



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 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), Nikie Walters, Adam Reichenberger

Commission Members Excused:

Emily Pinckney

Commission Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

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

Other Presenters: Kyla Wilson, Pierce County Sustainability

Members of the Public: none

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 a roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of July 21, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of August 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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 Kristi Lynett recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) July 2022 meeting activities and then delivered brief notices to the Commission, recent Planning Commission and Transportation Commission meeting items, and City biennial budget public input timeline information. Kristi recounted strategies for the Sustainable Tacoma Commission to continue to monitor and support

Climate Action Plan implementation, including at the upcoming Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee meeting on September 28th.

Subcommittee Updates

Matthew Benedict recounted recent meetings of the Environmental Services Commission meetings, focused on City utility rates, and especially the draft increases. In addition, Elly recruited for a Commissioner to table at the “Tacoma Climate Happenings” panel discussion event open to the public on September 24 at SAMI High School. Nikie announced a local environmental documentary, Ancestral Waters, will be shown at the Gig Harbor Film Festival occurring the weekend of September 23-24.

Commission Business Items

Pierce County C-PACER Program – Kyla Wilson, Pierce County Sustainability Office

Kyla presented an overview of the new commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency financing program administered by Pierce County. C-PACER is an innovative financing mechanism to help commercial, industrial, agricultural, and multi-family buildings become more efficient and resilient. The C-PACER program allows owners and developers of eligible properties in Pierce County to obtain long-term financing, at a lower interest rate, for qualifying energy generation, energy efficiency, water conservation or resiliency projects. Property owners who make improvements with C-PACER will build healthier and safer places to live, work, and play. Using C-PACER, the projects below could be financed through an agreement between the property owner and a registered C-PACER lender. Pierce County Sustainable Resources division approves C-PACER applications.

- Energy and water efficiency
- Electrification improvement (eliminates fossil fuel combustion)
- Renewable energy
- Electric vehicle charging
- Seismic hardening
- Fire detection and suppression
- Flood readiness
- Stormwater management
- Energy storage

Pierce Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Planning Letter

Based on last month’s presentation, and additional contextual information from Laura, the Commission unanimously approved a letter to IPS expressing their support for expanded BRT service in Pierce County.

Proposed South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) Letter

The Commission unanimous approved a letter supporting the Planning Commission’s recommendation to implement a moratorium on certain polluting developments in the District, as well as some additional recommendations and considerations.

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
- 10/21 meeting items (tentative):
 - Updated Sustainable Tacoma Commission Climate Action Plan recommendations (letter)
 - Green Economy opportunities update

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:34pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, October 21, 2022, at 5:00pm, on zoom at at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248

Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chairs

Kristin Lynett, Staff / Note Taker