



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2022

Commission Members Present:

Katin Kendrena, Margaret Schwertner, Lexi Brewer (Co-Chair), Nikie Walters, Gabe Moaalii, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Elly Claus-McGahan, Adam Reichenberger, Tony Ivey (joins 5:20pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Emily Pinckney

Commission Members Absent:

Matthew Benedict

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), Jim Parvey, Beth Jarot, Lauren Choi

Guest Presenters: Tadashi Shiga (Evergreen Certified), Cybil Tribie (Evergreen Certified)

Members of the Public: Brett Marlo, Laura Svancarek, Steve Nicholas, Chris Eberhardt

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Lexi Brewer at 5:03pm, including an acknowledgement of the traditional 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 17, 2022 Meeting Agenda

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

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, Matthew Benedict, Tony Ivey

Approval of February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Gabe Moaalii

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Matthew Benedict, Tony Ivey

Public Comment

No public comment was given in meeting during this agenda item or delivered in writing prior to the meeting.

Staff Updates – Patrick Babbitt and Kristi Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Commission staff liaison Patrick Babbitt recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) February 2022 meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission.

New notices began with important news related to the Tacoma community, including recent notices from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department about COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates as well as tips to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other Commission notices included events and activities around the community. In addition, Kristi Lynett discussed bills related to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, the Growth Management Act, material management, and waste that were ultimately adopted in the 2022 legislative session by the Washington State Legislature. Finally, staff refreshed the Commission on major Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation processes and timelines, including those related to the CAP's 10 "jumpstart" actions planned for 2022 implementation, City Departments' 2022 Resource Conservation and Climate Plan actions, and biennial budget process, which spans spring-winter 2022. Staff communicated strategies for the Commission to remain engaged and supportive during CAP implementation through 2022 and beyond.

Subcommittee Updates

Staff communicated recent Commission subcommittee activities conducted by a Green Economy Subcommittee, a Waste Prevention & Recycling Subcommittee, and Sustainability Expo Event Subcommittee.

The Green Economy Subcommittee will schedule a meeting for April.

Commission Business Items

Green Buildings Certification – Tadashi Shiga and Cybil Tribie, Evergreen Certified

In follow-up to City of Tacoma staff member Beth Jarot's introductory presentation to green buildings to the Sustainable Tacoma Commission in February 2022, Tadashi and Cybil discussed the Built Green building certification and their business' work. Evergreen Certified provides third-party technical guidance and verification that buildings, whether new constructions or retrofits, meet Built Green certification standards. Tadashi shared his experience seeing the Seattle building community change its approach to green buildings, moving from a skeptical to very supportive approach between the early 2000s to recent years. They noted that education as well as incentives from the City, including increased floor area ratio (FAR) and priority permitting (fast-tracked permit application processing) helped increase green building quantities. However, they and staff noted that the Tacoma market is likely different, particularly given that there are fewer strains and delays on the existing permitting process in Tacoma. They also differentiated the LEED and Passive House certifications from Built Green. Tadashi and Cybil

communicated the Built Green certification process and elements under consideration in the certification. They also communicated their hope for Tacoma's green building market to become more active in coming months and years. Greener buildings can offer many environmental and social benefits, as well as profits for the private sector. Energy used in buildings composes approximately 19% of Tacoma's community greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability Expo Event Update & Planning – Lauren Choi and Patrick Babbitt, OEPS, City of Tacoma

Lauren provided an introduction to the Sustainability Expo Event organized by the City of Tacoma for April 16, 2022. She communicated that the event provides education about sustainability, highlights organizations and activities, and facilitates vendors of sustainable products. Located at the University of Washington – Tacoma's downtown campus along the Prairie Line Trail and in Tollefson Plaza, the event will include live music, performances, a mending station, a pop-up forest, a kids corner, food trucks, electric vehicle and bike demonstrations, and more. The Commission is encouraged to volunteer at their own booth at the event and promote the event to potential vendors or community members who will enjoy it.

Home in Tacoma Phase II Subcommittee – Patrick Babbitt, OEPS, City of Tacoma

Patrick provided an update on Phase II of the Home in Tacoma Project based on his discussions with project leader Elliott Barnett of the Planning and Development Services Department of the City. While Phase I set up a policy framework and direction for housing policies and services, many of those policies and services are still to be determined through engagement and planning work in Phase II, which will span several months over 2022 and perhaps 2023. He communicated that the Commission may wish to build on its recommendations for the Project during its first phase of work in 2021, and that the Commission may wish to form a subcommittee to conduct research and begin drafting recommendations before Elliott gives a presentation to the Commission at its April 21, 2022 meeting. The Commission agreed to organize a subcommittee, and Adam, Elly, Lexi, and Katin expressed interest to participate.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates, including CAP Implementation
- Subcommittee Updates: Green Economy, Home in Tacoma Phase II
- Home in Tacoma Phase II – Presentation
- Sustainability Small Grants Applications – Review/Award
- Puget Sound Energy Natural Gas Service Decarbonization – Presentation (tentative)
- Green Economy Study Scope of Work – Presentation (tentative)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 6:52pm.

Adjournment of March 17, 2022 Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

Seconded by: Margaret Schwertner

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

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Emily Pinckney, Matthew Benedict

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chairs

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker