



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

**Date:** August 20, 2020

**Commission Members Present:**

Lexi Brewer, Gabe Moaalii, David Thompson, Nikie Walters, Elly Claus-McGahan, Tony Ivey, Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Emily Pinckney (5:30-6:00pm)

**Commission Members Excused:**

Matthew Benedict, Katin Kendrena

**Commission Members Absent:**

Phil Coughlan

**Others Present:**

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, Mike Carey, Ryan Hebert, LaTasha Wortham

Public: Steve Nicholas, Beth Jarot

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 5:00 p.m.

**Approval of June 18, 2020, Meeting Minutes and July 2, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To adopt both meeting minutes as written, except correcting Grace Hope's name.

Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

**Seconded by:** Grace Hope

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Phil Coughlan, Katin Kendrena, Emily Pinckney

**Approval of August 20, 2020, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting agenda as written. Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

**Seconded by:** Grace Hope

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Phil Coughlan, Katin Kendrena, Emily Pinckney

## **Staff Updates**

### **Commission Annual Priorities and Engagement Meetings with City Council about Priorities**

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC) set five priorities for 2020 to be discussed with City Council and management: (1) prioritize climate justice, (2) support equity-focused community food projects, (3) sustain and expand transportation by foot, bike, and transit, (4) implement the Urban Forest Management Plan, and (5) prevent waste.

Staff and Chair Brewer discussed Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Council Member responses in meeting to STC's priorities, including priorities relating to the Commission's advisory and oversight work for the Council and municipality. Staff are following up with City Council based on their questions and responses. The Commission has already developed action items for the Mayor to pursue anti-racist and sustainable systems change in her role; these recommendations are in the process of being delivered to the Mayor.

### **Resolution 40522 (6/30/2020)**

Sponsored by Mayor Woodards, this resolution commits the City to "comprehensive and sustained transformation of all institutions, systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism". The Commission will reflect on this policy, as well as other equity-related policies, in the conduct of its oversight and advisory work for the City Council and municipality. This work lens will be incorporated into the Equity Norms the Commission is developing to guide its members' behavior and Commission work.

## **Sub-Committee Updates**

Commissioner Elly Claus-McGahan and Chair Lexi Brewer shared Council Member Beale's request for the STC to research building decarbonization with support from staff and bring guidance and recommendations to him.

Staff and Chair Brewer reported the various meetings that Commissioners have attended to provide feedback and community connections to staff as the City approaches engagement for its climate justice action planning, a process that will replace the Environmental Action Plan with a new community-informed Plan starting in 2021.

## **Commission Business Items**

### **Vice- or Co-Chair Nomination**

Chair Lexi Brewer and Staff explained the Officer nomination process, qualifications, and duties. Chair Brewer and Staff communicated that Matthew Benedict, who was absent from this meeting, expressed interest in being considered prior to the meeting. Grace Hope nominated herself.

A motion to consider both nominations for an Officer position, to be selected at the next Commission meeting, was made by Evlondo Cooper, seconded by Grace Hope, and carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Phil Coughlan, Katin Kendrena, Emily Pinckney were absent for this vote.

### **Equity Norms for Sustainable Tacoma Commission**

Staff helped Commission review prior discussion notes. Commission reviewed its draft list of norms. Commissioners determined to form a subcommittee to finalize draft norms for the next meeting and also discuss how to operationalize an anti-racist, sustainable system change work lens for the Commission. Emily Pinckney and Nikie Walters expressed interest.

**Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2019 Progress Report and Climate Justice Action Planning Update – Kristin Lynett and Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS)**

Kristin provided several takeaway lessons about implementation of the EAP through the prior calendar year, focusing on several actions highlighted in the EAP that are not making significant progress. Patrick updated the Commission on the structure of the plan, implementation timeline, and upcoming recruitment for two community-led engagement roles: Plan Ambassadors and Environmental Justice Leaders Work Group members.

**Community Food Projects – Patrick Babbitt and Ryan Hebert, OEPS**

Patrick and Ryan provided information about City and other local efforts to address worsening community food security given the effects of the COVID-19 emergency. Staff focused on two OEPS projects seeking to address food security, including potentially changing Municipal Code to allow food growing trees in the right-of-way and an urban farm pilot project that will provide produce and other benefits to the City and the Tacoma community.

**Public Comment**

No written public comments were delivered. Written comments were required in line with Governor's Inslee's 20-28.8 proclamation requiring virtual public meetings while the COVID-19 pandemic remains a public health threat.

**Objectives for or before the Next Meeting**

- Update from Urban Forestry staff about Urban Forest Management Plan implementation and Tree Coupon and Grit City Trees programs
- Update from Solid Waste Utility staff about Sustainable Materials Management Plan implementation, Recycle Reset implementation, and waste prevention efforts
- Discuss and consider adopting Equity Norms for the Commission
- Review Rules of Procedure for Commission

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. with a motion made by Evlondo Cooper and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Phil Coughlan, Katin Kendrena, Emily Pinckney were absent for this vote.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, September 17, 2020, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 248.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker