



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Margaret Schwertner, Lexi Brewer (Chair), Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Adam Reichenberger, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Commission Members Excused:

Grace Hope, Elly Claus-McGahan, Evlondo Cooper, Katin Kendrena

Commission Members Absent:

Gabe Moaalii, Tony Ivey

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: LaTasha Wortham, Kyla Wilson, Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison)

Members of the Public: None

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Lexi Brewer at 5:05pm, 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 May 20, 2021, Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda as written. Motion made by Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Adam Reichenberger

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Elly Claus-McGahan, Evlondo Cooper, Katin Kendrena, Gabe Moaalii, Tony Ivey

Approval of April 15, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Emily Pinckney

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Grace Hope, Elly Claus-McGahan, Evlondo Cooper, Katin Kendrena, Gabe Moaalii, Tony Ivey

Public Comment

No public comment was delivered in writing or given in meeting.

Staff Updates

Patrick Babbitt, the Commission's staff liaison, recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) April meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission. New notices included welcoming new members to the Commission; updating the Commission that its letter regarding STC participation on the Environmental Services Commission had been delivered; that Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations were moved from City Council consideration to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for recommendations by autumn; that Sustainability Small Grants Program applications are accepted for the second quarter of 2021 through June 30; that the 2020 Environmental Action Plan progress report is available on the City's website; and that the Commission's schedule to meet with City Council Members and Management is established. He also noted other happenings in the Tacoma community, including that Bike Month (May) is in its final two weeks of events and local health regulations and vaccination opportunities related to COVID-19 are changing. He pointed to resources if Commissioners or community members they are in contact with would like more information.

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

Subcommittee Updates

Patrick updated the Commission that its Waste Prevention and Recycling Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, June 23 from 5-6pm. Interested Commissioners should engage Patrick or their Chairpersons to participate. Chair Lexi Brewer reported the Climate Action Planning Subcommittee met to discuss plans and approaches to community adaptation or resiliency planning in an effort to reflect further on staff's recent presentation to the Commission about Tacoma's Adaptation Strategy. The Subcommittee continues to work on final recommendations to staff regarding Tacoma's next climate action plan. No further updates were provided by Commissioners regarding subcommittee activities.

Commission Business Items

Welcome New Commissioners

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves to and welcomed new members of the Commission. Commissioners shared experience they bring to their service to the Commission, their lessons from participation, and points of excitement for sustainability work in Tacoma.

City of Tacoma Climate Action Planning Process Update – Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Kyla Wilson, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Patrick updated the Commission on recent climate action planning work, including the start of the second phase of community engagement. The second phase of engagement primarily involves virtual community workshops focused on engaging frontline community members and a general online public survey. In support of engagement work and development of a new climate plan, staff have worked with City consultants and community partners to process the

first phase of community feedback (involving input from over 450 community members) with other facts to develop practical strategies and actions to reduce climate emissions and increase preparedness for climate impacts. Climate strategies and actions, now in a draft form, are based on the best, most recent science, established City policies, and community input from this and other relevant community input processes. The second phase of engagement will inform members of the community about recent technical work, community input from the first phase, and draft actions – ultimately providing a second opportunity for community input. The process will likely lead to a draft plan, which will go to stakeholders and City Council for final consideration in the late summer and autumn of 2021.

Following planning process updates, the Commission gave input about four areas of climate strategies and actions.

City of Tacoma Climate Action Planning Draft Actions – Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Kyla Wilson, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Patrick and Kyla Wilson led Commissioners through a Mentimeter survey to give their input about four areas of climate strategies and actions, as well as have some discussion about community needs and priorities. Commission feedback was recorded through Mentimeter and staff notes, which will be considered alongside input from other stakeholders and the wider community.

Public Comment

No public comment was delivered in writing or given in meeting.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
- Climate Action Planning update and draft actions feedback
- Port of Tacoma Clean Air Strategy (tentative)
- City-County solid and hazardous waste plan (tentative)
- Annual Commission report to City Council

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:08pm as quorum was lost at 7:02pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, June 17, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker