



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

VIRTUAL MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

To comply with Governor Jay Inslee's [Proclamation 20-28.14](#) 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 by email to PBabbitt@cityoftacoma.org by 4:00 p.m. on January 21st using the subject line "STC Meeting 1/21/21" and indicating agenda items, if any, addressed.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE DECEMBER 17 MINUTES AND JANUARY 21 AGENDA
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
- VI. CLIMATE PLANNING UPDATE – STAFF PRESENTATION
- VII. CLIMATE PLANNING – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
- VIII. TIDEFLATS SUBAREA PLANNING AND REGULATIONS – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
- IX. OFFICER NOMINATIONS
- X. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- XI. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

1/21/2021 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

City of Tacoma, OEPS



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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. **APPROVE JANUARY 21 AGENDA AND DECEMBER 17 MINUTES**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **STAFF UPDATES**
- V. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**
- VI. **CLIMATE PLANNING UPDATE – STAFF PRESENTATION**
- VII. **CLIMATE PLANNING – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**
- VIII. **TIDEFLATS SUBAREA PLANNING AND REGULATIONS – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**
- IX. **OFFICER NOMINATIONS**
- X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- XI. **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT**



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

12/17/2020 STC Minutes Approval



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Public Comments



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Staff Updates

Last Meeting:

1. Sustainable and Active Transportation in Tacoma
 - Staff Presentation
2. 2021 Commission Meeting Day/Time
 - Discussion
3. Commission Year-in-Review/Year-Ahead
 - Staff Presentation & Discussion
4. Climate Planning Update
 - Staff Presentation



Staff Updates

Commission Notices:

- Members with terms ending April 2021 should confirm whether they would like to continue by 1/25
- 2021 Commission Priorities Brainstorm:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1acD_aK3pmbksGpygx5prSPOKFVpPGpkF1xTwoMovTSs/edit
- 2021 Subcommittees:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MfQUTYmxU6NcnMTzQ5ZiY6u7MTgJzm-jJ-ksYqBQWxw/edit>

Around the City:

- Sustainability Small Grant reopened 1/1/21, due 3/31/21
- DOTG Racism & Transportation virtual forum: 1/22, noon-1pm
- Decarbonization resolution

Staff Updates

Around the City:

- **Transportation Commission's 2020 recommendations:**
 - **Affordable housing and access**
 - **Bike Boulevards** – Increase facilities, wayfinding, and use
 - **Pierce Transit** – Support higher frequency and future increases
 - **Vision Zero** – Support development and implementation
 - **Neighborhood Greenways** – Include in TMP and focus on traffic calming elements
 - **Bike Friendly City** – Strive for silver status and prioritize network of protected bike facilities



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Subcommittee Updates

- Climate Action Plans Review
 - Tidelands Regulations
 - Planning Commission
 - Other?
-
- Upcoming subcommittee activities:
 - Waste prevention and recycling (Q1 or Q2 2021)



Other Business Items

1. Climate Planning Update
 - Staff Presentation
2. Climate Planning
 - Letter of Recommendation
3. Tideflats Subarea Planning & Regulations
 - Letter of Recommendation
4. Officer Nominations
 - Discussion



Climate Planning Update – Staff Presentation

(Change now to that presentation)



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Letters of Recommendation

1. Climate Planning

- Link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W_U8t2uqTWv3UnWVKjtFwXEjEjQIPmhS/edit

2. Tidelands Subarea Planning & Regulations

- Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1erGxmdeSkhDJQH3lQ0ZL10OgvlvUXdlVsdOxX9CDvjE/edit>



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Public Comments



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Objectives for Next Meeting (Feb. 18)

- Staff updates
- Subcommittee updates
- 2021 Commission priorities
- Small Grants program & outreach support
- Climate Planning update (recurring)
- Officer Elections



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability

Adjournment



Office of
Environmental Policy
and Sustainability



City of Tacoma
Office of Sustainability

February 2, 2021

TO: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

RE: Tacoma's Carbon Emissions Target & Preparing for Climate Action

Dear Council Members of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee,

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission is a community advisory body that provides input and oversight on the City of Tacoma's environmental goals, including Tacoma's 2015 Environmental Action Plan (EAP) and its update.¹

The EAP, which covered 2015-2020, has guided the City of Tacoma's actions and investments in sustainability and climate action. The update to the plan includes a renewed focus on meaningful climate action and environmental justice. In this process, the City will set a carbon emissions target and draft a set of strategies that, if fully completed, will get the city to its target.

Previously, the City of Tacoma set a target in line with the 1990 Kyoto Protocols (an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, adopted in 2008). At the time, it was a common goal for jurisdictions within the United States and around the world, but subsequent research and international agreements have shown that this target is not aggressive enough to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change.

REQUEST 1: Update reduction targets for the updated plan.

We urge the City Council to adopt the 2015 Paris Agreement target of 100% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

The Biden administration has already committed to re-entering the Paris Agreement, meaning that nationally, we will strive for this goal.² There is widespread support for this goal from within the Tacoma community, and Mayor Woodards was one of 407 Mayors to vow to uphold the Paris Agreement in the wake of the United States' exit during the previous administration.³

REQUEST 2: Direct staff to develop a list of green and socially just, shovel-ready projects to leverage funding opportunities.

¹ 2015 Environmental Action Plan:

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan

² UNFCCC overview of the Paris Agreement: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

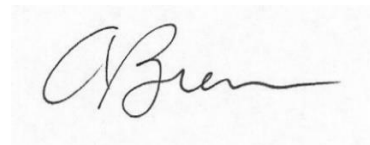
³ Climate Mayors Member Cities: <https://climatemayors.org/member-cities/>

In acting on this target, it will be important to coordinate across jurisdictions and with the private sector, and this should be reflected in the City's updated plan. Fortunately, action is ramping up at the national, state, and regional level. This leads us to our second request – **the City should direct staff to convene across departments to develop a list of green and just, shovel-ready projects** to move forward action on climate adaptation and mitigation. We would like to see this list by May 1, 2021, so that the City can capitalize on these near-term investments and build momentum for the strong action needed to reach our goals. Having this list as soon as possible will help the City to compete for funding opportunities now. Indeed, if the City does not prepare then Tacoma might lose out to other jurisdictions that capitalize on these opportunities.

As the City noted in the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution, Climate Action is not a “bonus” – in the 2018 IPCC report, the scientific consensus stressed that **transformational action is needed in the next 10 years** to avert catastrophic impacts that are an existential threat to many communities across the globe.^{4 5} The City will have to frontload climate action now and in the next few years in order to be effective as the window closes approaching 2030.

We urge the City to respond boldly and equitably to the threat and opportunity of climate change. In Tacoma, we have already begun to feel the unequal impacts – such as from wildfire smoke – to the health and safety of our communities. Climate change is a problem today that will worsen tomorrow, and impacts will be felt most acutely by populations that are already impacted by systemic racism and environmental injustices. Now, we have the opportunity to transition to an economy that offers a just and sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,



Lexi Brewer
Chair, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

CC: City of Tacoma Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability
Michael P. Slevin III, Environmental Service Department Director
Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager
Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works
Lihuang Wung, Planning and Development Services

⁴ Climate Emergency Resolution: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/city_council_approves_climate_emergency_resolution#:~:text=The%20Tacoma%20City%20Council%20passed,a%20climate%20emergency%20in%20Tacoma.

⁵ 2018 IPCC Summary for Policymakers: <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/#:~:text=The%20report%20was%20prepared%20under,all%20three%20IPCC%20working%20groups.&text=As%20part%20of%20the%20decision,global%20greenhouse%20gas%20emission%20pathways.>



City of Tacoma
Office of Sustainability

February 2, 2021

TO: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

RE: Non-Interim Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Regulations Recommendations

Dear Council Members of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee,

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission is writing with recommendations and considerations for the drafting of non-interim Tideflats regulations, a process coordinated at this stage through Tacoma's Planning Commission.

We call on the City to take urgent action to preserve the possibility of a low-carbon future for our community, which is next to impossible if we allow fossil fuel investments to expand.

In this letter, we wish to primarily communicate our concern about fossil fuel industries in Tacoma's tideflats because of our focus on mitigating the worst consequences of climate change driven by continued greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Our specific recommendations and considerations follow in the body of this letter.

The purpose of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission is to advise the City Council about climate and other sustainability topics, and hold the City accountable for the implementation of policies that protect and enhance Tacoma's natural resources for current and future generations, such as Tacoma's 2015 Environmental Action Plan. We value environmental justice and recognize that achieving equitable outcomes requires challenging and uncomfortable community conversations. **We thank the Planning Commission for welcoming community input on non-interim Tideflats Regulations that will remain in place until the completion of the Subarea plan.**

Our understanding of the intent of the non-interim regulations is to preserve the full range of regulatory possibilities for the Tideflats Subarea Plan. The Sustainable Tacoma Commission has affirmed many times that we want to see a carbon neutral future for our city; there is no way to meet that if we lock in additional investments in fossil fuels. To achieve this future, **regulations need to be more stringent in order to protect Tacoma from development that is against the public interest and existing City policies while we draft the Subarea Plan.**

This is clearly a topic that is important to the broader community in Tacoma, and we have seen ongoing strong community advocacy from a large range of coalitions that share our understanding of the intent of the regulations, and what is needed to preserve that intent. We want to emphasize – it is specific subsets of uses, not business and industry in general that we feel is contrary to the City of Tacoma's established environmental goals. **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 jobs will leave Tacoma poised to be an early adopter that will benefit from the global transition away from fossil fuels.

Science and Policy Context

The science on climate change is now well established. The 2018 UN International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report details the projected impacts of global warming for 1.5°C and 2°C above pre-industrial average temperature.¹ Reaching either of these thresholds will have devastating impacts on populations around the world, due to increases in summer temperatures, drought, flooding from sea level rise, and catastrophic storms. In response to these catastrophic impacts, the global target for signatories of the 2015 Paris Agreement is to limit warming to 1.5° C (2.7° F).² The same report found that we must achieve a 45% reduction from 2010 levels by 2030, and a 100% reduction by 2050 to reach this target, meaning have a little less than 10 years to make meaningful reductions in emissions to avoid exceeding a 1.5° future.

The City of Tacoma has committed to climate action through a number of different plans and policies, beginning with the initial 2008 Climate Action Plan.³ Climate goals are included in the City's Comprehensive Plan (the One Tacoma Plan), and the 2015 Environmental Action Plan (EAP), which outlines 67 actions over a 5-year period to respond to environmental challenges and climate change, and set a target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2020.^{4 5} Unfortunately, according to the latest update to the City's greenhouse gas inventory, **we did not meet that target.**⁶

Most recently, we've gotten a strong statement with the December 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution, where the City of Tacoma recognized the direct threat of climate change on our community and that it requires immediate actions to minimize harm, and constitutes a public emergency.⁷ Additionally, Mayor Woodards signed on to the "Climate Mayors" pledge, committing our city to meet the 2015 Paris agreement target after the United States' exit.⁸

Currently, the City is in the middle of its Climate Action Planning effort, to create a plan to update and replace the 2015 EAP, and which will be more focused on climate action than the EAP.⁹ **The Sustainable Tacoma Commission feels that this is a strong case for preventing new fossil fuel uses**

¹ 2018 IPCC Summary for Policymakers: <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/#:~:text=The%20report%20was%20prepared%20under,all%20three%20IPCC%20working%20groups.&text=As%20part%20of%20the%20decision,global%20greenhouse%20gas%20emission%20pathways.>

² UNFCCC overview of the Paris Agreement: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

³ City of Tacoma 2008 Climate Action Plan: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan/2008_climate_action_plan

⁴ Environment and Watershed Health element, Policy EN-1.26: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan/2008_climate_action_plan

⁵ 2015 Environmental Action Plan: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan

⁶ As part of the 2020-21 Climate Action Planning effort, the City of Tacoma worked with consultants to establish a baseline of our greenhouse gas emissions, and update previous inventories with that methodology. This report has been shared internally and with the Sustainable Tacoma commission. Contact: Kristi Lynett (kristin.lynett@cityoftacoma.org)

⁷ Climate Emergency Resolution: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/city_council_approves_climate_emergency_resolution#:~:text=The%20Tacoma%20City%20Council%20passed,a%20climate%20emergency%20in%20Tacoma.

⁸ Climate Mayors Member Cities: <https://climatemayors.org/member-cities/>

⁹ 2020-21 Climate Action Planning Overview: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/2020-21_climate_action_planning

and expansion of existing fossil fuel uses, so that we don't come out of this process with a Climate Plan that says one thing, and a reality that is incompatible with the plan.

Lastly, we want to point out that while we expect Tacoma to be good global citizens, and contribute to mitigating climate impacts for the global community, **we will also feel the negative impacts of climate change here**. According to the City's 2016 Climate Resilience Study, warming is expected in all seasons, and Tacoma is expected to see more intense heat waves, landslides, and more intense precipitation events.¹⁰ Sea level rise in Tacoma will most impact the tideflats areas, and is projected to increase up to 19 inches by 2050, and 56 inches by 2100 – with 24 inches of sea level rise, 100-year flood events will become annual events.¹¹ Extreme heat and inland flooding will directly impact (and are already impacting) Tacoma residents, and hit BIPOC frontline communities the hardest, which are already subjected to systemic inequalities.

Recommendations

Setting the stage for a successful, accountable, and transparent Subarea Planning process begins with preserving the widest array of futures for consideration. Then we can begin the process of supporting and expanding the economic engine that the Port is, while centering environmental justice in the planning.

To do this, we recommend that the non-interim recommendations:

1. Continue the moratorium on new fossil fuel and heavy industrial uses, and be updated to halt the expansion of existing fossil fuel or heavy industrial uses.

We support NO expansion of fossil fuel capacity in Tacoma and through the Port of Tacoma, whether from new uses or expansion of existing uses. The current Interim Regulations allow for expansion of existing heavy industry, and we have seen some existing uses (that would not be permitted if new uses) expand during this interim period. **This expansion is in conflict with the City's environmental goals, and with the spirit of the original Interim regulations.**

2. Adopt the staff recommendations brought forward in the January 20, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, which include:

- Prohibit new mining and quarrying citywide
- Prohibit smelting citywide
- Prohibit coal facilities citywide
- Prohibit petrochemical, fertilizer, and explosives manufacturing citywide, with conditional permitting at the Port.¹²

3. Prohibit the export of fossil fuel products from Tacoma and through Tacoma's port.

The inherent danger of exporting fossil fuels to our water and land environments along with our desire to not promote fossil fuel use anywhere, makes this an important step for the City.

¹⁰ 2016 Tacoma Climate Change Resilience Study Full Report:

https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Sustainability/Climate_Resilience_Study_Final_2016.pdf

¹¹ These figures from the Climate Change Resilience Study; the WA Coastal Network provides a more refined tool that gives sea level rise projections along with probabilities. Under a high emissions scenario at 2100, there is a 50% likelihood of seeing 30 inches of sea level rise, and a 5% likelihood of seeing 48 inches.

<https://wacoastalnetwork.com/chrn/research/slr-visualization/>

¹²

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/cms/Planning/Planning%20Commission/PC%20Presentations%202021/Presentations%20\(01-20-21\).pdf](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/cms/Planning/Planning%20Commission/PC%20Presentations%202021/Presentations%20(01-20-21).pdf)

4. In considering permitting alternative fuels, adopt a definition of low carbon fuels based on carbon intensity.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has relevant information for this definition, and other states, such as California, have a low carbon fuel standard that also includes sample definitions.

5. Keep equity at the forefront in decision making.

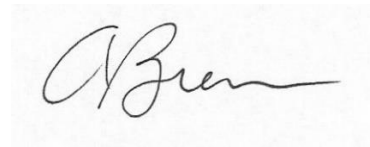
The port and the industrial sector of the city serve the entire city and impact the entire city. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility, Puyallup Tribal lands, and vulnerable populations are all represented on or near the port and the South Tacoma industrial area. They suffer disproportionately from air pollution as is made clear by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department health disparities maps, and are more likely to suffer the impacts of both natural and human-made disasters to their homes, land, and water.

6. Continue to support the Subarea Planning process through adequate allocation of staff time.

We still have concerns about the staff capacity added to this process, and wrote a letter to this effect in 2018. We urge the city to continue to evaluate how they dedicate staff time to the project, and when possible, to increase staff resources to ensure that stakeholders and the community at large have timely, responsive, and accessible information throughout the process.

Thank you for doing this very challenging work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lexi Brewer", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Lexi Brewer
Chair, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

CC: City of Tacoma Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability
Michael P. Slevin III, Environmental Service Department Director
Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager
Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works
Lihuang Wung, Planning and Development Services



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

Date: January 21, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict, Nikie Walters, Grace Hope, Elly Claus-McGahan (left 7:14pm), Ashley Sloan (left 6:31pm), Katin Kendrena (left 6:00pm), Tony Ivey, Gabe Moalii (arrived 5:06pm), Evlondo Cooper, Lexi Brewer (arrived 5:42pm), Phil Coughlan (arrived 5:58pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Emily Pinckney

Commission Members Absent:

David Thompson

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Kristin Lynett, Patrick Babbitt
Public: None

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Vice-Chair Grace Hope at 5:02 p.m., including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Vice Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements.

Approval of December 17, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Katin Kendrena.

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

Approval of January 21, 2021, Meeting Agenda

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

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

Public Comment

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Staff Updates

Patrick provided a brief refresher on the last Commission meeting's topics, and directed Commissioners to hyperlinks where they can give input about Commission priorities, subcommittees, and opportunities to improve the Commission in the new year. He also asked Commissioners to help promote the Sustainability Small Grants program, which funds community-led sustainability projects that are vetted by staff and the Commission.

Kristin provided an update about the so-called decarbonization resolution called for in an October 2020 Commission recommendation letter. Staff are supporting Councilmembers in the drafting process which is ongoing.

In other activities around the community that may interest Commissioners, Patrick highlighted Downtown on the Go's educational virtual Friday Forum event on January 22 about the overlap between transportation systems and racism. He also shared a review of 2020 Transportation Commission recommendations provided by their staff liaison, which include: affordable housing and access, increased and improved bike boulevards, greater frequency of and more bus service through Pierce Transit, support for implementation of Vision Zero, neighborhood greenways, and efforts to make Tacoma a "silver status" Bike Friendly City through prioritization of a network of protected bike facilities.

Staff thanked Commissioners for their work outside meetings, including subcommittees.

Subcommittee Updates

Elly reported that the Climate Action Planning subcommittee is meeting monthly to become more familiar with other communities' climate action plans and has more recently shifted to receiving in-depth staff updates on Tacoma's planning process in order to simplify and focus updates to the wider Commission.

Lexi shared that the Tideflats Regulations and Subarea Planning subcommittee received an update from Planning Department staff about upcoming Planning Commission activities to hear information and recommendations from staff about the non-interim tideflats regulations process. Staff provided a tentative timeline of activities at that meeting. The next major Tideflats non-interim regulations meeting will be the Wednesday, February 3, 5-7pm Planning Commission public hearing. The next major Tideflats Subarea Planning Project meeting is a virtual community meeting on Thursday, February 4, from 5:00 to 6:30pm.

A waste prevention- and recycling-focused subcommittee will be convened in the first or second quarter of 2021.

Commission Business Items

Climate Action Planning Update – Patrick Babbitt and Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Patrick and Kristin provided a preliminary update on analysis of community input from Phase I of the Tacoma's climate action planning process. They provided a refresher on the timeline and phased approach to community engagement and Plan development through autumn 2021. They outlined outreach results, which included more than 43 stipends community members and staff engaging community members to gather over 450 responses to visioning activities, surveys, and interviews. They described the demographics self-reported by respondents, and highlighted initial analysis of respondents' concerns and priorities. A finalized Phase I report will be made public in mid-February 2021 and will outline community concerns and priorities in more detail. Staff highlighted a few priorities as they approach Phase II of engagement, including efforts to reach a representative sample of Tacoma communities and activate more community partnerships to do so during a challenging virtual engagement environment. Staff will also be building from strengths, which include new partnerships, community-led engagement practices, building from the lessons of other pathbreaking municipal climate planning processes, and developing deeper and more meaningful relationships that will endure beyond this planning process.

Climate Planning Letter of Recommendation Drafting

Members of the Climate Action Planning subcommittee provided context for this letter drafting. The letter urges Tacoma City Council to adopt the 2015 Paris Agreement target of a 100% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050; direct City staff to convene departments to draft a list of green and just, shovel-ready projects if funding opportunities arise; and seek transformational action in the next 10 years to avert a climate catastrophe. The letter was adopted with recommendations written, directing a subcommittee to collaborate with staff to fill in context and put it on letterhead for delivery to City Council.

Approval of Climate Planning Letter of Recommendation

Motion: To adopt letter with recommendations as written, with a subcommittee and staff filling in missing context and preparing it in a letter format. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan

Tideflats Subarea Planning and Non-Interim Regulations Letter of Recommendation Drafting

Members of the Tideflats Regulations and Subarea Planning subcommittee provided context for this letter drafting. The letter speaks to the non-interim Tideflats regulations drafting process coordinated at this stage through Tacoma's Planning Commission and urges Tacoma City Council to halt expansion of existing fossil fuel and other heavy industrial uses; follow the recommendations of Planning Department staff brought forward in the January 20 Planning Commission meeting; support the Tideflats Subarea Planning process with adequate staffing; prohibit the export of fossil fuel products from and through Tacoma; adopt a low carbon fuels definition to guide allowance for so-called renewable fuels in Tacoma; and keep equity at the forefront of decision-making. The letter was adopted with recommendations written, directing a subcommittee to collaborate with staff to fill in context and put it on letterhead for delivery to City Council.

Approval of Tideflats Subarea Planning and Non-Interim Regulations Letter of Recommendation

Motion: To adopt letter with recommendations as written, with a subcommittee and staff filling in missing context and preparing it in a letter format. Motion made by Gabe Moaalii.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan

Commission Officer Nominations – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

With the meeting running past 7:00pm following letter drafting, the Commission determined to move this item to the February 18, 2021, meeting agenda.

Public Comment

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff and subcommittee updates
- 2021 Commission priorities discussion
- Sustainability Small Grants Program update
- Climate Action Planning update
- Commission Officer Elections

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with a motion made by Matthew Benedict and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan, Elly Claus-McGahan, and Tony Ivey were absent for this vote.

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

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker