



**City of Tacoma
Sustainable Tacoma Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 20th, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict (in-person), Lexi Brewer (in-person), Mike Chang (in-person), Evlondo Cooper, (Co-Chair), Adam Reichenberger, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair), Laura Svencarek, Casey Twiggs, Lowell Wise (in-person)

Commission Members Excused: Sheena Hewett

Commission Members Absent: Tony Ivey

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Beth Jarot (in-person) and Jim Parvey (in-person), Nathan Crain (in-person) and Zoe Whidden – all from Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

City Council Members: CM Joel Bushnell, CM Sarah Rumbaugh and CM Kristina Walker

Members of the Public: present

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Margaret Schwertner, 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, Margaret administered an extended roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance and new Commissioners were introduced.

Unanimous Approval of July 20th 2023 Meeting Agenda with addition of establishment of BRT subcommittee agenda item.

Unanimous Approval of June 15th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

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

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff gave updates on:

- New Climate Data and Grant Analyst, Nathan Crane, started June 5th – Nathan was present in person and gave brief bio.
- Jim Parvey announced retirement at end of 2023 calendar year.

Heat/Smoke Presentations

Cindy Haverkamp and Isiah Cocroft from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Tieka Adeogun from Tacoma Emergency Management and Caleb Carbone from Tacoma Neighborhood & Community Services presented on current heat/smoke response efforts.

Right of Way Tree Codes Letter

Lexi and Lowell reviewed letter. Commission members made comments in draft. Emphasized addition and importance of Landscape Architect position for work. Letter will be edited and sent to council.

One-on-One City Council member discussion

Higher level discussion was held by staff and commission members. Overall support of sustainability work, but competition with other council priorities.

Public Comment

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

Objectives for the Next Meeting (August 17th, 2023)

- Community Building Decarbonization Strategy presentation
- Municipal Fleet EV Action Plan presentation
- Municipal Facilities Decarbonization Strategy presentation

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, August 17th, 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

Beth Jarot, Staff / Note Taker