



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

**Date:** March 28, 2019

**Commission Members Present:** Lexi Brewer, Jade Monroe, Matthew Benedict, Todd Hay  
Liberty Evans-Agnew, Chris Karnes, Kenny Coble, Grace Sullivan, Phil Coughlin

**Commission Members  
Excused:**

**Commission Members  
Absent:** Emily Pinckney, JC Rubi

**Others Present:** Jim Parvey, Pat Babbitt, Leah Michaelson, Kristi Lynett, Crystal Komenda,  
Elizabeth Purington, Erica Tucci, Elliott Barnett, Hally Bert

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 4:34 pm.

**Approval of February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to correct the spelling of Jade Monroe's name and approve meeting minutes made by Todd Hay, motion passed.

**Review of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda made by Chris Karnes, motion passed.

**Sub-committee Updates**

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee – Jade Monroe

Nothing to report

Transportation –Chris Karnes & Matt Benedict

Chris attended a joint meeting with Sound Transit regarding the Tacoma Dome Station construction. There are several options that were presented that seem promising. The issue of parking is noted for connections outside of the Tacoma Dome Station. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) resolution was postponed to next week.

Planning – Lexi Brewer

There is currently an open comment period for the Tacoma Dome link extension. Proposed speaking with the Transportation Commission to offer a letter of support for the extension. There was also an update of the Shoreline Master Program and future land use and affordable housing in Tacoma.

### TPU – Todd Hay

Tacoma Public Utilities approved an agreement with Rainier Connect for Click!, also passing City Council. There was also an update of hydropower resources. Tacoma Water is conducting an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) update for the first time. This is common practice for Tacoma Power.

### Outreach – Liberty & Jade

Nothing to report

### Port – Kenny Coble

The Tideflats Subarea Plan is currently creating a stakeholder list and Kenny asked if the Sustainable Tacoma Commission should be considered. Consensus is yes, this is a moderate oversight and Kenny will draft a letter to advocate for a spot on the Tideflats Subarea Plan stakeholder team.

### **Staff Updates**

General housekeeping: The Google Drive is up to date and has been reorganized of ease of use and clarity. Pat Babbitt noted the Work Plan is updated frequently and can be reviewed from the Google Drive. He reiterated the updated rules of procedure and quorum rules. Lexi brought up the point that these changes will need to vote on in the next meeting. The City of Tacoma web page has been updates as well with the current agenda and meeting minutes. Pat noted they are working towards tracking and evaluating the Commission's progress.

Pat presented Grace, the newest STC member, with a mug from the Bring Your Own Mug campaign and reviewed some of the campaign's objectives and results.

Elizabeth Purington, AmeriCorps Member, is currently working at Solid Waste on preventing wasted food. This program is called For the Love of Food. The focus of this program is to prevent food waste in the first place. This also includes an upcoming restaurant challenge.

There is also a bill moving through the legislature to allow TPU to be more involved with electric vehicles. This is a note to keep in mind moving forward.

The question was brought up again as to whether the commission is authorized to write letters of support to outside agencies like the litter to the Clean Air Agency from earlier in the year. This question is still up for debate, but likely permitted if the letter of support is not in regards to a ballot measure.

### **Shoreline Master Program Updates**

Elliott Barnett led a presentation with updates to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The SMP is a policy and regulatory framework that applies to land 200 feet from the water. These updates are not a change of direction, but a periodic review that is required every eight years to ensure the plan is consistent with current policy and latest science. The public comment period is just beginning for the SMP. The last update occurred in 2013. The main priorities of the SMP are to protect the natural environment, provide water-dependent uses, and promote public access. It is important to note that the Port Tideflats area is not part of the SMP. The SMP does include Wapato Lake. The updates include the following:

- Sea Level Rise – integration of sea level policies and new and emerging sea level science and projections. The purpose of this is to evaluate the potential risk, assess those risks, and promote resiliency against them.

- Base Flood Elevation – distinct from Sea Level Rise, this recently modified demarcation indicates flood levels during a storm surge. This could lead to shrinking building envelopes and limiting shoreline development as envisioned in the SMP. The update recommends allowing building height to exceed maximums
- Meeting Objectives – updates to commercial and residential development standards
- Wapato Lake – no zoning updates for now
- Salmon Beach – most complicated issue; approximately 80 non-permitted homes are located at Salmon Beach, and due to location, are limited in expansion ability. The residents of Salmon Beach expressed desire to build second story additions to their homes. However, significant landslide danger, Base Flood Elevation rise, and sensitive surrounding habitat are all important considerations. The challenge lies with identifying a path to allow for additions while taking into account the considerations listed. Planning and Development Services would be responsible for monitoring these efforts.
- Geological Hazards – the code is due for an update to incorporate updated landslide science. The question was posed: How does sea level rise get incorporated into this effort? Looking forward, can we move the definition of shoreline to anticipate for sea level rise? Incorporation of adaptive management coding? Elliott is posing this question to his team and will get back to the commission. There are no anticipated impacts to the state Ferry system. There is a Joint Hearing on May 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the SMP and Council action is expected in August.

### **Environmental Action Plan 2018 Progress Report Draft**

This is the third year progress report for the Environmental Action Plan (EAP). The EAP was adopted in 2016, a centralized document with rules and policies regarding the environment in Tacoma. While this is not a part of the Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, the Commission would like to consider attempting to have it adopted into the Comprehensive Plan in the future.

The progress report is graphically laid out just like last year, with stories of success. While the progress report is nearly finished, some sections still require review. One purpose of this report is to recognize that we're at a make or break year and need to move to action to make progress on items scored 1 or 2.

The Commission has requested follow up why objective A3 is scored at a 4. Would like to see all previous year's data accounted for on each objective, if applicable. The Commission expressed their thanks and appreciation for this report – it is easy to use and very helpful. Thank you Leah for working on it!

The progress report will be presented at Study Session on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Final adjustments to the report are due April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **STC Presentation at Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee**

This was part of the annual update to the public about the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's progress. The presentation will go over STC's accomplishments and plans for 2019. It will give background on STC's purpose and membership make up. This is an opportunity to kick off one-on-one engagement!

The Commission has requested that "Letters of Support" be changed to "Letters of Recommendation." Some of the 2019 priorities include the recycling changes, updates to other programs, and Sustainability Small Grant awards.

This will be presented April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm at the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee meeting.

**Other Public Comment**

Hally with Downtown on the Go handed out fliers for Transportation Advocate Day on May 6, 2019 and mentioned the last day for public comment on Bus Rapid Transit is fast approaching.

**Objectives for Next Meeting**

- First quarter Sustainability Small Grant review
- Vote on revised rules for STC
- Phil to write a letter in support of options 3 and 4, in line with community's feedback
- Follow up with Kenny about Tideflats Subarea Planning stakeholder seat

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

---

Lexi Brewer, Chair

---

Crystal Komenda, Staff