



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

**Date:** July 25, 2019

**Commission Members**

**Present:** Matthew Benedict, Lexi Brewer, Kenny Coble, Phil Coughlan, Todd Hay, Jade Monroe, Grace Sullivan

**Commission Members**

**Excused:** Liberty Evans-Agnew, Emily Pinckney, Suzanna Smith

**Commission Members** Chris Karnes

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Pat Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, Mike Carey, Arin Lewis, Leah Michaelson, Linda Lyshall, Lewis Griffith, Preston Peck, Todd Hay, Kenny Coble, Michelle Emery

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 4:12 p.m. Quorum was established at 4:35pm.

**Approval of June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Lexi Brewer

**Seconded by:** Jade Monroe

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

**Review of Agenda**

**Motion:** Lexi Brewer

**Seconded by:**

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

### **Sub-committee Updates & STC-City Council Engagement Updates – Lexi Brewer**

Lexi informs of new advisory group being formed, TODAG Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group that will likely be of interest to STC. Currently still working on what stakeholder's seats will be available. Takeaways from Cross Commission meeting are as followed: EAP will go through updates in 2020 for adoption in 2021. Possibilities for three-way meeting about sub-area plan due to not having formal stakeholder opportunities. There is a common thread desiring stronger communication between entities. Lexi has been invited to present to Planning Commission on Environmental Action Plan.

### **Staff Updates – Pat Babbitt:**

Pat will send out electronic handout for Council Engagement Meeting summaries. There is a potential meeting with Deputy Mayor McCarthy. Remaining meeting with City Manager Elizabeth Pauli will be held on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Jade volunteers for support. Washington state law will be updated to accommodate infrastructure requirements for new commercial or multifamily developments. State code will be updated by end of 2021 and Tacoma is looking to aim for end of this year, 2019. Infrastructure will then be ready for EV charging equipment.

Other discussion that STC set around toxic waste reduction, waste prevention, multiple family properties, recycling education all focused on communities of color. Also adding tree canopy improvements, EV, and Bicycle Friendly Community Silver-Level Status for bicycles.

### **Circle Back Items from Last Meeting: Pat Babbitt**

There is feedback through the recycling letter that STC prepared. Tacoma Water's new conservation plan focusing on summer time and outdoor water usage reduction. Feedback was given such as rules for HOA and CCR, brought up dollar figure on water save/consumption. Tacoma Water staff Rochelle acknowledged and took into account.

STC is asked and agrees to have Ricky Clousing speak today. Ricky Clousing works in Public Works, is a community member and local to Tacoma. Ricky has concern with tree canopy in his community, the highways and effect on trees from widening roads that took away trees. He continues with sharing that he believes developers/contractors should have a code to follow for trees within the scope of their project. Along with this would be closing gaps for the permitting process for trees. Ricky asks the Commission for support in holding WSDOT to revising their landscape plan. He would like to see the community that is left behind feeling good at the close of this 20-year project. Ricky also asks the Commission for the chance to present more formally in other meetings.

### **Staff Update: Kristi Lynett**

Kristi Lynett updated that the TMB Bike Parking Cage is now almost complete. An update on jobs are as followed, Green Building Specialist will be starting soon, 5 AmeriCorps members service will be coming to an end, 1 new will be starting in September a long with Abi transitioning from AmeriCorps to Intern. Urban Forestry Management Analyst position closed with roughly 159 applications.

### **Urban Forestry Update: Mike Carey**

Mike presented an overview of the Urban Forest Management Plan, which includes three phases. Mike is asking STC for feedback on plan as they have shown to be stakeholders of interest. Issues addressed include outdated ordinances around trees, lack of preservation, unclear responsibilities in right of way for trees, disproportionate resources, and tree canopy in city. Urban Forestry is currently working on the Tacoma Mall Inventory Report project to invest in trees for the neighborhood. Opportunities for engagement and involvement: feedback on draft of municipal code.

### **Recycling Changes & Waste Prevention Programs Discussion with Staff: Lewis Griffith & Preston Peck**

Survey responses around solid waste: 75% said keep or enhance recycling program. Awareness of cost is important to analysis. One of the biggest concerns of residents is education and having a better understanding of how to recycle properly. Overall people utilize and find the service of value. Some topics to continue to dive in to are how to drop off glass, why are we utilizing China, and the impact on the environment. There is confusion among individuals in different areas and what recycling is taken per area. Curbside pickup is changing in product and education and ease of access is being worked on. Changes website available for education.

### **Regional Clean Fuel Standards Rules – Puget Sound Clean Air Agency: Linda Lyshall**

Mission of PSCAA work to protect public health, improve neighborhood air quality, and reduce region's contribution to climate change. Clean fuel standard has the largest impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. Currently Washington is the only state on west coast without a clean fuel standard. Estimate credits would sell around \$100 and increase from there. Credit opportunity in Tacoma: Fleets, electric/plug in, bio fuel fleets, wastewater treatment facilities, RNG potential charging station, shore power from the port, etc. The average electric car would generate about 200-400 a year in credits from those who provide the electricity. Except utilities, everything will be metered to verify credits. Our current chargers don't have this metered so there would be a cost associated with adding them. Public hearing in October and asking board to take action in December. If approved in December, initiate would begin January 2012, followed by reporting year only, then regulation in 2022. State legislature will not take on so working on efforts in our region with large state population falling within it. Currently this is the first entity to try this in a regional scale, this board would include largest city

mayors or their representatives: Tacoma, Bremerton, Everett, and Seattle. STC could give support through online comment and testimony at hearing in Seattle. Timeline to offer language for draft resolution: would need to generate by next STC meeting, add to August agenda. Members of STC who will offer to help draft for STC meeting: Lexi and Jade with offered support from Kristi and Pat.

**Break was taken: 6:25-6:30pm**

### **Sustainability Small Grants – Quarterly Review**

Leah Michaelson presented on each grant that the STC Commission will vote upon.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle \$5000 - Awarded**

Grant would fund installation of an after-hours repair station for bicycles right outside their building on MLK Way.

**STC Comments:** This would be a stand with tools paired with a vending machine. There was discussion around street occupant permit fees but waiving it is a possibility. There were no further questions or comments.

#### **“Gritty City Committee” (Neighborhood group) \$2200 - Awarded**

South-End Roundabout Raingardens - Beautify three existing roundabouts and one future roundabout with native and drought-resistant plants in the South End between South 56th and South 48th Street on South Sheridan Ave. and South Cushman Ave.

**STC Comments:** Discussion with the STC brought up issues around what is considered a rain garden and how that is presented by the Committee. Benefits agreed upon are native and drought tolerant plants in these roundabouts. The STC’s recommendation is for the GCC to collaborate with Surface Water for more specifics when addresses the roundabouts. A concern of the STC is that the video produced needs to have clarity that these are not called rain gardens unless they are actually raingardens, they would like possible rights to edit the language in the video.

#### **Point Defiance Elementary School – Not Awarded**

A composting pilot program for the elementary school to reduce plastics in the cafeteria, redirect food waste to compost, and to engage students in sustainable practices.

**STC Comments:** STC did not feel comfortable funding this grant based on the route of sustainable practices described. The STC would like to see the school partner with Green Schools and/or Solid Waste to find better options to enhance waste reduction and education in the school.

#### **RAIN incubator \$4496 – Awarded**

“Testing the Effects of Genetically Engineering Rhizobia” scientific research project. Their project description details benefits to sustainable agriculture practices in the PNW.

**Condition of approval:** funds may not be used for student travel funds

**STC Comments:** Lexi expressed concern to the members of the STC around paying for travel and the connection of that to the broader City of Tacoma. The STC recommends the students come and share what they have learned at the Expo. Funding will be provided for non-travel expenses.

**St. Leo Food Connection \$5000 - Awarded**

Support for their Food Rescue Program, which helps divert food from local producers (grocery stores, farms, etc.) to their food bank.

**STC Comments:** This was a program the STC funded last year. They would like to know more about the general expenses discussed and will approve for only allowable expenses.

**Tacoma Urban League \$5000 – Awarded**

Environmental Justice Camp for Girls - Two 2-day camps for girls from low income and communities of color to learn how to be empowered as leaders and advocates for environmental justice.

**STC Comments:** Discussion for clarity that programs can only be funded going forward, past events can't be refunded.

**Grants Vote: Voting to approve all but Point Defiance Elementary at full request with conditions**

**Motion:** Jade Monroe

**Seconded by:** Matthew Benedict

**Action:** Voice vote was taken and carried.

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

**Other Public Comment**

No other comments.

**Objectives for the Next Meeting**

No objectives for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, August 22, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

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Lexi Brewer, Co-Chair

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Chris Karnes, Co-Chair

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Michelle Emery, Staff