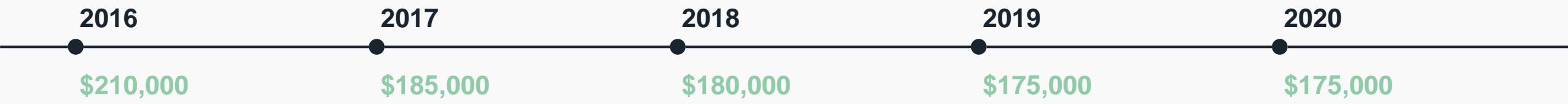
The Just & Healthy Food System COI is a group within the Puyallup Watershed Initiative that focuses on providing resources to food centered projects using an anti-racism and racial equity lens.

- Support communities most impacted
- They build on their ideas & projects
- We make space to talk about racism and oppression





How We Do What We Do!



These funds support two employees, 4 teams (until 2018) and anywhere between 4 and 10 projects a year. Focus is **EQUITY**. So funds could theoretically even go to one project, if that's what needed to happen.

Orientation

01

Values

This is where we clearly name our values and the strategies that we thought were best representative of what needed to happen to make the food system more just.

- Equity & Decision Making Power
- Healthy People & Communities
- Revaluing Food & Agriculture

Events & Affinity Dinners

Break Down

Full and partial breakdowns of topics, or common sentiments within a topic to show people the trail of how racism plays out in the work we do, or that they do. Topics such as:

- How white fragility hinders chance for discussion
- How white supremacy shows up in environmentalism
- How PoC can be complicit in upholding racist structures



Example of anti-racism work presented to other groups



Equity Team

03

Built In

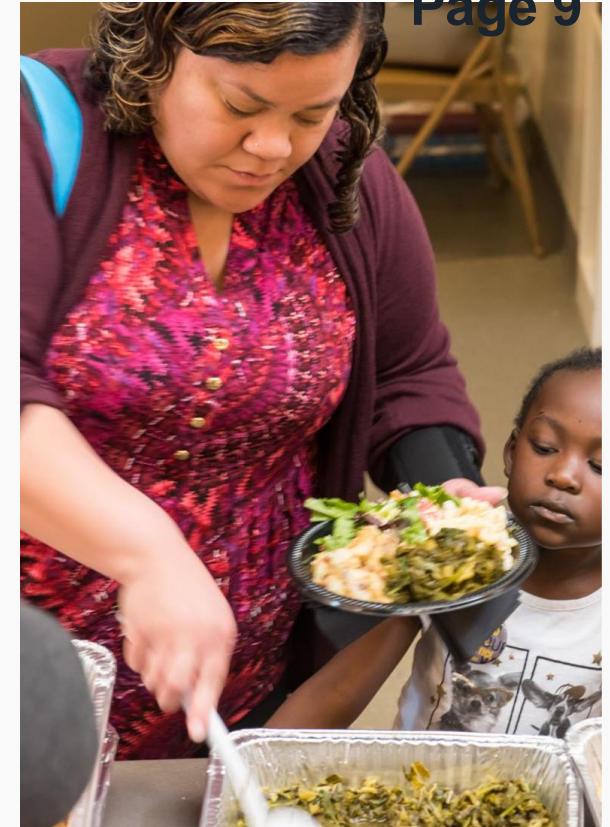
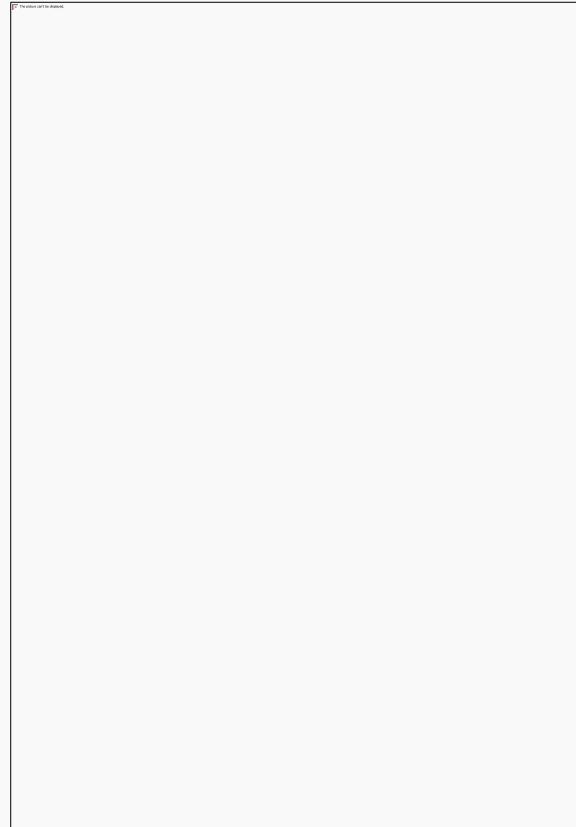
We have a team dedicated to determining what we build into the Community of Interest and they are now in a place where they feel ready to focus outward. So their work is aimed at improving and planning the affinity dinners (or discussions on race and equity) and fundraising to support the projects.

Project Selection

04

Put Learning To Work

- Equity & Anti-Racism Lens
- Reviewing & Selecting Projects to **SEE and LOOK** for the potential systemic effects.

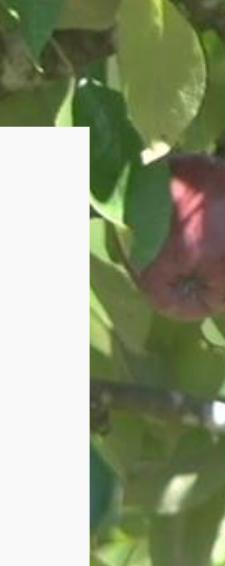


How Can You Help?

Join

Membership

- General Membership
 - Social's & Affinity Dinners
- Activity Support Team Membership
 - Social's
 - Team Meetings/Connections



Tell People or Invite Us Back

Who Is Ready?

Connects us to:

- people
- institutions
- and organizations



Give Money Or Resources

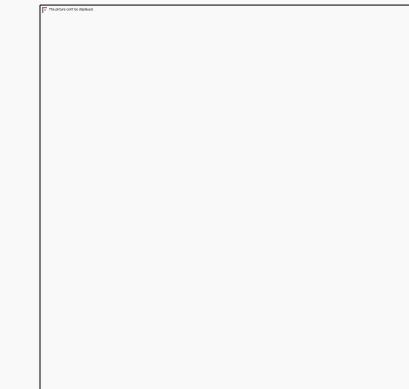
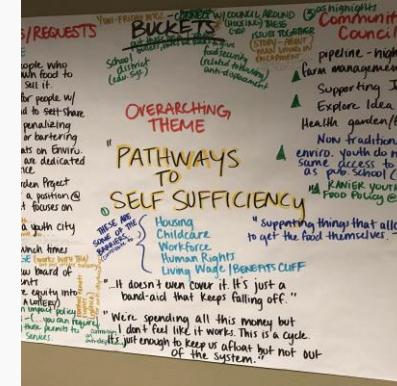
Time, Talent, Treasure

Provide what you can, whenever you can, cause every little bit counts.

03

Support

Snapshots of some of the work we've provided some resources for (but that we DO NOT own) these are the sole creation of the people and organizations that request the funds.



Questions & Comments?

THANK YOU

Contact: awilson@pwi.org & byanez@pwi.org to learn more!



Urban Forestry

Tree Incentive Program & Management Plan Update

Arin Lewis

Urban Forestry AmeriCorps

Mike Carey

Urban Forest Program Manager

May 23, 2019



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability



Overview

- Residential Tree Incentive Program Update
 - Grit City Trees
 - Tree Coupon Program
- Urban Forest Management Plan Update

Residential Tree Incentive Program

Grit City Trees & Tree Coupon



Grit City Trees

Free Street Tree Giveaway within Tacoma

Tacoma Tree
Foundation



Grit City Trees Overview

- Free Street Trees for Tacoma Residents
- Limited to Right-of-way (planting strip)
 - Storm water Management benefits
- Prioritizing Historically Underserved Neighborhoods
- Community Focused
- Applications for 2019 are open Now – Sept. 6



No, this tree's not dead. The best time to plant is in the fall!

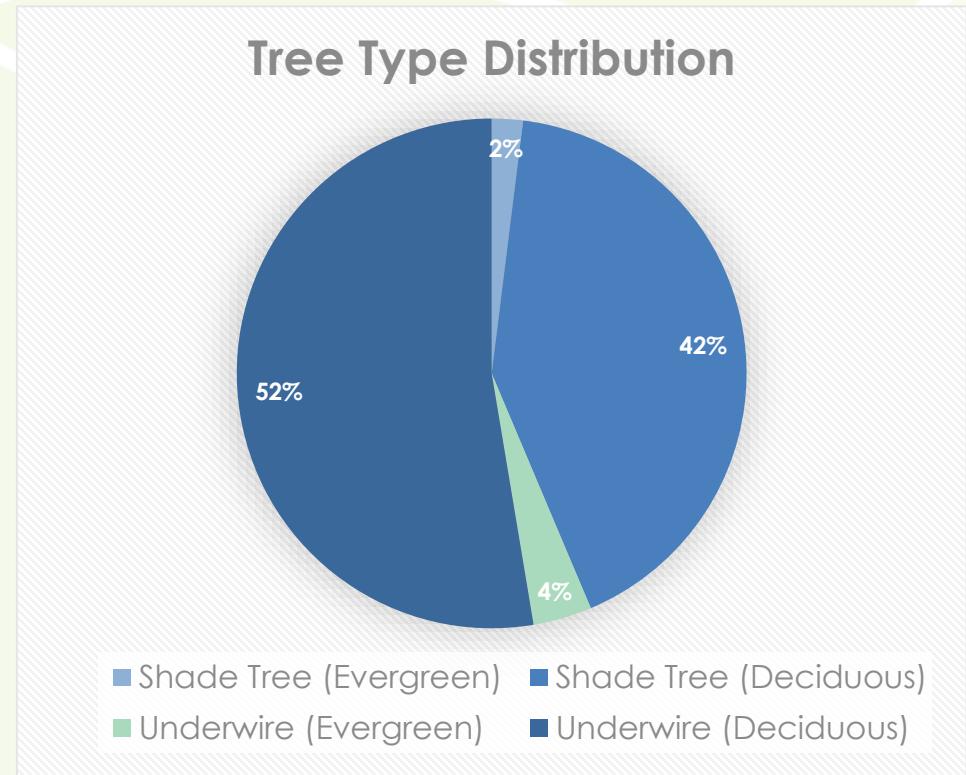
Grit City Trees 2018 Results

Requests

- 495 Trees
- 172 Applications

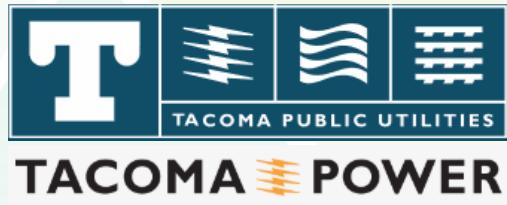
Distribution

- 456 Trees
- 167 Applications



Tree Coupon Program

Urban Forestry Partnership within Pierce County



Puyallup Watershed Initiative
Forests

Tree Coupon Overview

- Tree Canopy Increase
- Barrier Reduction
- Energy Conservation
 - Shade Trees
- Discounted Trees to Pierce Co. residents
- Up to Five Trees/ Address
 - Local Participating Tree Retailers



Yr. 2012-2018



Yr. 2018-2019

Program History in Pierce County

2012 – 2013 Season

40 Trees Purchased
\$970 Reinvested

2015 – 2016 Season

200 Trees Purchased
\$3,000 Reinvested

2013 – 2014 Season

171 Trees Purchased
\$4,510 Reinvested

2016 – 2017 Season

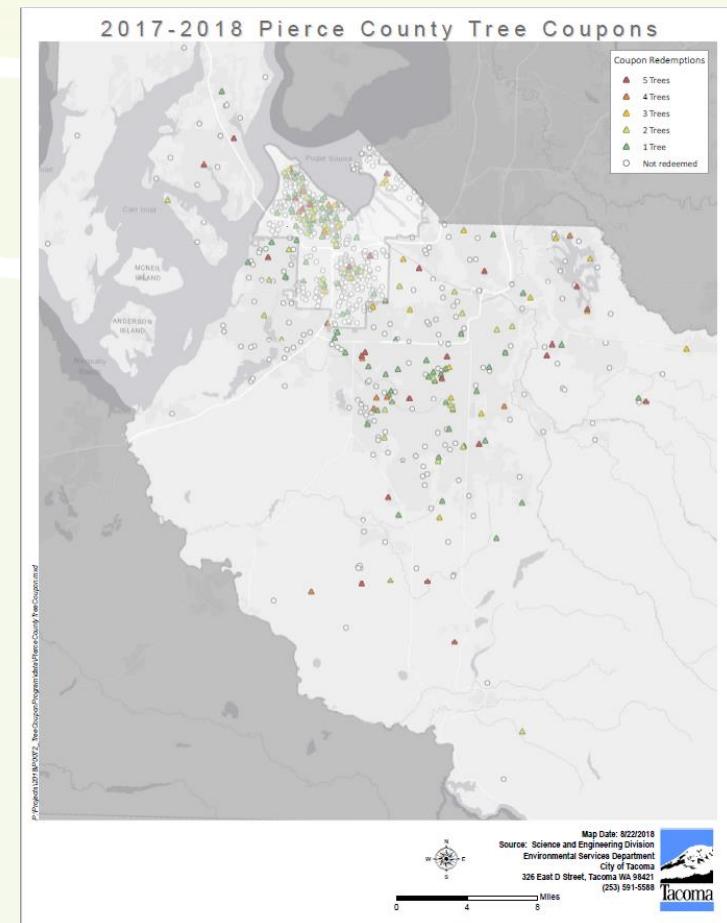
461 Trees Purchased
\$6,915 Reinvested

2014 – 2015 Season

290 Trees Purchased
\$5,450 Reinvested

2017 – 2018 Season

511 Trees Purchased
\$7,665 Reinvested



Tree Coupon: 2018-19 Results

2,871 Trees Purchased

- (1,338 Tacoma, 1,533 Pierce Co.)

\$84,510 Reinvested

- (\$40,140 Tacoma, \$44,379 Pierce Co.)

Supported 7 local tree retailers

- 9 tree retailers next year



Increased Tree Canopy at 939 Households

- (512 Tacoma, 427 Pierce Co.)

Planting Incentives Moving Ahead

Grit City Trees

Plant ≥500 street trees each year, specifically supporting historically underserved neighborhoods

Tree Coupon Program

Add tree canopy to Pierce County in a significant way



Reducing Barriers to Green Infrastructure & Building Community

Urban Forest Management Plan



Tacoma Adopted Policy



Climate Action Plan (2008)

- Increase tree planting on public and private property
- develop an urban trees and open space inventory

Urban Forest Policy Element (2010)

- 30% tree canopy cover goal by 2030, “30 by 30”
- Tree retention/preservation
- Leading by example through care of City-owned trees



Environmental Action Plan (2016)

- Increase healthy urban forest canopy, with a specific focus in historically underserved neighborhoods
- Improve regulations for tree protection on private property and City right-of-way

Sustainable Urban Forest Management



Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)

Road map outlining meaningful, high-priority actions the City will take to support our community towards our vision of a healthy 30% overall tree canopy coverage.



Consulting Team: The UFMP



Arvada, CO

Chris Peiffer, Director of UF Consulting
Elizabeth Dierickx, Marketing Specialist
TJ Wood, Director of Field Operations
Maegan Blansett, GIS Analyst & UF Support



Portland, OR

Steve Duh, Principal
Jean Akers, Senior Associate

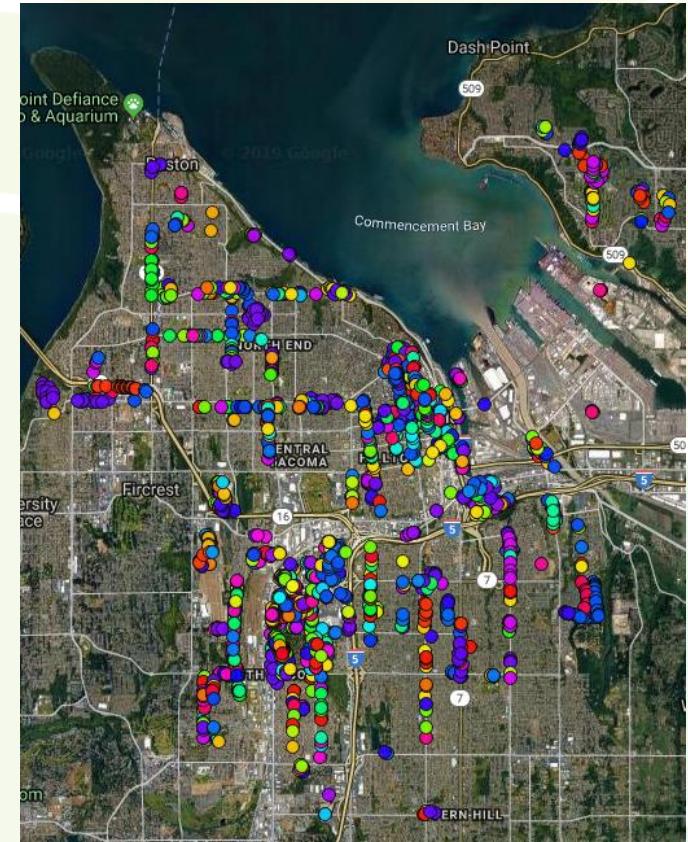


Port Angeles, WA

John Bornsworth, President
Micki McNaughton, Urban Forest Planner
Chelsea Drum, Environmental Scientist
Dendro Corvin, Consulting Arborist

Timeline: UFMP Project

- ✓ April 2019: Kick Off
- April - July: Phase 1
 - Inventory (Current State)
 - Existing Conditions & Operations
 - Benchmarking Research
- Aug. – Nov.: Phase 2
 - Education & Comm. Engagement
 - Implementation – Short/Long Term
- January 2020: Phase 3
 - Sustained Funding Source
 - Tree Risk Reduction Plan
 - Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan



TreePlotter Tree Inventory



Urban Forestry Tree Incentive Program & Management Plan Update

Arin Lewis

Urban Forestry AmeriCorps

Mike Carey

Urban Forest Program Manager

May 23, 2019



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 23, 2019

Commission Members Phil Coughlan, Liberty Evans-Agnew, Chris Karnes, Lexi Brewer, Grace Sullivan,
Present: Matthew Benedict, Emily Pinckney

Commission Members Todd Hay, Jade Monroe

Excused:

Commission Members Kenny Coble, JC Rubi

Absent:

Others Present: Jim Parvey, Pat Babbitt, Mike Carey, Arin Lewis, Elizabeth Purington,
Brandi Yañez-Riddle, Adriane Wilson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chris Karnes at 4:36 pm.

Review of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Lexi Brewer, motion passed.

The April 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes will be reviewed at the June meeting.

Sub-committee Updates

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability – Jade Monroe

Commissioner absent.

Transportation – Chris Karnes & Matt Benedict

Nothing to report.

Planning – Lexi Brewer

Nothing to report.

TPU – Todd Hay

Commissioner absent.

Outreach – Liberty Evans-Agnew & Jade Monroe

They did not meet. Nothing to report.

Port – Kenny Coble

Commissioner absent.

Staff Updates

Pat Babbitt shared that the Google Drive and the STC website are both up-to-date. STC members can find the up-to-date Work Plan and updated Rules of Procedure on the Google Drive. They can also find a draft form of the EAP priorities that they set for 2019.

Pat updated STC members on the status of the first quarter Sustainability Small Grants. All of their selections were put through with the conditions outlined, and all necessary troubleshooting was completed.

Pat reminded the group that they still need Commissioners to sign up for EAP meetings with Councilmembers. A few spots were filled immediately, but there are still spots open.

Pat gave a brief overview of the Work Plan for the next few months.

Pat also updated the STC members that their letters regarding the proposed recycling changes and the Tacoma Dome Link Extension were sent along to Council.

Jim Parvey shared that they will begin interviewing candidates for the Green Building Specialist position on June 4th.

Letters: Tideflats Subarea Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group

There had been previous discussion of drafting a letter regarding the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Pat Babbitt had reached out for more information and shared what he learned with the group. As it currently stands, the remaining seat at the table is reserved for a non-governmental organization. Deliberation around the seats will be happening in June. There was discussion of pursuing a seat at the table versus looking for other avenues to advise on the Subarea Planning process. Lexi Brewer pointed out that it's unclear where in the process they will be able to plug in and offer input, if not through this advisory group. Matthew Benedict added that the STC can't comment on a process that they're not a part of, and that he thinks it is worth getting a seat.

Motion to make a bullet point outline for a letter made by Matthew Benedict, motion passed.

The group dictated their thoughts and Lexi took them down as bullet points. The STC would like a seat to be created on the Stakeholder Advisory Group so that STC can be represented without taking away the seat of an NGO.

Motion to adopt the bullet points with the Co-chairs drafting the final letter made by Matthew Benedict, motion to adopt passed.

Presentation from the Puyallup Watershed Initiative Just & Healthy Food System Community of Interest (JHFS COI) - Brandi Yañez-Riddle and Adriane Wilson

Brandi and Adriane introduced the STC to the work that the Just & Healthy Food System COI does. They focus on creating a just and healthy food system and on undoing institutional racism, through projects related to all of the things that touch on this/affect this. They fund ideas and projects, and they intentionally focus on funding very specific types of projects with an anti-racism and racial equity lens. They encouraged STC members to become general members or join the activity support team. In both, there are opportunities to attend socials, to listen, to help make connections, and to see where you can help. They also emphasized that they support - but don't own- many projects; ownership is with the people/organizations who run them.

After their presentation, Lexi Brewer brought up Action A3 from the EAP, which is: "Create and fund a reporting system and feedback forum for the city to hear from those suffering from food insecurity." She was wondering about the status of this, and if/how the JHFS COI was involved in this reporting system, as they are deeply involved in this topic. Pat Babbitt explained that the City has set aside a portion of his staff time to serve as a liaison to JHFS COI, providing a kind of reporting and feedback system proposed by EAP Action A3. He has started to meet regularly with the COI and reports back to other staff and stakeholders as appropriate.

Someone asked about other barriers, and Adriane and Brandi elaborated on the many barriers there are for communities of color in Tacoma/Pierce County to accessing food. There was a recent food report, which Pat will send to the STC members. Someone asked if they collaborate with health care providers at all, regarding healthy food. Brandi answered that they currently do not, but that their work revaluing food and agriculture involves connecting people to their ancestry and to new foods, which can sometimes introduce variety and healthier foods into someone's diet.

The JHFS COI and the City have worked together some, but there is room to grow there. With the current EAP expiring in 2020, it's good timing to emphasize the importance of having stakeholder involvement in creating the next plan. Emily Pinckney suggested that the JHFS COI should lead a training or workshop for the STC, to dive deeper into some of their work.

Urban Forestry Program Update - Mike Carey and Arin Lewis

Mike and Arin gave an update on the City's tree incentive program and the current status of the new Urban Forest Management Plan. The tree incentive program includes Grit City Trees and Tree Coupons. Arin emphasized the success of both programs in 2018, with more than 3,000 trees being planted. With both programs, they are prioritizing outreach to historically underserved communities. The EAP has a map outlining these communities in Tacoma, and Mike Carey mentioned the City's new equity tool that he hopes to make use of for Urban Forestry programs in the future. Arin showed how much the

programs have grown, and highlighted increased funding from Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) that made this expansion possible. This year, for the first time, the tree coupons were \$30/off per tree. Mike emphasized that this discount allowed people to buy trees who otherwise could not have afforded them. Arin also showed data on the types of trees they gave away, and noted that they tried to give people big trees when possible, since bigger trees have more environmental benefits.

Mike gave an overview of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), which has made exciting progress. Like the EAP, the UFMP lays out actionable items that will help Tacoma get to its desired goals regarding our urban forest. One of the first stages is working with the internal city stakeholder groups who interact with trees in some way in their work. There will be an update on the plan for the STC in July, before the external engagement phase begins. A community member asked about the risks of arsenic exposure when people are planting trees. The City is not present when people are planting their trees, but Mike said they could look for more opportunities to alert people of soil conditions in Tacoma. Someone mentioned tying in the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's Dirt Alert resources into the coupon and giveaway programs. Mike shared that an important outcome of the consulting work will be proposed draft changes to the Municipal Code so that the code better matches our tree goals. STC should have a chance to weigh in on these proposed changes. They hope to accomplish a number of things with the community outreach component, including increased awareness of Urban Forestry and a better understanding of what people need and expect from the Urban Forestry team. Emily Pinckney asked about how much they work with community groups, especially groups that center voices of color. Mike said that he would like to be able to spend more time reaching out to groups and listening and collaborating. Mike and Emily will follow up on this conversation and discuss some potential collaboration.

Sustainable Tacoma Commission's 2019 Priorities - Discussion with Councilmember Beale

Councilmember Beale highlighted his interests in transportation, land use, and equity, and noted that he was glad to hear so many great conversations today. He is interested in being involved in the 2020 update to the EAP and in thinking about how the City frames its new goals. Do we take small bites or make bold statements about GHG reductions? He voiced his support for bold and aspirational goals. There was some discussion of EAP Actions T1 and T4 and the progress being made. Lexi Brewer pointed out that if the EAP will need to be updated soon, STC should make a plan to request funding. She notes that a bold and actionable plan would likely require involving a consulting group. Councilmember Beale encouraged the STC members to prioritize the EAP in their conversations with councilmembers. The timing is good, as their conversations about the next budget are just now coming up. There was also discussion of land use in Tacoma, and the land in Tacoma that is primarily single family homes. Land use and home ownership are racial justice and environmental justice issues in Tacoma. Areas of low density housing have a negative impact on housing goals, transit goals, and environmental goals.

Commissioner Comments –

None

Guest Comments –

None

Public Comment –

There was a comment to suggest that the City should be better about using small/local businesses for its local projects. This Tacoma resident is disappointed that the City is going far away/corporate for services. Emily Pinckney commented that it's important to remember the systemic reasons that consulting looks the way it does, and that we should be thinking about how to create training and opportunities for those previously excluded from these fields. Mike Carey responded that he would like to consider more internship and training opportunities around Urban Forestry. He also noted that the City's choices are dependent on which firms submit proposals.

Melanie came to talk about protecting trees in Tacoma. She mentioned that she just completed the tree stewardship training through the Tacoma Tree Foundation. She moved to Tacoma three years ago, and she has seen a number of mature trees come down since then. She would like to see more protection of trees in Tacoma, including creating new code. She mentioned a desire to see trees prioritized over sidewalks, the food potential of allowing more fruit trees, and the inadequacy of planting one small tree to replace a mature tree.

Anne Taufen, who is a professor in the UW Tacoma Urban Studies department, came to share information about a community event that her students are hosting on June 6th. Students from the Master of Arts in Community Planning Studio will present their findings from independent research projects conducted over the past three months on "Urban Waterfronts and Planning for Industry." They will be touching on a few ideas surrounding what it means to be a "working waterfront." STC members were interested in knowing more, and Pat Babbitt will circulate a report that was done last year.

Objectives for the Next Meeting

1. Sustainable Materials Management Plan update.
2. TPU water conservation plan update.
3. Potential item: UWT students from Urban Planning/Community planning would like to come talk about their research on green storm water and a plastic recycling facility in Tacoma.
4. Commissioners will report back to the Commission about completed meetings with City Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, June 27th, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Elizabeth Purington, Staff