



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 19, 2022

Commission Members Present:

Emily Pinckney, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Margaret Schwertner, Brett Marlo, Matthew Benedict, Kendra Stauffer, Laura Svancarek, Casey McManus, Elly Claus-McGahan, Tony Ivey (joins 5:28pm), Nikie Walters (joins 6:02pm), Lexi Brewer (Co-Chair; joins 6:05pm)

Commission Members Excused:

None

Commission Members Absent:

Adam Reichenberger

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), Kristin Lynett

Other Presenters: Lewis Griffith, Samantha Lake, Beth Jarot

Members of the Public: Marquis Mason, Erin Dilworth, Mark Weinman

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper 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. Commissioners welcomed two new members and shared about themselves during roll call.

Approval of May 19, 2022 Meeting Agenda

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

Seconded by: Margaret Schwertner

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Tony Ivey, Nikie Walters, Lexi Brewer

Approval of April 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Margaret Schwertner.

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Tony Ivey, Nikie Walters, Lexi Brewer

Public Comment

No verbal comments were given in-meeting. Heidi Stephens, a community member, sent an email to Commission Co-Chair Evlondo Cooper hours before the Commission meeting about the South Tacoma Economic Green Zone proposal and related South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) code review work plan considered by the Planning Commission during its annual amendment process concerning Municipal Code and Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan. At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee may consider the merits of a moratorium on permitting until the STGPD process is completed.

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

Commission staff liaison Patrick Babbitt recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) April 2022 meeting activities and then delivered brief notices to the Commission, including COVID-19 safety guidelines from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Climate Action Plan implementation process timelines, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability 2023-2024 budget proposals, and reminders about potential Commission strategies to engage the City about Climate Action Plan implementation. Following the recommendation of Commission Co-Chairs, he requested that Commissioners notify staff if they would like to serve in an on-call role to participate in key meetings external to the Commission, such as regular Transportation or Planning Commission meetings. He also noted staff support provided to subcommittees around this meeting. Other notices were delivered by email to the Commission.

Subcommittee Updates

Patrick recounted subcommittee meetings in May regarding the following topics: Green Economy, Home in Tacoma Phase II, 2022 Commission Recommendations. In coming weeks, subcommittee meetings will be organized to prepare Commissioners to deliver their strategic and biennial budget recommendations in annual meetings with Tacoma City Council and the City Manager.

Elly communicated activities of the Green Economy, which is researching City asphalt recycling processes, local breweries' potential opportunities to recycle wastewater, and processes and markets for 3-D printed homes. Evlondo and Patrick recounted updates to the draft Home in Tacoma Phase II letter of recommendation. Evlondo acknowledged the drafting of 2022 Commission recommendations to City Council and Management, which would be discussed in more detail later this meeting.

In other news, Matthew Benedict, who also serves on the Environmental Services Commission, discussed that Commission's recent meeting concerning utility rates and long-range financial planning.

Commission Business Items

Solid Waste Utility Climate Action Plan Update – Lewis Griffith, Samantha Lake, Beth Jarot, Solid Waste Utility, City of Tacoma

Lewis, the division manager for the Solid Waste Utility, introduced the Utility's Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation work, including progress, plans, and budget proposals. Lewis outlined two relevant 2030 indicator targets from the CAP, used to track implementation progress and results: (1) decrease per-capita waste generation by 14%; (2) increase metric tons

of greenhouse gases from diverted materials from Recycling and Recovery Center by 17%. He noted that the Utility is preparing a draft budget proposal for three new staff members to implement a waste prevention and diversion program. The Utility is responsible to implement the following CAP actions: #24, #2, #27, and #29. The Utility will also contribute to implementation of the Municipal Carbon Neutrality Strategy, which lists actions to decarbonize municipal operations.

Home in Tacoma Phase II Letter – Patrick Babbitt, OEPS, City of Tacoma; Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

Patrick and Evlondo introduced the draft letter regarding the second phase of Home in Tacoma project work. Two Commission subcommittees met since April to draft recommendations, which build on the Commission’s recommendations for the project during its first phase of work in 2021.

The Commission reviewed the letter, suggesting and finalizing edits that culminated in the following vote:

Adoption of the Home in Tacoma Phase II Letter of Recommendation

Motion: To adopt the letter as written with insubstantial edits and formatting to be made by Co-Chairs and staff. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Lexi Brewer

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger

Commission Engagement with Council and Management – Patrick Babbitt, OEPS, City of Tacoma; Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

Patrick provided an overview of annual process where Commissioners meet with Tacoma City Council Members and the City Manager to communicate the Commission’s strategic and budget-related recommendations. Commissioners will consider finalizing their annual recommendations in the following agenda item. In coming weeks, Commissioners will prepare for and conduct these meetings.

Commission Biennial Budget Recommendations Letter – Patrick Babbitt, OEPS, City of Tacoma; Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

Patrick provided an overview of the draft letter and related one-page document, put together by a Commission subcommittee and with support from staff and based on the Commission’s 2021-2022 recommendations, including recent discussions. The letter, if adopted, would be delivered to IPS Committee with requests and recommendations related to the biennial budget process. The one-page document, if adopted, would be used in-meeting with Tacoma City Council and the City Manager as a reference to communicate adopted recommendations outlined in the letter.

The Commission reviewed the letter and one-page document, suggesting and finalizing edits that culminated in the following vote:

Adoption of the Commission Biennial Budget Recommendations Letter

Motion: To adopt the letter and related one-page document as written with insubstantial edits and formatting to be made by Co-Chairs and staff. Where content does not fit in the one-page document, it will be moved in full detail to a talking points document for Commissioners' reference. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger

Public Comment

No public comment was delivered during this agenda item.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates, including CAP Implementation
- Subcommittee Updates: Green Economy
- Transportation Impact Fees Update – Presentation (tentative)
- Wastewater Pollution Prevention in Commencement Bay – Presentation (tentative)
- Green Economy Study Scope of Work – Presentation (tentative)
- Green Streets Update – Presentation (tentative)
- Commission meetings with City Council and Management
- Commission annual report drafting
- Sustainability Small Grant application outreach
- Subcommittee meeting with Rain Incubator (tentative)
- Subcommittee meetings to prepare with meetings with City Council and Management

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 6:58pm.

Adjournment of May 19, 2022 Meeting

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

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 5:00pm.

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker