



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

VIRTUAL MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

To comply with Governor Jay Inslee's [Proclamation 20-28.15](#) and Tacoma City Council's [Emergency Rule No. 4](#) 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 September 16th. Please e-mail your comments to PBabbitt@cityoftacoma.org, put in the subject line "STC Meeting 9/16/21", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE SEPTEMBER 16 AGENDA AND AUGUST 19 MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
- VI. HEMP INDUSTRIAL USES – PRESENTATION
- VII. URBAN FORESTRY PROPOSED TREE CODE UPDATES – PRESENTATION
- VIII. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – RECOMMENDATION LETTER
- IX. TIDEFLATS NON-INTERIM REGULATIONS – RECOMMENDATION LETTER
- X. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- XI. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC)

9/16/2021 Virtual Public Meeting

Welcome

Commissioners

Members of the public

Presenters and staff support:

LaTasha Wortham

Tacoma Public Utilities, Public Affairs and Communication

Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Mike Carey

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Bonny Jo Peterson

IHEMPAWA



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Call to Order



Land Acknowledgment

ʔuk'wədiid čət ʔuhigwəd txwəl tiit ʔa čət ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš. ʔa ti dxwʔa ti swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš ʔəstətətłil tul'al tudiʔ tuhaʔkw. didiʔt ʔa həlgwəʔ ʔal ti sləxłil. dxwəstətłils həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uyayus həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uλ'axwəd həlgwəʔ tiit bədədəʔs gwəl tixdxw həlgwəʔ tiit ʔiisəds həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uʔalalus həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'utxwəlšucidəb. xwəla ···b ʔə tiit tuyəl'yələbs.

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.



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Agenda – 9/16/2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. **APPROVE SEPTEMBER 16 AGENDA & AUGUST 19 MINUTES**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **STAFF UPDATES**
- V. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**
- VI. **HEMP INDUSTRIAL USES – PRESENTATION**
- VII. **URBAN FORESTRY PROPOSED TREE CODE UPDATES – PRESENTATION**
- VIII. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – RECOMMENDATION LETTER**
- IX. **TIDEFLATS NON-INTERIM REGULATIONS – RECOMMENDATION LETTER**
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- XI. **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Motion)



Office of
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8/19/2021 Commission Minutes Approval

(Motion)



Office of
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and Sustainability

Public Comments



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Staff Updates

Last Meeting: 8/19

1. Proposed Tree Codes
 - Staff Updates
2. Climate Action Plan Draft
 - Presentation & Discussion
3. Heat & Smoke Preparedness
 - Recommendation Letter



Staff Updates

Commission Notices:

- Sustainability Small Grants applications due 9/30: cityoftacoma.org/esgrants
- Chair Brewer anticipates returning in December
- Let Commission know if you can't attend 10/21
- CAP public comment: October 2021
 - Meetings: 10/9 and 10/12
 - Staff support for frontline community member participation



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Staff Updates

Around the City:

- COVID cases and hospitalizations remain high: tpchd.org/healthy-people/human-coronavirus
- Sunrise Tacoma's Green New Deal proposal: sunrisemovementtacoma.org/tgnd
- Shift Zero's Decarbonization Pledge for Elected Officials
- Make A Splash Grants applications due 10/31: cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash
- Learn more and give input about Tacoma's watersheds: 9/25, 9/28, or by 10/15 thru www.Tacomaurbanwatersheds.com



Office of
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Subcommittee Updates

- Upcoming subcommittee activities:
 - CAP Outreach: pending
 - Green Economy: pending
 - Waste prevention & recycling: scheduling for 10/11-15
- Welcoming Commissioners to report on subcommittee activities, possibly including:
 - Tidelands Non-Interim Regulations
 - Climate Action Planning
 - Planning Commission
 - Transportation Commission
 - Tidelands Subarea Plan
 - Other?



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Other Business Items

1. Hemp Industrial Uses
 - Presentation
2. Urban Forestry Proposed Tree Code Updates
 - Presentation
3. Climate Action Plan
 - Recommendation Letter
4. Tidelands Non-Interim Regulations
 - Recommendation Letter



Hemp Industrial Uses – Presentation

Presenter: Bonny Jo Peterson

Industrial Hemp Association of Washington (IHEMPAWA)

(Change now to that file)



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and Sustainability

Proposed Tree Code Updates – Presentation

Presenter: Mike Carey (he/him)

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

(Change now to that file)



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and Sustainability

Climate Action Plan – Recommendation Letter

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)



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and Sustainability

Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations – Recommendation Letter

**Commissioners: Nikie Walters, Matthew Benedict,
Evlondo Cooper, Elly Claus-McGahan**

Staff: Pat Babbitt (he/him)

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

(Change now to that file)



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and Sustainability

Public Comments



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Objectives for Next Meeting (Oct. 21)

Meeting items:

- Proposed tree codes – recommendation letter (tentative)
- Sustainability Small Grants applications – quarterly review
- Green industries or jobs that fit Tacoma – presentation (tentative)

Non-meeting items:

- Subcommittees: CAP outreach, green economy, waste prevention/recycle reset
- CAP public comment: October (meetings: 10/9, 10/12)



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Adjournment

(Motion)



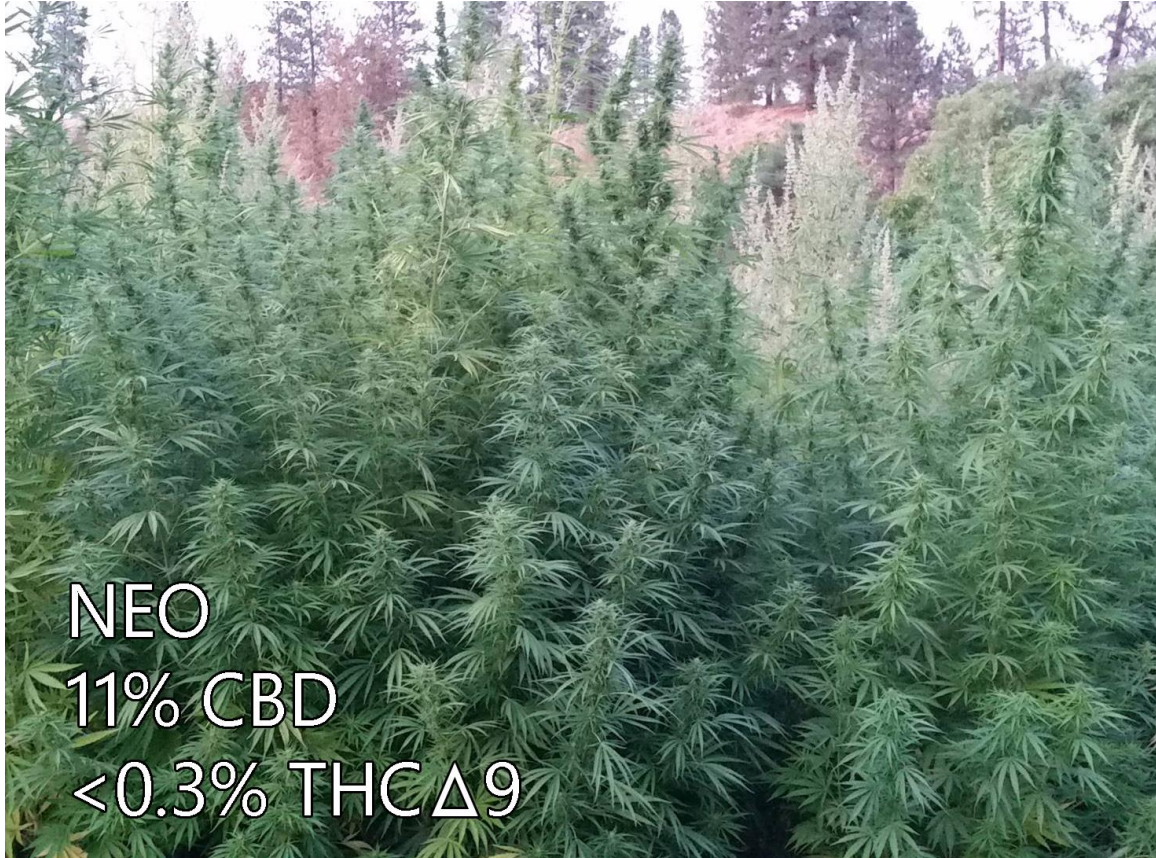
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Industrial Hemp Association of WA

www.ihempawa.com
info@ihempawa.com

What is Hemp.....

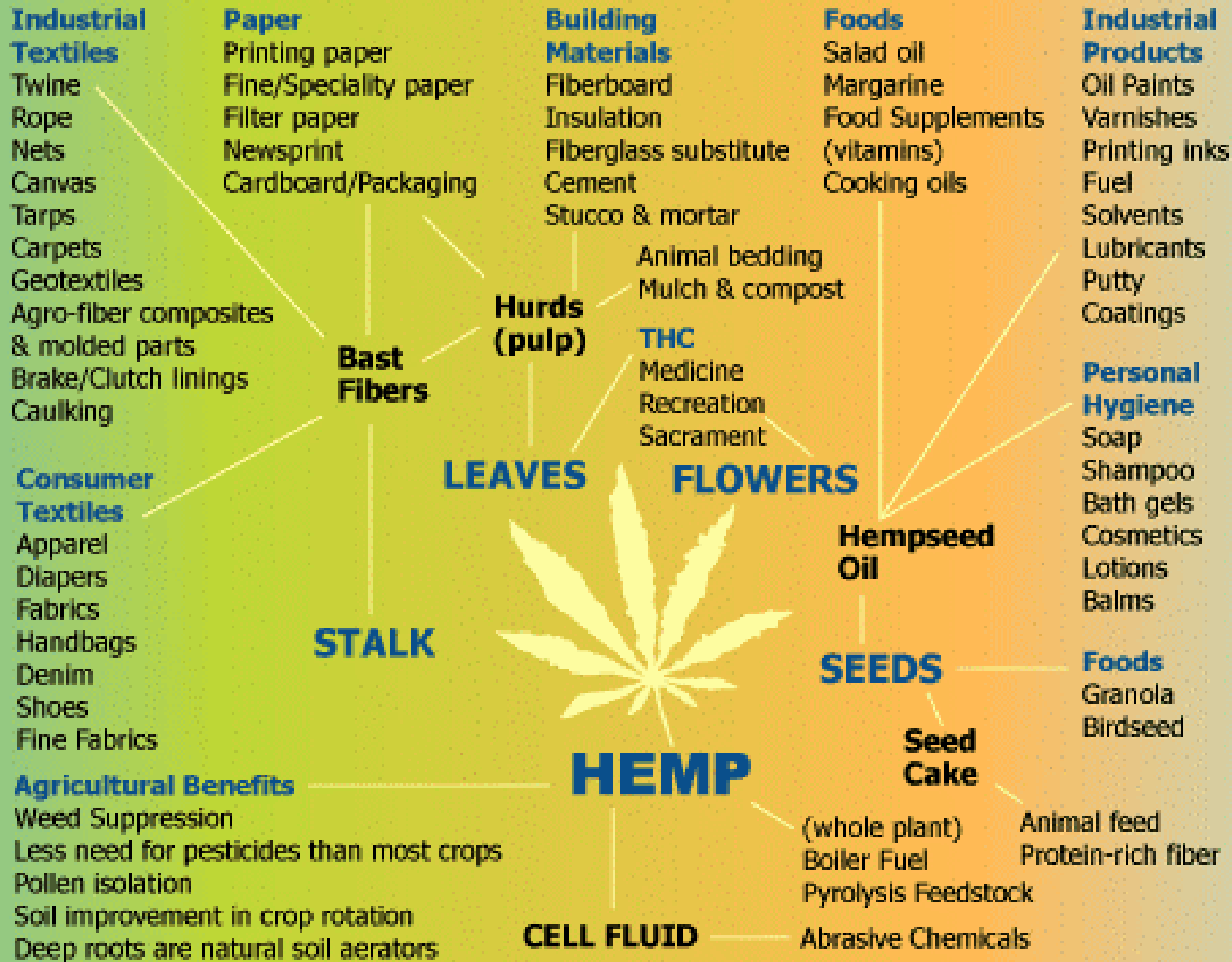


A plant in the Cannabis L Sativa Family

Does not contain high THC like "Marijuana"

An Ancient Plant used for food, housing, clothing and medicine

MODERN USES FOR THE HEMP PLANT





Fiber and Food 100-200,000 acres

Cannabinoid Oils 5-100 acres

Flower 1-5 acres





Port of
Tacoma

State & Local Hemp Commerce Resources

- State & Regional Department of Agriculture Marketing Programs
- State Department of Commerce
- Local Economic Development Counsel
- Local Small Business Development Center
- Local Port District
- Local Chamber of Commerce
- Local World Trade Center



Industrial Hemp Association of WA

www.ihempawa.com
info@ihempawa.com



Right-of-Way Trees: Municipal Code Update

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

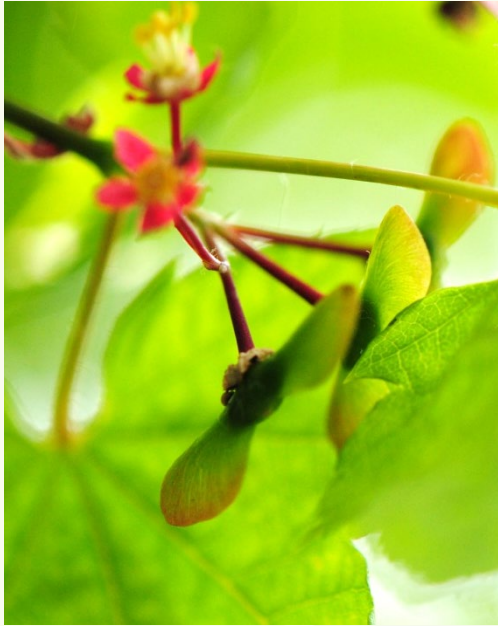
September 16, 2021

Michael Carey; Urban Forest Program Manager

Ryan Hebert; Urban Forestry Analyst

City of Tacoma; Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability





Overview

- Context for Proposed TMC update
- TMC Title 9 Right-of-Way Code Proposed to be Amended
 - 9.18: Trees and Shrubs – Trimming and Removal *(1927)*
 - 9.19: Trees and Shrubs – Planting *(1960)*
 - 9.20: Trees and Shrubs – View Blockage *(1990)*
- Issues to be discussed:
 - Prohibition of Food Producing Trees
 - Clarification for Tree Protections
 - Penalties for Tree Violations

WHY: Title 9 Code Updates

Big Picture

1. Fix outdated and unclear requirements for planting, pruning, and removal
2. Remove inconsistencies with industry standards and adopted City policies

Specific Issues

1. Remove prohibition on food-producing trees in the ROW
2. Clarify protections for trees in the ROW
3. Update antiquated penalty structure for illegal pruning and removal



Adopted Policy Support

(2010) Urban Forest Policy Element

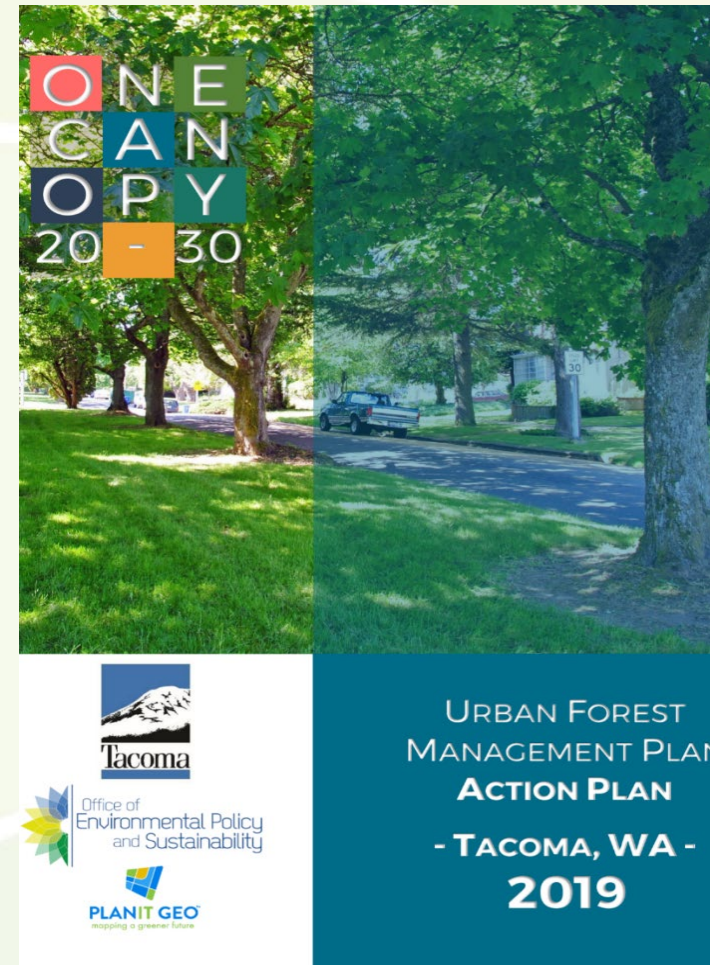
- 30% Tree Canopy Goal

(2016) Environmental Action Plan

- Improve tree regulations for the ROW and private property

(2019) Urban Forest Management Plan

- Specific actions adopted to reach a healthy, sustainable urban forest, with a focus on addressing historical inequities in urban forestry services





Title 9 Code Update Process

- L> Review of Existing Code Language
- L> Staff Discussions Across Departments
 - L> ROW Code Benchmarking Research
 - L> In-Depth Analysis & Staff Recommendations

STC Feedback
9/16/21

IPS Presentation
11/10/21

Anticipated Council
1st Reading Dec.

Anticipated
Adoption Dec.

ISSUE #1 - Food Producing Trees

Background:

- Food insecurity is an ongoing issue, exacerbated during COVID-19
- Numerous City Council- and community-supported policy initiatives emphasize the importance of expanding food security
- Under TMC 9.19.030, food producing trees are prohibited from the ROW



Unpermitted Apple Tree in North Tacoma ROW (2020)

ISSUE #1 - Food Producing Trees

Recommendation:

- Update TMC 9.19.030 to remove fruit and nut trees from the Types of Trees Prohibited list
- Regulate the planting of fruit and nut trees in ROW through the current process used for street trees
- Develop “right tree” standards, and facilitate connections to Harvest Pierce County Gleaning program



Harvest Pierce Co. fruit gleaning

ISSUE #2 – ROW Tree Protections

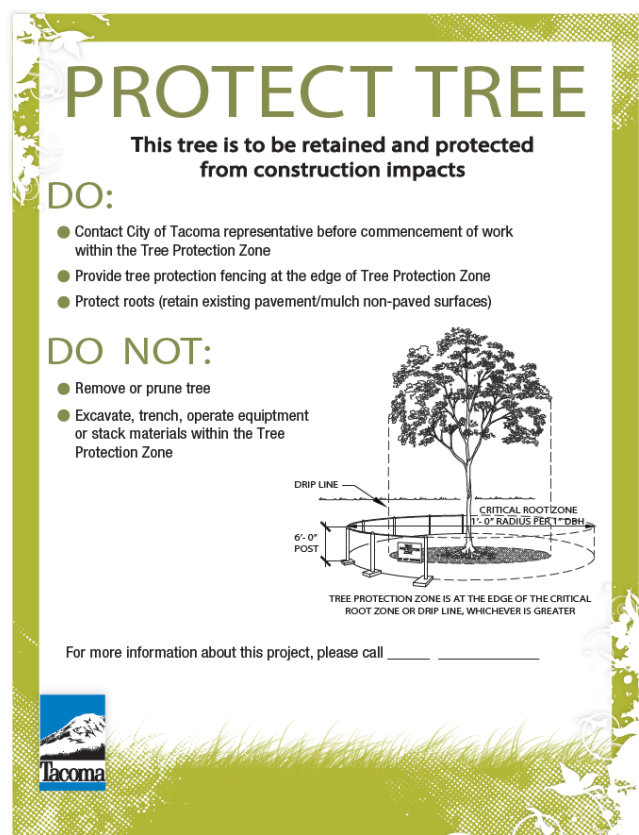


Topped Mature Trees in Tacoma

Background

- Adopted Comprehensive Plan goal of 30% tree canopy cover by 2030
- 2018 assessment puts Tacoma at 20% tree canopy, the lowest in the Puget Sound region
- TMC 9.18 Trees & Shrubs – Trimming & Removal (*c.1927*) was adopted for the purpose of:
 - protecting trees within the ROW from illegal removal, destruction, and cutting;
 - guarding trees against damage from construction work; and,
 - addressing public safety through requiring the removal of trees and shrubs obstructing the sidewalk or street.

ISSUE #2 – ROW Tree Protections



PROTECT TREE

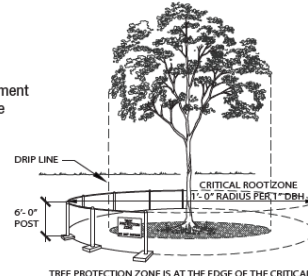
This tree is to be retained and protected from construction impacts

DO:


- Contact City of Tacoma representative before commencement of work within the Tree Protection Zone
- Provide tree protection fencing at the edge of Tree Protection Zone
- Protect roots (retain existing pavement/mulch non-paved surfaces)

DO NOT:

- Remove or prune tree
- Excavate, trench, operate equipment or stack materials within the Tree Protection Zone



For more information about this project, please call _____



Recommendation

- Explicit prohibition of “tree topping”
- Update permit approval conditions based on tree health and public safety, not aesthetics.
- Protection of trees during construction and infrastructure repair/replacement/installation
- Create Heritage Tree Program for the public to identify invaluable trees in our community on both public and private property

Tacoma Tree Protection Signage

ISSUE #2 – ROW Tree Protections



Dead tree removal Osprey Drive NE

Discussion

- ROW trees should be protected unless it can be demonstrated that they are:
 - a public hazard, dead, damaged, or diseased;
 - in direct conflict with unavoidable construction; or,
 - an inappropriate tree for the site (e.g. large species under overhead power or in a small planting area).
- Other thoughts from the Commission?

ISSUE #3 – ROW Tree Violations

Background:

- Penalties for illegal tree pruning & removal (*TMC 9.18; circa 1927*) are not enough to deter illegal tree pruning/removal, nor commensurate to staff time to pursue violation.
- Illegal tree pruning & removals for view enhancement (*TMC 9.20; circa 1990*) includes a penalty fee structure for “the value of the vegetation pruned or removed plus \$1,000.00”.



“Lions Tailed” Tree

ISSUE #3 – ROW Tree Violations

Recommendation:

- Standardize penalty structure for ROW tree infractions.
- Adopt industry standard plant appraisal methods from ISA Guide for Plant Appraisal
- Use appraisal value, cost of assessment, and staff time for enforcement to determine penalty amount
- Adopt “Violation Review Criteria” similar to Title 13.05.150



Tree Assessment, Sunshine Tree Care

ISSUE #3 – ROW Tree Violations

Discussion: 13.05.150 Violation Review Criteria

Each violation requires a review of all relevant facts in order to determine the appropriate enforcement response

1. Severity, duration, & impact
2. Compliance history
3. Economic benefit gained
4. Intent or negligence demonstrated
5. Other circumstances



ROW Tree Violation



Next Steps

STC Feedback

9/16/21 

IPS Presentation

11/10/21 

Anticipated Council

1st Reading Dec. 

Anticipated

Adoption Dec.



Right-of-Way Trees: Municipal Code Update

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

September 16, 2021

Michael Carey; Urban Forest Program Manager

Ryan Hebert; Urban Forestry Analyst

City of Tacoma; Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability





City of Tacoma
Office of Sustainability

September 16, 2021

TO: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

RE: Tacoma Climate Action Plan Letter of Support

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

As you know, the Sustainable Tacoma Commission was created by Tacoma City Council to advise council members and staff on sustainability initiatives, as well as bring community accountability, transparency, and vigilance to the long-term implementation of Tacoma's Environmental Action Plan, the City's second climate action plan, and other sustainability policies.

Recommendation: Adopt and Fully Fund, Staff, and Implement the Draft Tacoma Climate Action Plan

We write now to communicate our enthusiastic support for the draft Tacoma Climate Action Plan (CAP) developed through a robust year-long engagement and technical process involving staff, stakeholders, and community members. The Sustainable Tacoma Commission advises Tacoma City Council to adopt and fully fund, fully staff, and fully implement the Climate Action Plan. The CAP charts a course for the City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities to lead our community in equitable, transformative climate action. Much more than an emissions reduction plan, the CAP presents us with the opportunity to improve community resilience and advance social justice with investments in healthy and affordable housing, a reliable multimodal transportation system, and a green economy.

There is action the City can take immediately on its course to fully fund, staff, and implement the Climate Action Plan. As the City approaches its mid-biennial budget adjustment process, we recommend that the City fully fund (1) the Decarbonization Studies called for by the [Decarbonization Resolution](#) (RES 40776) and (2) food growing projects focused on the right-of-way. We also recommend that the City immediately prioritize federal recovery funding and City mid-biennial budget adjustment funding for implementation of high priority CAP actions that are effective immediate investments in our equitable, climate-safe future.

This Climate Action Plan Requires a New Pace and Scale for Tacoma Climate Action

The CAP builds on our Environmental Action Plan, which spanned 2016-2020, as well as our 2019 [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) and 2021 Decarbonization Resolution.^{1 2 3} The CAP commits our community to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and prepare for climate impacts we are experiencing now or anticipate soon. Now-annual wildfires and extreme heat waves remind us that, while we must plan for the long-term, climate change is burdening our community today – and we must modernize and change our municipal operations, services, and community at a transformative pace and scale or risk catastrophic climate change. Climate impacts and investments we need to make as a community tend to burden our most vulnerable community members most – particularly low-income households, our unhoused neighbors, outdoor workers, kids, seniors, pregnant people, low-income households, BIPOC community members, and people with breathing or heart issues. Their wellbeing is in our trust.

¹ https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/enviro/Sustain/Environmental_Action_Plan_2020_Progress_Report_FINAL.pdf

² https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/city_council_approves_climate_emergency_resolution

³ <https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/enviro/Sustain/Resolution-No-40776-Decarbonization.pdf#:~:text=harm%20to%20all%20people%2C%20including%20the%20residents%20of,operations%20carbon-neutral%20by%202050%2C%E2%80%9D%20and%20requested%20the%20City>

Call for Visionary City Leadership and True Commitment on Climate Action

Implementation of this Plan will test the resolve of Tacoma City Council to meet the public need of this moment and generation. It will test the commitment of City of Tacoma staff to implementing democratic policy commitments for the wellbeing of our community. If we have reason to question what government can deliver today – what will they say tomorrow, or in ten years? We must not hesitate or fall short. The scientific, moral, and economic cases are clear. We insist only a transformative approach to climate action will demonstrate our commitment to good governance and making hard decisions because they are the right decisions.

In particular, we want to call your attention to the following elements of the Plan:

- Please review Appendix 7 of the Climate Action Plan to familiarize yourself with input the City received from frontline community members about their priorities
- Please review the “Stories from 2030” in the Climate Action Plan that depict a better Tacoma – transformed to be more equitable and low carbon by CAP investments

In addition, we wish to call for the City to:

- Please fully fund through the mid-biennial budget adjustment process (1) the Decarbonization Studies and (2) food growing projects focused on the right-of-way.
- Please immediately fund high priority CAP actions through federal recovery funding or the mid-biennial budget adjustment process

Basis for Our Recommendations & Who We Are

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission bases its recommendations to Council on its deep involvement in development of the Climate Action Plan. The Commission received monthly updates and made recommendations on plan development and engagement processes at regular Commission meetings. Commission subcommittees researched and analyzed several other municipal climate action plans and made recommendations incorporated into the CAP. Commissioners lent their expertise to CAP technical teams, volunteering insights to develop climate actions that reduce our community’s emissions, prepare us for climate impacts, and offer various co-benefits to public health, economic opportunities, or social equity. Commissioners have communicated Commission priorities to Council Members, including the need for our City and community to rapidly and equitably transition away from fossil fuel use; focus on decarbonizing our buildings and vehicles by electrifying them; and prioritize external funding (such as federal recovery funding) for green, equitable, shovel-ready jobs.

Beyond our participation in the Plan development process, we want to emphasize the professional and civic expertise that we volunteer to better advise the Council. Our members work, have training, or engage civically in energy systems management, waste/material management, ocean and marine sciences, climate science and policy, governance, sustainable business practices, public health, food policy and programming, environmental justice, and research and advocacy in climate planning and action. We work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. We are Tacoma community members. We understand this issue. The time for transformative climate action is now. Again, the Sustainable Tacoma Commission advises Tacoma City Council to adopt and fully fund, fully staff, and fully implement the Climate Action Plan.

Red Alert on Climate: More Science, More Certainty, More Urgency

The latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) [report](#) on climate change echoes the science, conclusions, and need for aggressive actions detailed in our own Tacoma Climate Action Plan: [2021 is a “make or break year” for climate action](#), this is “[code red for humanity](#)”. Tacoma is a small and significant part of the larger American and global community – we must do our part in taking climate action [before catastrophic climate change becomes irreversible](#). It is a matter of our privilege and to our advantage to act now. Because we did not invest adequately in our 2016 Environmental Action Plan, the resources required to fully implement this Climate Action Plan are substantially greater. Failure to fully implement this Climate Action Plan will make it so future actions and investments will need to be even more rapid and costly. The City of Tacoma and our wider community must invest boldly now to get on track for our 2030 climate goal, and then sustain momentum through 2050.

Sincerely,

Matthew Benedict

Matthew Benedict
Vice-Chair, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

CC: City of Tacoma Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability
Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities
Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager
Michael P. Slevin III, Environmental Services Department Director
Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services Department Director
Kurtis Kingsolver, Public Works Department Director
Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office



City of Tacoma
Office of Sustainability

September 16, 2021

TO: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability committee

RE: Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Non-Interim Regulations

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

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC) is writing a third letter in regards to the Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations proposed by the Tacoma Planning Commission. This letter is in response to the motions proposed by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee (IPS) on August 30, 2021. In our advisory role, STC has provided necessary input about how the City can address the climate crisis while utilizing a climate justice and environmental justice lens. We work to hold the City accountable for its own goals as stated in the 2015 Environmental Action Plan¹, the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution², the 2021 Decarbonization Resolution³, and the upcoming Climate Action Plan⁴ to be adopted this year. In particular, the Climate Action Plan has the stated goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

The Non-interim Tideflats Regulations⁵ adds to this body of policy proposals. Notably, the regulations would end the possibility of fossil fuel expansions and create the opportunity for zero carbon fuels to develop on the Tideflats. However, the proposed motions from IPS create some space for the expansion of fossil fuels at existing facilities and “low carbon” fuels, which may still have high fossil fuel content. The August 2021 United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 report⁶ states that every ton of CO₂ adds to global warming, and every small amount of global warming increases the intensity and the frequency of heatwaves like the June 2021 Heat Dome, droughts such as the unprecedented drought in eastern Washington, and torrential downpours that bring subsequent flooding as we have seen in the United States and Europe this summer⁷. Contemplating an increase in fossil fuels at the Port of

¹ https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/enviro/Sustain/Environmental_Action_Plan_2020_Progress_Report_FINAL.pdf

² https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/city_council_approves_climate_emergency_resolution
³ RESOLUTION NO. 40776

⁴ https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/2020-21_climate_action_planning

⁵ Tideflats and Industrial Land Use

⁶ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

⁷ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf, SPM 21

Tacoma is in opposition to the City's own goals and agreed upon Findings of Fact⁸ that the Planning Commission established to guide the development of the Non-interim Tideflats Regulations.

We appreciate the efforts of Chair McCarthy of the IPS for having created the space for dialogue between the fossil fuel stakeholders and other community stakeholders, including STC representation. It led to a greater understanding of the concerns on both sides about what needs to happen during the transition away from high dependence on fossil fuels towards a future of zero reliance on fossil fuels.

However, STC does not support the idea that there should be an upward bump in the use of fossil fuels during this transition before we hit the down slope. The down slope needs to begin now. From our March 3, 2021 letter to the IPS Committee:

We believe there is a vibrant short- and long-term economic future in Tacoma's port that is not dependent on fossil fuels, and shifting focus at this time to adding green industries and green jobs will position Tacoma to benefit as an early adopter of the global transition away from fossil fuels.

The Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations are intended to be a temporary pause on any development at the Tideflats until the Subarea Planning process is completed. The Puyallup Tribe participates in the Subarea Planning process as a government, which it cannot do with the Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations. To respect their land, their treaty rights, and their interests, it is necessary that the Regulations serve their purpose as a true pause with no new expansions of fossil fuels. By adding the Puyallup Tribe flag to Tacoma City Council chambers, the City has clearly indicated it is invested in protecting tribal rights and maintaining a strong partnership with the tribe.

Recommendations on the IPS Committee Motions

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission suggests these recommendations to ensure the final Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations are maintained in purpose and goal as reflected in the version submitted to the City Council for public hearing on April 27, 2021.

MOTION: 1. New and Expanded Cleaner Fuel Facilities Permitted

The focus here should be reducing GHG emissions over the life cycle of the fuel, which is in-line with the Washington State Clean Fuel Standard legislation that seeks to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels over the next 15 years.

⁸[Tideflats and Industrial Land Use](#), p.9

We ask that:

1. Within (6) months following the full implementation of the Washington State Clean Fuel Standard regulations, the City Council will review the definition of Cleaner Fuel Infrastructure in this amendment.
2. Once the Washington State Clean Fuel Standard regulations are in place, the only fuels included should be those that are EPA approved and listed under the RFS and those meeting the new WA state standards. The other independently listed fuels should be removed. Hydrogen and electricity produced carbon-free would fall under zero carbon fuels.
3. In the interim, fully define renewable diesel.
4. Remove natural gas and propane from the interim listing. Until the industry is able to deal with leakage along the supply chain, natural gas as a transportation fuel is no better than gasoline in terms of GHG emissions.⁹ It is not low-carbon.
5. Remove E85 and ethanol blends. These are high content fossil fuel products and are currently being produced in adequate amounts. There should be no expansion carve outs for E85 and ethanol blends.
6. Include in the amendment no added container storage for fossil fuels for any purpose.

MOTION 2. Petroleum Fuel Facility Projects for Maintenance, Safety, Security, or Required to Meet Regulatory Changes

We agree with this amendment, though it is our understanding this is already part of the Non-Interim Tidelands Regulations¹⁰. Permitting should be conscientious that safety, security, and other maintenance projects are not used to expand fossil fuel capacities.

MOTION 3. National Security Petroleum Fuel Facilities

This motion is redundant and is covered by the Federal Defense Production Act. If the City Council chooses to include this motion, then we strongly support the addition of the letter requirement coming directly from the Department of Defense asking for an expansion for local military installations; also, the following should be added:

Any expansion in fossil fuel facilities at the request of the Department of Defense may not be repurposed at a later time for fossil fuels for civilian commercial use.

⁹ <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.energyfuels.5b01063>

¹⁰ [Tidelands and Industrial Land Use](#), p. 47

MOTION 4. Projects which Have Undergone Environmental Review and Mitigated Impacts

STC interprets this motion as supporting an expansion of the PSE LNG plant under a loose accord reached in 2015. Until permitting for such an expansion is done, the City is under no legal obligation to support the expansion. In light of the “code red” urgency expressed by the United Nations in the IPCC report mentioned above, as well as the City’s own stated goals of moving towards a zero carbon pathway as described above, the 2015 thinking needs to be revised. Any fossil fuel projects that are not already in the permitting stage should be revisited under the new Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations. This will provide consistency for all businesses.

MOTIONS 5, 6, and 7

STC supports the content of Motions 5 through 7.

MOTION 8: High-Impact Uses

Our understanding of the purpose of this category is for facilities that present a high hazard to mitigate for that hazard in advance in order to mitigate risks to the public and so that the City can take effective action in the case of an accident or natural catastrophe; the LNG plant is such a facility. If the proposed Enhanced SEPA accomplishes this during the permitting process, then removing the category would not increase the risk to the City, the Tribe, and those who live and work in the Tideflats. If that does not appear to be the case, then this category should be maintained.

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission appreciates the hard work you do to keep Tacoma on track to become the clean, vibrant, inclusive, and safe-for-all city it can be. Adopting the Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations as envisioned above will be another step towards reducing our emissions and setting the stage for our green economy.

Thank you.

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
Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services Department Director
Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office
Tacoma City Council



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Emily Pinckney (leaves 7:04pm), Margaret Schwertner, Katin Kendrena (leaves 7:04pm), Elly Claus-McGahan, Nikie Walters, Tony Ivey (leaves 7:04pm), Adam Reichenberger (joins 5:55pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Lexi Brewer (Chair), Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan,

Commission Members Absent:

Gabe Moaalii

Others Present:

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

Guest Presenters: Bonny Jo Peterson from Industrial Hemp Association of Washington; Michael Carey and Ryan Hebert from City of Tacoma Environmental Services Department

Members of the Public: DeeBee Cooper, Carol Ann Mangan, Desire Douglass, Lowell Wyse, Ricky Clousing, Deb Olsen, Barbara Church, John Carlton, Theresa Evans

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Vice-Chairperson Matthew Benedict at 5:02pm, 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 September 16, 2021 Meeting Agenda

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

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Lexi Brewer (Chair), Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Gabe Moaalii

Approval of July 15, 2021 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: Adam Reichenberger, Lexi Brewer (Chair), Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Gabe Moalii

Public Comment

Lowell Wyse, a member of the public, communicated his support for strong City tree policies and that he hopes the City develops a clear goal to take charge of maintenance for Tacoma's street trees. No public comment was delivered in writing.

Staff Updates

Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison) recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) August meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission. New notices included an update that the Sustainability Small Grants program is seeking quarterly applicants through September 30 and that the draft Climate Action Plan public comment period is being finalized soon for October, with virtual public meetings scheduled on October 9 and 14. Discussing other important news related to the Tacoma community, staff shared recent Health Department reporting that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations remain high and then pointed meeting attendees to informational resources; also, staff shared that staff have been able to compare Sunrise Tacoma's Green New Deal proposal to the City's draft Climate Action Plan since the August Commission meeting; then, staff shared that Make A Splash Grants focused on stormwater projects are accepting applications for funding through October 31; finally, staff communicated opportunities to learn about Tacoma's watersheds and give input about an Urban Watershed Management Plan via www.TacomaUrbanWatersheds.com. At the Commission's request, Patrick will send documents that compare the Green New Deal proposal to the draft Climate Action Plan.

Jim Parvey communicated that staff will go to Tacoma City Council's Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee to discuss the draft Climate Action Plan on September 22 and Commissioners are welcome, like other members of the public, to be there to listen or give comment.

Staff thanked Commissioners for quickly organizing a Tidelands Non-Interim Regulations-focused subcommittee to research and develop a draft letter of recommendation regarding the regulations.

Subcommittee Updates

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

Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair) noted that the Tidelands Non-Interim Regulations subcommittee formed this week to research and develop a draft letter of recommendation to be considered for adoption this meeting. In addition, he reminded the Commission about previous discussions about forming a Green Economy-focused subcommittee or Climate Action Plan outreach-focused subcommittee. Patrick will support these subcommittees.

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

Commission Business Items

Hemp Industrial Uses Presentation – Bonny Jo Peterson, Industrial Hemp Association of Washington (IHEMPAWA)

Bonny Jo Peterson described her organization, hemp, its distinction from cannabis, its multiple uses, and industrial or other activities using hemp today in Washington State. Multiple universities in the state have researched hemp and its uses. Hemp can be used as a textile, paper, building material, industrial product, hygiene product, or food. It has agricultural and other benefits. She communicated that she hopes the Commission and staff recommend cultivation and production of hemp and hemp products as a strategy in the City's strategic plans and efforts to foster a green economy, reduce emissions, and support a healthier environment. In response to Commission questions, Bonny Jo communicated that hemp requires about 20% of the water demands of cotton or corn; in addition, she shared that, generally, hemp is considered a low-energy product when it is refined into consumer or industrial goods.

Proposed Tree Code Updates Presentation – Michael Carey and Ryan Hebert, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Michael Carey and Ryan Hebert introduced proposed updates to Tacoma's Municipal Code sections related to trees with the purpose of clarifying Code, making Code consistent with industry standards, protecting and reducing barriers to planting trees, and clarifying authority for tree-related decisions. Chapters 9.18, 9.19, and 9.20 related to tree and shrub trimming and removal, planting, and view blockage were discussed. In particular, updates to the Code 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. Staff will go to Tacoma City Council's Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee on November 10 and to City Council in December. Commissioners asked staff about potential partnerships with Harvest Pierce County's gleaning program, with which staff already coordinates. In addition, Commissioners communicated an interest in the City improving financial support for low-income households to handle sidewalks damaged by street trees. Overall, the Commission emphasized it wishes for the City to plant and preserve many more trees, in line with its policy goals. Staff communicated that the Commission may want to consider drafting a letter of support for these Code updates as they approach City Council. Commissioner Tony Ivey will begin developing a draft.

Draft Climate Action Plan Recommendation Letter – Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair) and Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Lexi Brewer (Chair) and Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair) met with staff to outline content for a letter of support for the draft Climate Action Plan. Matthew and Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison) discussed section of the draft letter of support, including its primary recommendation to fully fund, fully staff, and fully implement the Climate Action Plan. In addition, in the letter the Commission asks the City to use the mid-biennial budget adjustment process to fund Decarbonization Studies called for in the Decarbonization Resolution and use federal recovery funding or other funds to immediately begin funding high priority CAP actions. Commissioners discussed the importance of emphasizing that climate action is more difficult and expensive after failing to fully implement the preceding Environmental Action Plan; if the City fails to fully implement the new Climate Action Plan, climate action will become even more

challenging and costly. Commissioners adopted the letter as written, with final formatting and edits 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 and formatting to be completed in line with Commission recommendations before delivery. Motion made by Nikie Walters.

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), Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Gabe Moaalii

Draft Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations Recommendation Letter – Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair)

Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair) quickly reviewed the contents of the draft letter of recommendation regarding the Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations. The draft builds on Commission letters completed in February and March 2021. The letter focuses recommendations on amendments to the Non-Interim Regulations that may be considered by Tacoma City Council. Generally, the Commission’s stance is that Council should adopt regulations that maintain a path for a low-carbon future for Tacoma by not allowing expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.

Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations Recommendation Letter

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

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Lexi Brewer (Chair), Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Gabe Moaalii

Public Comment

Community member Carol Ann Mangan communicated their support for hemp as a potential low-impact industry for Tacoma. Community member DeeBee Cooper encouraged the Commission to look into the South Tacoma Economic Green Zone moving through the Planning Commission in 2022-2023.

Community member Theresa Evans commented their support for fruit and nut trees in the right-of-way.

Community member Barbara Church asked for further clarification of technical terms appearing in Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations amendments. Staff for this Commission directed Barbara to City staff with technical knowledge of the regulations amendments.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
- Sustainability Small Grants Applications – Review & Award

- Green Economy – Presentation
- Proposed Tree Code Updates – Letter of Support

Adjournment

There being no further business and following a loss of quorum at 7:04pm, the Vice-Chair declared the Commission adjourned at 7:20pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, October 21, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Matthew Benedict, Vice-Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker