



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

**Date:** January 21, 2021

**Commission Members Present:**

Matthew Benedict, Nikie Walters, Grace Hope, Elly Claus-McGahan (left 7:14pm), Ashley Sloan (left 6:31pm), Katin Kendrena (left 6:00pm), Tony Ivey, Gabe Moalii (arrived 5:06pm), Evlondo Cooper, Lexi Brewer (arrived 5:42pm), Phil Coughlan (arrived 5:58pm)

**Commission Members Excused:**

Emily Pinckney

**Commission Members Absent:**

David Thompson

**Others Present:**

Commission Support Staff: Kristin Lynett, Patrick Babbitt  
Public: None

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Commission Vice-Chair Grace Hope at 5:02 p.m., including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Vice Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements.

**Approval of December 17, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Katin Kendrena.

**Seconded by:** Matthew Benedict

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

**Approval of January 21, 2021, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting agenda as written. Motion made by Nikie Walters.

**Seconded by:** Matthew Benedict

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

### **Staff Updates**

Patrick provided a brief refresher on the last Commission meeting's topics, and directed Commissioners to hyperlinks where they can give input about Commission priorities, subcommittees, and opportunities to improve the Commission in the new year. He also asked Commissioners to help promote the Sustainability Small Grants program, which funds community-led sustainability projects that are vetted by staff and the Commission.

Kristin provided an update about the so-called decarbonization resolution called for in an October 2020 Commission recommendation letter. Staff are supporting Councilmembers in the drafting process which is ongoing.

In other activities around the community that may interest Commissioners, Patrick highlighted Downtown on the Go's educational virtual Friday Forum event on January 22 about the overlap between transportation systems and racism. He also shared a review of 2020 Transportation Commission recommendations provided by their staff liaison, which include: affordable housing and access, increased and improved bike boulevards, greater frequency of and more bus service through Pierce Transit, support for implementation of Vision Zero, neighborhood greenways, and efforts to make Tacoma a "silver status" Bike Friendly City through prioritization of a network of protected bike facilities.

Staff thanked Commissioners for their work outside meetings, including subcommittees.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Elly reported that the Climate Action Planning subcommittee is meeting monthly to become more familiar with other communities' climate action plans and has more recently shifted to receiving in-depth staff updates on Tacoma's planning process in order to simplify and focus updates to the wider Commission.

Lexi shared that the Tideflats Regulations and Subarea Planning subcommittee received an update from Planning Department staff about upcoming Planning Commission activities to hear information and recommendations from staff about the non-interim tideflats regulations process. Staff provided a tentative timeline of activities at that meeting. The next major Tideflats non-interim regulations meeting will be the Wednesday, February 3, 5-7pm Planning Commission public hearing. The next major Tideflats Subarea Planning Project meeting is a virtual community meeting on Thursday, February 4, from 5:00 to 6:30pm.

A waste prevention- and recycling-focused subcommittee will be convened in the first or second quarter of 2021.

### **Commission Business Items**

**Climate Action Planning Update – Patrick Babbitt and Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma**

Patrick and Kristin provided a preliminary update on analysis of community input from Phase I of the Tacoma's climate action planning process. They provided a refresher on the timeline and phased approach to community engagement and Plan development through autumn 2021. They outlined outreach results, which included more than 43 stipends community members and staff engaging community members to gather over 450 responses to visioning activities, surveys, and interviews. They described the demographics self-reported by respondents, and highlighted initial analysis of respondents' concerns and priorities. A finalized Phase I report will be made public in mid-February 2021 and will outline community concerns and priorities in more detail. Staff highlighted a few priorities as they approach Phase II of engagement, including efforts to reach a representative sample of Tacoma communities and activate more community partnerships to do so during a challenging virtual engagement environment. Staff will also be building from strengths, which include new partnerships, community-led engagement practices, building from the lessons of other pathbreaking municipal climate planning processes, and developing deeper and more meaningful relationships that will endure beyond this planning process.

#### **Climate Planning Letter of Recommendation Drafting**

Members of the Climate Action Planning subcommittee provided context for this letter drafting. The letter urges Tacoma City Council to adopt the 2015 Paris Agreement target of a 100% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050; direct City staff to convene departments to draft a list of green and just, shovel-ready projects if funding opportunities arise; and seek transformational action in the next 10 years to avert a climate catastrophe. The letter was adopted with recommendations written, directing a subcommittee to collaborate with staff to fill in context and put it on letterhead for delivery to City Council.

#### **Approval of Climate Planning Letter of Recommendation**

**Motion:** To adopt letter with recommendations as written, with a subcommittee and staff filling in missing context and preparing it in a letter format. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

**Seconded by:** Evlondo Cooper

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan

#### **Tideflats Subarea Planning and Non-Interim Regulations Letter of Recommendation Drafting**

Members of the Tideflats Regulations and Subarea Planning subcommittee provided context for this letter drafting. The letter speaks to the non-interim Tideflats regulations drafting process coordinated at this stage through Tacoma's Planning Commission and urges Tacoma City Council to halt expansion of existing fossil fuel and other heavy industrial uses; follow the recommendations of Planning Department staff brought forward in the January 20 Planning Commission meeting; support the Tideflats Subarea Planning process with adequate staffing; prohibit the export of fossil fuel products from and through Tacoma; adopt a low carbon fuels definition to guide allowance for so-called renewable fuels in Tacoma; and keep equity at the forefront of decision-making. The letter was adopted with recommendations written, directing a subcommittee to collaborate with staff to fill in context and put it on letterhead for delivery to City Council.

**Approval of Tideflats Subarea Planning and Non-Interim Regulations Letter of Recommendation**

**Motion:** To adopt letter with recommendations as written, with a subcommittee and staff filling in missing context and preparing it in a letter format. Motion made by Gabe Moaalii.

**Seconded by:** Evlondo Cooper

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan

**Commission Officer Nominations – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma**

With the meeting running past 7:00pm following letter drafting, the Commission determined to move this item to the February 18, 2021, meeting agenda.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

**Objectives for or before the Next Meeting**

- Staff and subcommittee updates
- 2021 Commission priorities discussion
- Sustainability Small Grants Program update
- Climate Action Planning update
- Commission Officer Elections

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with a motion made by Matthew Benedict and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan, Elly Claus-McGahan, and Tony Ivey were absent for this vote.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, February 18, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker