

CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

To comply with Governor Jay Inslee's <u>Proclamation 20-28.15</u> in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will not be conducted in-person. The meeting can be attended remotely using the following information:

Meeting phone line: (253) 215-8782

Meeting hyperlink: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84328083947?pwd=YXo2N1dURXJhRkxpSHNMMnZhRTIGQT09

Meeting ID: 843-2808-3947 **Meeting password:** 253253

Microphones will be muted and cameras turned off for all meeting participants, except for the Commissioners and staff presenters. Public comments will be accepted in meeting during the time set aside by the agenda. In addition, the Commission encourages community members to submit written comments prior to the meeting by 4:00 p.m. on October 21st. Please e-mail your comments to PBabbitt@cityoftacoma.org, put in the subject line "STC Meeting 10/21/21", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE OCTOBER 21 AGENDA AND SEPTEMBER 16 MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
- VI. GREEN ECONOMY PRESENTATION
- VII. SUSTAINABILITY SMALL GRANTS APPLICATIONS REVIEW & AWARD
- VIII. PROPOSED TREE CODE UPDATES RECOMMENDATION LETTER
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- X. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC)

10/21/2021 Virtual Public Meeting

<u>Welcome</u>

Commissioners

Members of the public

Presenters and staff support:

LaTasha Wortham

Tacoma Public Utilities, Public Affairs and Communication

Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Lauren Choi

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability



Call to Order



Land Acknowledgment

?uk'wədiid čəł ?uhigwəd txwəl tiił ?a čəł ?al tə swatxwixwtxwəd ?ə tiił puyaləpabš. ?a ti dxw?a ti swatxwixwtxwəd ?ə tiił puyaləpabš ?əsłałalil tul'al tudi? tuha?kw. didi?ł ?a həlgwə? ?al ti sləxil. dxwəsłalils həlgwə? gwəl \lambda'uyayus həlgwə? gwəl \lambda'u\lambda'axwad həlgwə? tiił bədədə?s gwəl tix'dxw həlgwə? tiił ?iišəds həlgwə? gwəl \lambda'u?alalus həlgwə? gwəl \lambda'utxwəlšucidəb. xwəla...b ?ə tiił tuyəl'yəlabs.

We gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People. The Puyallup people have lived on this land since the beginning of time. They are still here today. They live, work, raise their children, take care of their community, practice their traditional ways and speak the Twulshootseed language – just as their ancestors did.



Agenda - 10/21/2021

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- XI. ADJOURNMENT

(Motion)



9/16/2021 Commission Minutes Approval





Public Comments



Last Meeting: 9/16

- 1. Hemp Industrial Uses
 - Presentation
- 2. Proposed Tree Codes
 - Presentation
- 3. Climate Action Plan Draft
 - Recommendation Letter
- 4. Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations
 - Recommendation Letter



Commission Notices:

- Chair Brewer anticipates returning in December
- Let Commission know if you can't attend 11/18
- Staff supported CAP Outreach and Green Economy subcommittees since 9/16
 - Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset sub. did not meet
- Tideflats Regulations go to Council 11/9; potential adoption on 11/16
- Climate Action Plan goes to Council 11/9; potential adoption on 11/30



Commission Notices:

- Climate Action Plan Phase III input:
 - 60 input form responses
 - 8 letters
 - 2 virtual public meetings
 - Social media
- OEPS requested mid-biennial budget adjustment funds for:
 - Community food projects
 - Climate justice organizations/leaders
 - Plan for sidewalks, bike routes, curb ramps, Safe Routes to School
 - Retrofit solutions study



Around the City:

- COVID cases and hospitalizations remain high, though deaths have decreased significantly: <u>tpchd.org/healthy-</u> <u>people/human-coronavirus</u>
- Sound Transit South Tacoma Sounder Station Access comments due 10/26: <u>soundersouth.participate.online</u>
- Make A Splash Grants applications due 10/31: <u>cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash</u>
- Hear Council candidates share their views on transportation: <u>downtownonthego.com/about/news-events/council-interviews-2021</u>



Subcommittee Updates

- Potential upcoming subcommittee activities:
 - Green Economy
 - Waste prevention & recycling
- Welcoming Commissioners to report information relevant to the Commission or provide updates on subcommittee activities



Other Business Items

- 1. Green Economy
 - Presentation
- 2. Sustainability Small Grants Applications
 - Review & Award
- 3. Proposed Tree Code Updates
 - Recommendation Letter



Green Economy – Presentation

Presenter: Patrick Babbitt (he/him)

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability



Presentation Purpose

- Consider how to think about "green economy"
- Overview of current & potential City activities
- Discuss potential areas for further STC research or recommendations



Understanding "Green Economy"

Typically involves:

- Social justice/worker-centered definition, which makes "green" focused on environmental justice
- Renewable energy/energy efficiency definition, which makes "green" focused on clean energy sector activities
- Broad environmental definition, which defines green as anything related to environmental protection or quality



Understanding "Green Economy"

WA State Research

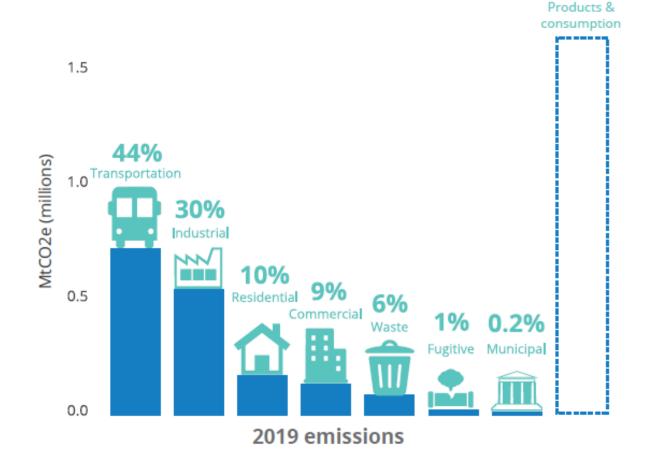
- Finds green jobs in nearly all WA industries and occupational groups – encourages a focus on "green" skills instead
- Key statewide sectors:
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry & Materials
 - Water
 - Maritime
 - Energy
 - Transportation



Potential City Activities

 Emissions by Sector for Tacoma, 2019 (draft)

CURRENT EMISSIONS IN TACOMA



Key City Departments

- Tacoma Public Utilities
- Community & Economic Development Department
- Planning & Development Services Department
- Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability
- Strategic planning staff



- \$100k allocated for Green Economy Strategy study
 - Define sector
 - Build understanding of new job/industry opportunities, region's competitive advantage, community assets, wages for potential jobs, policy/investment solutions
 - Serve as roadmap for future City work
 - Organizations in Pierce County region seeking to collaborate
 - Visit STC in early 2022



- Seeking funds for food innovation district & food hub feasibility study by 2024
 - 2023-2024 biennial budget process
- Developing "blue" maritime innovation, such as: clean/alternative energies, trade/logistics
 - www.Maritimeblue.org
 - Bring experts, industries, and entrepreneurs to the table
 - Leverage City expertise
 - Access capital and financing



- Green hydrogen research & policy
 - Net zero transportation depends on green hydrogen
 - TPU offers new, lower cost tariff to encourage industrial producers of electrofuels to take TPU's carbon-free electricity to produce hydrogen or hydrogen-rich compounds to store electricity for later use
 - Interacts with new state laws, like Clean Energy Transformation Act



Climate Action Plan (Draft) Actions

- 32 Partner to train nature stewards
- 33 Partner to retrain workforce for green economy
- 34 Research food hub feasibility
- 35 Use business taxes to encourage green jobs
- 36 Amend zoning codes to encourage green businesses
- 37 Research & prepare to recruit green industries/jobs
- 38 Increase City staff capacity for green partnerships



Sustainability Small Grants Applications – Review & Award

Commissioners: Matthew Benedict

Staff: Pat Babbitt (he/him), **Kristi Lynett** (she/her)
City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

(Change now to that file)



Proposed Tree Code Updates – Letter

Commissioners: Tony Ivey, Matthew Benedict

(Change now to that file)



Public Comments



Objectives for Next Meeting (Nov. 18)

Meeting items:

- Tacoma Urban Watersheds Plan presentation (tentative)
- Transportation Impact Fees presentation (tentative)
- Green industries or jobs that fit Tacoma presentation (tentative)

Non-meeting items:

 Subcommittees: green economy, waste prevention/recycle reset



Adjournment

(Motion)



						DemoAlignProvideCreatPromoAllow	he project: onstrate a clear benefit to one or with sustainability goals as outli de opportunities for local partnet te multiple and/or long-term beno to local and regional climate of for measurable results and long ify a clear need for financial assi	ned in the City's Environmer rships and community partic efits to the Tacoma commur hange adaptation and mitiga g-term, lasting success?	ntal Action Plan? ipation? ity?	
Basic Information		Fur	Funding		Evaluation Criteria		Discussion			
App. # Organization Name Project Na	ame	Brief Project Description	Request Amount		Amount Funded		Notes Regarding Evaluation Criteria:	Pros	Cons	Utility Comments/Questions/ Concerns
58 St. Vincent de Paul Thrift is Hip		St. Vincent de Paul seeks to publicize donation intake services and advertise "Thrift is hip!" to deliver secondhand items to clients in need. Location: private property - online, on-site at facility in South Tacoma business district. Benefits: Surface water - paint that is donated is to be disposed of through Washington Paint Stewardship program; Solid Waste - clothing, furniture, electronics, and other household items that are donated are to be diverted from landfill and delivered to clients in need or recycled through partners. Donated item sales' proceeds go to vouchers for gas, motels, and rent or utility payments as part of Homelessness Prevention and Basic Needs program. Partners: Washington Paint Stewardship program, Buffalo Gaylord (textile recycling), City Environmental Services. Matching funds/resources: \$1,728 in in-kind or financial support confirmed. Could possibly lead to other matching funds/resources or partnerships through volunteers or other donations. Maintenance: writes that effort is replicable year-to-year without ongoing funding (no details). Timeline: complete by 10/31/2022.	\$5,000	\$	5,000					Utility Benefits: Solid Waste: clothing, furniture, electronics, and other household items that are donated are to be diverted from landfill and delivered to clients in need or recycled through partners Surface Water: paint that is donated is to be disposed of through Washington Paint Stewardship program Wastewater: none
59 Foss Waterway Seaport Pollina Seaport Garden	ator	Seapoir seeks to educate about mainte and environmental scened, environmental restoration, as well as the history of the peoples and environment of Puget Sound. Requested \$5,000 will be used to install a pollinator garden with educational interpretive panels and art that (1) nourishes and shelters pollinators, (2) beautifies the premises and welcomes visitors, and (3) educates visitors about the connection between people and nature. Doubles as a rain garden. Part of a larger Seaport exterior improvement through Spring 2022 with community planting on Earth Day 2022. Location: open space between the Seaport and Dock Street on public property (will need permits). Benefit: Stormwater - restores small space for pollinators, educates community, and Seaport educates around marine/environmental science more widely; Wastewater - opportunity to use and raise awareness about TAGRO. Partners: already engaged WSU Pierce County Master Gardeners and Pierce Conservation District for plant selection, surface water-safe landscaping, and pollinator educational information. Maintenance: will clean-up garden annually in April and have budget for ongoing upkeep. Timeline: installation by July 31, 2022. Matching funds/resources: \$5,500 in in-kind or financial support confirmed, still seeking \$13,000 (\$8,000 if grant of \$5,000 is	\$ 5,000	\$	5,000					Utility Benefits: Solid Waste: none Surface Water: restores small space for pollinators, educates community, and Seaport educates around marine/environmental science more widely Wastewater: use of TAGRO products and public awareness about TAGRO Other comments: use TAGRO Make a Splash grants: Applications are due by Friday, October 31, 2021, for projects to be completed November 2021 through November 2022.
		autoraan.	\$10,000	\$	10,000					
SSG Funds Quarter Remaining To	otal	Awarded	Solid W.	-	W.W.		Surf. W.			
i të i i di i	75,000			2,	9,923	\$	9,924			
	45,230		+ -,			\$	2,111			
3 \$	31,109		\$ 3,066.50			\$	4,433.50			
4	01.100		# OF OO O		10.100.60		40.400.00			
YEAR \$	21,109	53,891	\$ 25,000.00	\$	12,423.00	\$	16,468.00			
**If current quarter grants are funded in	full.	2021 REMAINING	\$ -	\$	12,577.00	\$	8,532.00	\$ 21,109.00		



October 18, 2021

TO: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

RE: Proposed Tree Code Updates – Letter of Support

Dear Chair McCarthy and Members of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee,

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) role is providing community accountability for implementation of Tacoma's Environmental Action Plan and advising City Council on initiatives that are consistent with the City's vision and definition of sustainability. As part of that role, we encourage and recommend that you adopt several updates to Tacoma Municipal Code related to trees. These updates further the equitable development of urban tree canopy by clarifying the Municipal Code, making it consistent with industry standards, protecting and reducing barriers to planting food-bearing trees, and clarifying authority for tree-related decisions.

As you are likely already aware, increasing urban tree canopy benefits the community by making cities more livable and brings numerous economic, social, and health benefits. Trees bring beauty to our neighborhoods and business districts, reduce stress, filter our air, clean our water, and offer shade on hot or sunny days. The benefits of trees are even more important as our climate warms. This past June, nearly 450 Washingtonians and 8 Tacomans died in the record-breaking heat wave. If the City of Tacoma is to follow through on its commitment to community safety, a 30% tree canopy by 2030, and food security, it should update the outdated regulations.

The proposed updates to Tacoma's Municipal Code sections related to trees chapters 9.18, 9.19.030, and 9.20 related to tree and shrub trimming and removal, planting, and view blockage were discussed. In particular, updates to the Code that the STC supports, would remove a prohibition on food-producing trees in the right-of-way, clarify protections for trees in the right-of-way, and update outdated penalty structures for illegal pruning and removal. Since numerous community-led and City Council supported policy initiatives are in support of increasing food security, the City should reflect such support in the Municipal code for food-bearing trees. In addition, the Sustainability Tacoma Commissioners would also like to communicate to the City their desire in improving financial support for low-income households to handle sidewalks damaged by street trees.

Trees are a smart investment. They bring us many ongoing benefits at a reasonable cost, and with a little help they serve us for generations. A significant overhaul of tree regulations can advance our public health, community safety, economic development, and climate change goals all at once. Tree work also gets the City working better across departments and serving people right in their own neighborhoods.

¹ https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/benefitsoftrees

² https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/surface_water/green_stormwater_infrastructure__gsi_

³ https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/08/11/climate/deaths-pacific-northwest-heat-wave.html

⁴ https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/weather-news/article252767443.html

This is impactful – and it is good governance. The Sustainable Tacoma Commission wants to see Tacoma City Council make significant investments in trees.

How we as a City choose to invest in tress is a reflection of how we will treat our city. Will we step up to the challenge and invest in neighborhoods that have been subject to a failure of investment? Will we see that trees aid the cultural and financial lifeblood of our city? Will we protect our people and the environment for generations to come? We believe that these Code changes will continue to bring the city closer to goals supporting the community, its people, and its environment as a whole.

Sincerely,

Matthew Benedict

Matthew Benedict Vice-Chair, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

CC: City of Tacoma Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager Michael P. Slevin III, Environmental Services Department Director



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: October 21, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Margaret Schwertner, Katin Kendrena, Nikie Walters, Tony Ivey, Elly Claus-McGahan, Evlondo Cooper, Adam Reichenberger (joins 5:05pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney

Commission Members Absent:

Ashley Sloan

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Lauren Choi

Members of the Public: Hal Meng, Claudia Riedener

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Vice-Chairperson Matthew Benedict at 5:03pm, including an acknowledgement of the occupied 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 October 21, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda as written. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Nikie Walters

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan

Approval of July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

Seconded by: Elly Claus-McGahan

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

Ayes: All Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan

Public Comment

No written comments were delivered to the Commission for the meeting. No additional comments were made by members of the public present.

Staff Updates

Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison) recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) September meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission. New notices included an update that draft Tideflats Regulations go to Tacoma City Council on November 9 and again for potential adoption on November 16; that the draft Climate Action Plan goes to City Council on November 9 and again for potential adoption on November 30; that Phase III of the Climate Action Plan engagement process has been completed and public input is being processed; and that the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability requested mid-biennial budget adjustment funds for community food projects, climate justice civic training, a street design manual update for active transportation, a building retrofits solutions study, right-of-way tree planting and maintenance programming, and municipal facilities and community building decarbonization studies. These mid-biennial budget adjustment funding requests were made in line with climate action planning. Discussing other important news related to the Tacoma community, staff shared recent Health Department reporting about COVID-19; Sound Transit virtual open houses for public comments on access to the South Tacoma Sounder Station; and that Make A Splash Grants focused on stormwater projects are accepting applications for funding through October 31.

Staff thanked Commissioners for participating in Climate Action Plan outreach and green economy-focused subcommittees to support public engagement and research what the green economy could mean for Tacoma.

Subcommittee Updates

Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison) is sending When2Meet polls to get Commissioner interest and availability for a Waste Prevention and Recycling Subcommittee meeting and a Green Economy Subcommittee meeting.

Evlondo Cooper shared that a Green Economy Subcommittee met to review the most recent Washington State research about green economy sectors.

No further updates were provided by Commissioners regarding other subcommittee activities.

Commission Business Items

Green Economy Presentation – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Commission staff liaison Patrick Babbitt provided an overview of green economy activities at the City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities. He noted that Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability staff are still inventorying local green economy activities, so more may come to light. The presentation began with discussion of definitions for "green economy", which is a challenging term to define or describe given the breadth of economic activities that are "green" or could be made "more green". He noted that Washington State research focuses instead on

"green skills" across different industries; in addition, the State focuses on key sectors where there is significant environmental concern, including: agriculture, forestry and materials, water, maritime, energy, and transportation. In thinking about Tacoma's environment and economic sectors, Patrick encouraged the Commission to consider the 2019 Tacoma community greenhouse gas emissions inventory, which identifies consumption, transportation, industry, buildings and energy, and then waste as the largest sources for local emissions. The City and Tacoma Public Utilities' activities include: developing a Green Economy Strategy study; seeking funds for a food innovation district and food hub feasibility study; developing "blue" maritime innovation; and green hydrogen research and policy. Other upcoming work in the "green economy" could include various Climate Action Plan actions, which are currently still in their draft stages and may be finalized in late November or early December.

Sustainability Small Grants Applications Review & Awards – Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Sustainable Tacoma Commission; Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair) and Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison) walked through the two grant applications from St. Vincent de Paul ("Thrift Is Hip" project) and Foss Waterway Seaport ("Seaport Pollinator Garden" project). Commissioners communicated questions and concerns for applications. Commissioners discussed whether they thought they would approve both awards, to what degree, and with what necessary clarifying questions or conditions. The Commission vote is outlined below:

Small Grants Application Decision - St. Vincent de Paul "Thrift Is Hip" Project

Motion: To award this grant application with \$500 for advertising of secondhand services and full funding (\$5,000 total), if staff confirm the purpose of the vouchers and second chance employment activities and whether they sufficiently contribute benefits to the Surface Water and Solid Waste utilities. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan

Small Grants Application Decision – Foss Waterway Seaport "Seaport Pollinator Garden" Project

Motion: To award this grant application with full funding (\$5,000) with standard Sustainability Small Grants program requirements and encouragement to collect and use rainwater if and where possible. Motion made by Tony Ivey.

Seconded by: Margaret Schwertner

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan

Proposed Tree Code Updates Letter – Tony Ivey and Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Sustainable Tacoma Commission; Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Tony Ivey developed draft content for a proposed Commission letter communicating the Commission's support for and any recommendations related to Municipal Code updates related to trees proposed by staff. Staff will be going to Tacoma City Council in November with their proposed tree code updates. Tony and Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair) worked with Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison) to walk through the letter and discuss content to add based on Commission feedback. Commissioners adopted the letter as written, with final formatting, edits, and specific additions to be made in line with the draft and in-meeting recommendations.

Draft Climate Action Plan Recommendation Letter

Motion: To approve the letter as written with general edits, formatting, and specific substantive additions to be completed in line with Commission recommendations before delivery. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

Seconded by: Margaret Schwertner

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
- Tacoma Urban Watersheds Plan presentation (tentative)
- Transportation Impact Fees presentation (tentative)
- Green Industries and Jobs for Tacoma presentation (tentative)
- Subcommittees: Green Economy, Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset

Adjournment

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

Adjournment of October 21, 2021 Meeting

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

Seconded by: Nikie Walters

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney, Ashley Sloan

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, November 18, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Matthew Benedict, Vice-Chair	
Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker	