



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

Date: March 18, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Emily Pinckney, Matthew Benedict, Elly Claus-McGahan, Lexi Brewer, Katin Kendrena, Nikie Walters, Ashley Sloan, Evlondo Cooper, David Thompson, Gabe Moaalii, Phil Coughlan (joins 5:20pm), Tony Ivey (joins 5:53pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Grace Hope

Commission Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Stephen Atkinson, Beth Jarot, Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Leah Michaelson, Kyla Wilson, Patrick Babbitt

Public: Alisha Pena, Janeen Provazek

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Lexi Brewer at 5:01pm, including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements.

Approval of March 18, 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 was declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Phil Coughlan, Tony Ivey

Approval of February 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written, with a correction to the adjournment motion maker. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Phil Coughlan, Tony Ivey

Public Comment

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Staff Updates

Patrick provided a brief refresher on the last Commission meeting's agenda topics. 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. Applications for this grant program are due March 31. He notified the Commission that their February meeting letter providing a second set of recommendations about the Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations and Tideflats Subarea Planning process was delivered in its final form on March 3 to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee and, through them, to the Planning Commission. City Planning and Development Services Department (Planning) staff are holding a Tideflats Subarea Visioning session on March 20 and have a public survey online through April 30. Planning staff are also organizing a Home in Tacoma affordable housing public hearing on April 7. Finally, Patrick also informed the Commission that new members would be on-boarded between April and May.

Outside City activities, Patrick notified the Commission that Pierce Transit is asking for public input for its Bus Stop Balancing project through April 11. In addition, Downtown on the Go is organizing a public forum to discuss the intersection of race and transportation systems on March 26.

James shared briefly that the Decarbonization Resolution draft will reach City Council in April. So far, City Council feedback has expressed support. He also acknowledged it took more time for expected and was a lesson for staff and the Commission about how long it can take for necessary stakeholders to have time to give input to a draft resolution.

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

Subcommittee Updates

Lexi reported that the Climate Action Planning subcommittee is meeting monthly to become more familiar with other communities' climate action plans. Lexi mentioned that subcommittee is shifting from reviewing other communities' plans to providing input through the City's "Technical Implementation Teams" which are mostly composed of staff and by transferring the subcommittee's input to staff. Evlondo added that he is working with subcommittee to deliver input they have developed to date to staff and in a format that is easy for the Commission to review as well.

Elly spoke with Michael Knaack, the facilities manager with Tacoma Public Schools, about opportunities to promote sustainability in the local school system. They discussed community gardens, electric vehicles and related infrastructure, raingardens, and infrastructure emissions reductions. Specifically, she learned that expansion of community gardening across schools depends on supportive teachers or other staff to take the lead, otherwise the burden lands on

maintenance staff; electric vehicle chargers have tended to be underutilized; raingardens are spreading across all schools; and there is a good opportunity to encourage school facilities users to make sure they turn things like lights off to save energy.

Lexi expressed interest in today's discussions about recent Planning Commission activity related to the Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations, which Stephen Atkinson offered to provide along with his presentation later in the agenda.

Patrick announced a waste prevention- and recycling-focused subcommittee will be convened in June 2021 and asked for Commissioners' interest in participating. He will send a Doodle poll to get interested Commissioners' availability to set a subcommittee meeting time. This subcommittee will meet just once. Matthew and Elly expressed interest.

Commission Business Items

Officer Elections

Patrick introduced the annual election process for Commission Officers, meaning Chairpersons, Co-Chairpersons, or Vice-Chairpersons. He discussed time commitments, qualifications, duties, and the 1-year (renewable) length of term. Lexi confirmed her interest in continuing as Chairperson. Matthew confirmed his interest in serving as Vice-Chairperson. Patrick handled a roll-call vote for each nominated Chairperson, with both receiving unanimous support from Commissioners present. This roll-call vote served to guide an official motion to elect both Chairpersons, which was taken in one motion.

Election of Chairpersons

Motion: To elect Lexi Brewer to serve as Chairperson and Matthew Benedict to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the following 12 months. Motion made by Phil Coughlan.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: Lexi Brewer, Matthew Benedict

Absent: Grace Hope, Tony Ivey

Earth Month and Earth Day Events Planning – Kyla Wilson, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Kyla shared that the City will curate Earth Month events from across organizations, including from the Earth Day South Sound campaign, onto a virtual calendar run by the City. The calendar can be found here: cityoftacoma.org/earthmonth. Kyla is also organizing some Earth Month content for social media along weekly themes: Sustainable Food, Waste Prevention, Sustainable Fashion, and Sustainable Communities. The City's EnviroHouse program is also organizing educational workshops about growing food, borrowing and fixing items we own, and Electric Vehicles, with help from Tacoma Tool Library and Tacoma Public Utilities. Overall, Earth Month challenges will be made COVID-safe and fun through the GooseChase app.

Tideflats Subarea Planning – Stephen Atkinson, Planning & Development Services Department, City of Tacoma

Stephen shared that the Tideflats Subarea Plan will become a part of Tacoma's overall Comprehensive Plan. He described the cross-governmental approach including the City, Pierce County, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, City of Fife, and Port of Tacoma. The goal is to organize a coordinated approach to development, environmental review, and strategic capital investments. A thriving tideflats will contribute to a competitive and climate-safe port, a strong economy, public health, and better safety for workers and residents. This process will continue into 2023. Stephen also provided a brief update on the Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations, which go to a final vote at the Planning Commission on April 7 before proceeding to City Council. The Commission provided input to Stephen about their favorite features, most important strengths, and biggest opportunity of the Tideflats. They also discussed what the Tideflats could look like and how it should function 20 years from now.

Climate Planning Update: Adaptation Strategy – Beth Jarot, Planning & Development Services Department, City of Tacoma

Beth shared the purpose of the Adaptation Strategy: to identify responsibilities and timelines for actionable tasks that will build resiliency in municipal operations and reduce climate change risks to the Tacoma community. At this stage in the develop process, the Adaptation Strategy team is analyzing 70 potential actions based on criteria: impact, cost, feasibility, equity, and co-benefits. Actions are organized in focus areas: infrastructure, natural systems, social equity and communities, economy, public health and safety, and governance. Beth provided example actions. The Commission encouraged a focus on community resilience and needs beyond physical infrastructure resilience.

Public Comment

Alisha Pena, who works in facilities management for the Northwest Seaport Alliance, introduced herself. She expressed the Northwest Seaport Alliance's desire to work with the community to adapt to climate change impacts, and shared her contact information: apena@nwseaportalliance.com.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Earth Month events planning update
- Rules of Procedure approval
- Climate Action Planning and 2020 Environmental Action Plan Progress Report update
- Sustainability Small Grants quarterly applications review

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission sought to adjourn at 7:04pm.

Adjournment of March 18, 2021, Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adjourn the Commission meeting. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, April 15, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker