



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: August 17th, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict (in-person), Michael Chang, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Casey Twiggs, Adam Reichenberger, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair, in-person), Laura Svancarek, Lowell Wyse (in-person)

Commission Members Excused: Tony Ivey, Lexi Brewer

Commission Members Absent:

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: LaKecia Farmer (in-person), Jim Parvey (in-person), Kristin Lynett (in-person) – all from Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Ted Richardson from the Office of Strategy. Latasha Wortham from Tacoma Public Utilities.

Members of the Public: present over zoom.

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper, including an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public. Then, Evlondo administered an extended roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of August 17th, 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of July 20th 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

Larry with Forever Green Trails gave an update on their work. No written comment was received before the meeting.

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff gave updates on:

- WA Commerce Solar + Storage grants awards

- NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Grant- Letter of Interest
- Grit City Trees applications open
- Mixed Use/Downtown Design Review Project proposal
- Voting on Eastside Participatory Budget \$1mil project

Strategy Office & Affordable Housing Action Strategy – Presentation

Ted Richardson from the Office of Strategy gave a presentation on the office and their various initiatives including the Affordable Housing Action Strategy and the Equity Index. A commissioner asked about cross jurisdictional work in the Office of Strategy like between Pierce County Transit and City of Tacoma's planning and development. Ted mentioned that was not typical work for the office, more generally across the city's department. Commissioners asked to have someone from the Planning and Development Services department to discuss transit and housing density planning and coordination.

2023 Workplan Overview

Kristin gave an overview of the rest of the year's workplan for the commission. Adam asked about if infrastructure planning can be added to the workplan and Mathew added Environmental Services Asset management. Lowell wanted an OEPS leadership staff update as Jim retires from his director role.

Public Comment

No further public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Commission Updates

Laura gave an update on the Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project letter. Pierce Transit put the project on pause, therefore Laura didn't think it was prudent to write a letter from the commission at the moment.

Tentative Objectives for the Next Meeting (September 21st, 2023)

- CAP Solid Waste Actions update
- Tacoma Power Solar update

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:51 pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday September 21st, 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper III

Margaret Schwertner

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer

LaKecia Farmer, Staff / Note Taker