



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2022

Commission Members Present:

Margaret Schwertner, Kendra Stauffer, Lexi Brewer (Co-Chair), Tony Ivey, Matthew Benedict, Laura Svancarek, Casey McManus, Elly Claus-McGahan, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair; joined 5:05pm), Nikie Walters (joined 5:17pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger

Commission Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), James Parvey

Other Presenters: Darin Stavish, Tina Lee, Amber Stanley, Wesley Rhodes

Members of the Public: Barbara Menne, Kristina Walker

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Lexi Brewer at 5:04pm, 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. Then, Lexi administered an extended roll call discussion, where Commissioners both acknowledged their attendance and also participated in a networking activity to get to know fellow Commissioners and their interests and expertise.

Approval of August 18, 2022 Meeting Agenda

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

Seconded by: Margaret Schwertner

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger

Approval of July 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item or in writing prior to the meeting.

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) July 2022 meeting activities and then delivered brief notices to the Commission, including COVID-19 safety guidelines from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, recent Planning Commission and Transportation Commission meeting items, and City biennial budget public input timeline information. Patrick recounted strategies for the Sustainable Tacoma Commission to continue to monitor and support Climate Action Plan implementation.

Subcommittee Updates

Commissioners and staff recounted subcommittee meetings since the Commission's July meeting and looking ahead. The Commission's Green Economy Subcommittee reported meeting with Rain Incubator to discuss their biotech work and services; the subcommittee also discussed potential recycling opportunities at Tacoma Asphalt Plant, Mass Timber/Cross Laminated Timber industry development, and a City grant seeking funding for 5G network innovation in the Tacoma tideflats. Co-Chairs briefly reported about their meeting with Council Member Walker, who serves as Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee Chairperson. Co-Chairs had a chance to discuss Commission priorities for the biennial budget. In coming weeks, the Commission will organize subcommittees to discuss a potential South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium. In addition, Elly announced a "Tacoma Climate Happenings" panel discussion event open to the public on September 24.

Commission Business Items

Pierce Transit Bus Rapid Transit Planning – Tina Lee, Amber Stanley, and Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit

Darin and Amber provided an overview of general Pierce Transit public transportation services, Zero Emission Fleet Transition Study findings, as well as a focused update on their bus rapid transit planning work. Pierce Transit is now developing the first bus rapid transit route in the South Puget Sound region with route 1, primarily along Pacific Avenue/State Route 7, with construction planned to begin in 2024. Pierce Transit is accepting input and conducting technical analysis to determine the second bus rapid transit route for implementation.

Darin expressed that it would be valuable for the Pierce Transit Board to hear from the public and stakeholders, such as the Sustainable Tacoma Commission. A potential letter of support or letter with recommendations should be delivered by September 12, if possible, but would be valuable if delivered shortly after the Commission's next meeting on September 15 as well.

The Commission determined to organize a subcommittee to do research and draft a letter of recommendation and support for Pierce Transit bus rapid transit planning for potential adoption in the Commission's September 15 meeting.

Pacific Avenue Subarea Planning – Wesley Rhodes, City of Tacoma

Wesley provided an overview of Pacific Avenue Subarea Planning work, including the purpose, major project elements, timeline, milestones, and next steps. The purpose of this project is that Tacoma needs to prepare for growth, especially around major corridors and business areas. Looking countywide, Pierce County needs to plan for 364,000 additional people and 195,000 new jobs by 2050. The goal for this subarea planning work is to develop a Subarea Plan, Planned Action Environmental Impact Statement, and Planned Action Ordinance. This work will developed be based on a long-term community vision for growth, analysis of possible improvements to transportation and connectivity, development of potential enhancements for zoning and standards, identification of priority capital needs, development of potential policy to advance other City priorities like housing and climate action, and an environmental review. The geographic focus is Pacific Avenue between Interstate 5 and South 96th Street. This approximately two-year process will begin with development of a community engagement plan, baseline conditions report, and planning framework. Project goals will be finalized in autumn 2022 before detailed planning, engagement, and analysis is conducted.

The Commission expressed their desire to engage with this subarea planning process as it continues and requested that staff return with project updates in a timely manner.

Public Comment

No additional public comment was delivered during this agenda item.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates, including CAP Implementation
- Subcommittee Updates: Green Economy, South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium, Pierce Transit bus rapid transit planning letter
- 9/15 meeting items (tentative):
 - Updated Sustainable Tacoma Commission Climate Action Plan recommendations (letter)
 - Recycling and waste prevention service updates
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation updates
 - Pierce Transit bus rapid transit planning letter of recommendation
 - South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District moratorium letter of support

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 6:54pm.

Adjournment of August 18, 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: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 5:00pm.

Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chairs

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker