



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

**Date:** July 2, 2020

**Commission Members Present:**

Lexi Brewer, Tony Ivey, Ashley Sloan, David Thompson, Matthew Benedict, Evlondo Cooper, Katin Kendrena, Elly Claus-McGahan, Phil Coughlan (joins 5:44pm)

**Commission Members Excused:** Gabe Moaalii

**Commission Members Absent:** Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope, Nikie Walters

**Others Present:** Patrick Babbitt (City of Tacoma), Kristin Lynett (City)

**Call to Order**

This special meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 5:02p.m.

**Review of July 2, 2020 Special Meeting Agenda**

Staff and Chair Lexi Brewer explained special meeting agendas cannot be changed in accordance with Washington State rules. Agenda was reviewed by Commission.

**Commission Business Items**

**Public Comments**

No public comments were given.

**Draft Letter: Commission Priorities for 2021-2022 City Budget**

Commission discussed strain on City budget and how funding requests should be accompanied by potentially specifying budget reductions elsewhere. Commission reiterated its focus on a budget that realizes equity and climate priorities. Commission acknowledged overlap between climate, air quality, and public health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commission determined to pull language from and call attention to Tacoma's December 2019 Climate Emergency resolution. Commission emphasized the need for them and other citizen Committees, Boards, and Committees to be able to meet in order to provide advice and oversight to Tacoma City Council, as they are designed to do. Commission identified key actions from Tacoma's Environmental Action Plan for Tacoma City Council to focus on in the context of COVID-19 and the next biennial budget. Commission emphasized food security, sustainable transportation, climate change mitigation, and urban tree canopy priorities. Commission recommended the need to retain funding for community engagement activities to support Tacoma's climate planning update process from 2020-2021.

Staff will support a couple Commissioners to clean up the letter, keeping the spirit and content as drafted and to be passed. Staff will deliver the letter to Tacoma City Council once it is complete, reporting its successful delivery back to the Commission.

**Approval of Commission Recommendation Letter to Tacoma City Council Regarding 2021-2022 City Budget**

**Motion:** Matthew Benedict

**Seconded by:** Elly Claus-McGahan

**Action:** Voice vote was taken and carried to approve letter as drafted, with Chair Lexi Brewer and Commissioner Evlondo Cooper to coordinate with staff to finalize letter and deliver to Tacoma City Council. The motion was declared adopted.

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope, Nikie Walters

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:29p.m.

**Adjournment of July 2, 2020 Special Meeting**

**Motion:** Matthew Benedict

**Seconded by:** Elly Claus-McGahan

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope, Nikie Walters

The next regular meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 248.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker