



City of Tacoma
Planning Commission

Christopher Karnes, Chair
Anthony Steele, Vice-Chair
Morgan Dorner
Robb Krehbiel
Brett Marlo
Matthew Martenson
Jordan Rash
Payton Swinford
(District No. 4 – vacant)

MINUTES

(Approved on April 2, 2025)

MEETING: Regular Meeting (hybrid)

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Christopher Karnes (Chair), Anthony Steele (Vice-Chair) (arrived at 5:56 p.m.), Morgan Dorner, Robb Krehbiel, Brett Marlo, Payton Swinford

ABSENT: Matthew Martenson, Jordan Rash

A. Call to Order

Chair Karnes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Chair Karnes read the Land Acknowledgement.

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Swinford moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Dorner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Swinford moved to approve the January 17, February 21, and March 6, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Dorner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Public Comments

Mary Crabtree, Administrative Assistant, reported that one written comment was received regarding the Parks and Recreation element of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan update.

No individuals addressed the Planning Commission.

Public comment closed at 5:04 p.m.

E. Disclosure of Contacts and Recusals

There were no disclosures of contacts or recusals.

F. Discussion Item

1. Election of Commission Officers

Commissioner Swinford moved to re-elect Chris Karnes as chair of the Planning Commission through August 2025. Commissioner Dorner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Swinford moved to re-elect Anthony Steele as vice chair of the Planning Commission through August 2025. Commissioner Dorner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)

Erin Dilworth, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, presented an overview on health impact assessments (HIAs), including why they are conducted, phases, screening, scoping, the assessment,

recommendations, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, current status of HIAs, current scoping efforts, and next steps with the Tideflats and South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) HIAs.

Discussion ensued regarding how HIAs connect with the SEPA review process, guidelines to identify an HIA requirement, the capacity of how many HIAs can be done in a year, health disparities, the scoping surveys, and the Home In Tacoma HIA.

3. One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Update – Parks and Recreation

Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner, presented an overview of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan update, including the timeline, schedule for Commisison presentations, the policy framework of the Parks and Recreation element, and anticipated changes in this update.

Vice-Chair Steele arrived here at 5:56 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding integrating service levels with Home In Tacoma policies, park activation, artwork, the map around Blueberry Park, park photos, community gardens, partnerships, unique ecosystems, South Puget Sound prairies and oaks savannahs, the tree canopy, water features, asset mapping, the 15-minute neighborhood concept, distribution of assets/amenities at parks, and access for commerce/vendors.

Alisa O'Hanlon Regala, Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT), presented an overview of the MPT's System and Strategic Plan 2024-2030, including how it connects with other agencies' plans, the process, heat mapping, and key insights and strategic actions for each of the strategic directions.

Discussion ensued regarding making parks affordable venues for events, partnerships with libraries, more protected greenways for walking and biking, conversions of underused or vacant parking lots, salmon recovery, spraygrounds, aligning visions of MPT's strategic plan into the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, regulatory barriers, and other partnerships.

H. Upcoming Meetings (Tentative Agendas)

(1) Agenda for the September 18, 2024, meeting:

- Planning Commission Annual Report and Work Program
- Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review - Urban Form, Housing, and Public Facilities and Services

(2) Agenda for the October 2, 2024, meeting:

- Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review – Historic Preservation

(3) Agenda for the October 16, 2024, meeting:

- Planning Commission Annual Report and Work Program
- Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review

I. Communication Items

The Commission acknowledged receipt of communication items on the agenda.

Torrez noted the City Council's public hearing on Home in Tacoma will be coming soon, along with two informational sessions.

Commissioner Krehbiel noted interest in starting a task force on the STGPD.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit:*
http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/committees_boards_commissions/planning_commission/agendas_and_minutes/