



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

**Date:** September 26, 2019

**Commission Members** Matthew Benedict, Todd Hay, Liberty Evans-Agnew, Phil Coughlan, Jade Monroe, Emily Pinckney, Suzanna Smith, Grace Sullivan, Lexi Brewer

**Present:**

**Commission Members**

**Excused:**

**Commission Members**

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Jim Parvey, Kristin Lynett, Arin Lewis, Beth Jarot, [Councilmember44](#) Mello

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 4:31p.m.

**Approval of July, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Jade

**Seconded by:** Matthew B

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

**Review of Agenda**

**Motion:** Jade

**Seconded by:** Lexi

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

**With changes of:** Sub-Committee updates moved to email format

STC-City Council Engagement Meetings Debrief moved to end of agenda

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**STC Subcommittee Updates** – Removed from this agenda

#### Staff Updates – Pat Babbitt

Pat requests that the commission members present find time to fill out the Urban Forestry Survey online and also for each to suggest the completion of the survey to others they know as well. Pat reviews the STC's two vacancies on the commission letting the members applications will be received for the next two weeks, with interviews on November 6, 2019 at the IPS meeting. Pat also reviews the topic of TERS going to Council on October 1, 2019 and the support the STC has given previously to ~~thus this~~ topic. The TERS resolution was adopted in March and the STC wrote a letter in favor of the resolution. Comment was also made about the climate march that happened last week.

#### STC-City Council Engagement Meeting Debrief-

Moved to the end of the agenda.

#### Discussion about Natural Gas in New Construction: Todd

Todd shares with the commission that Seattle ~~passed~~ proposed a ban on natural gas in new construction with fairly straight forward ordinances. Todd wants to raise this as a topic to the group and suggest drafting a resolution for Tacoma. Todd suggests, as a commission, to push forward more and start drafting more resolutions in general. Todd is welcome to all who will help with support. Grace volunteers to help Todd. Lexi would like to hear more dialogue from Seattle and Berkeley, follow how the ordinance has progressed, and what issues have come up since adopting. CM Mello agrees the STC should start with this process to gain traction. Lexi suggest Todd collects this information to bring to the October meeting. Pat will coordinate with Todd. Lexi asks for a temperature check on a subcommittee which Grace and Todd volunteer for. Pat will do a call for questions.

#### Discussion with Council Member Mello: 4:50p.m.

CM Mello first thanks the commission for their service and work. CM Mello shares his background working on a CBC before joining the City Council. Before CM Mello's term ends, he would like to use his energy to make progress on four different focuses; Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS), efforts in going to the ballot next year for Pierce Transit, a regional Clean Fuel Standard, and a Climate Emergency Resolution.

Affordable Housing Action Strategy relates to land use, built environment, and transportation. CM Mello thinks there is a significant connection between equity and sustainability here. There are currently a lot of action ideas that CM Mello wants to make significant progress in before the end of December.

The second focus CM Mello shared was working on going to the ballot next year for Pierce Transit and pushing for an adjustment to .3 in taxes and expanded service times for those who need it. There will be a board meeting in November to decide if they are ready to push forward for election. Mello is open to talking offline about this.

The third focus is the Clean Fuel Standard, focusing on carbon reduction, public health, saving money, and reducing carbon intensity of fuels by 25% in ten years (2030).

Lastly CM Mello speaks to the commission regarding the Climate Emergency Resolution. Youth in Tacoma have four major demands; declare a climate emergency in Tacoma, terminate all new and current fossil fuel expansions, update the environmental action plan for size and scope, 4?

Mello states the Mayor has given her support, he plans to frame up the environmental action plan with this resolution. CM states he plans to invite the youth group the week of October 18<sup>th</sup> for comments around the draft resolution and a week or so after will ask for input from the STC. Lexi agrees with CM Mello and the framing of involving more than just stakeholders at the table regarding these issues and also with making more action items happen.

Lexi opens up public comment and questions due to Mello's current attendance - 5:06p.m.

### **Regional Clean Fuel Standard Rule- Letter of Recommendation, Draft Resolution**

Deliberation ensues regarding if the commission should go forward with above.

Mello takes a moment to explain ~~Regional~~regional Clean Fuel Standard Rule to Liberty and the other members who missed the July meeting. The Clean Fuel Standard has four scenarios, or approaches, analyzed and proposed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA).

Input from ~~Commission~~staff: Jim Parvey explains to the commission the regulations on what specifically the commission can comment on, such as items that are up for a vote, which can't be discussed with ~~outside~~out agencies but only with City Council.

Lexi displays the draft of this letter for City Council and clarifies the resolution is coming from the STC and is going to City Council for adoption with this letter attached.

### **Resolution Draft:**

**Motion:** Jade

**Seconded by:** Matthew/Liberty

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

Mello gives feedback to the commission to put more equity into the resolution and to be more specific about robust stats: ~~10 years and a~~ 25% carbon intensity reduction over 10 years.

**Amendment:** To add in a sentence to draft later, adding equity and emphasize the more robust ~~10 years~~ factsapproach outlined by PSCAA.

Chair Brewer approves of these two edits:

**Motion:** Grace

**Seconded by:** Todd

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

**Todd leaves at 5:32p.m.**

### **Letter of recommendation:**

**Motion:** Jade

**Seconded by:** Grace

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

**Ayes:** All

**Abstained:** None

#### **UFMP Draft Code and Engagement Plan- Letter of Recommendation**

Urban Forestry Management Plan involves varies forms of outreach to...

Lexi highlighted ~~ed~~ actions in plan ~~ais~~ beneficial.

Discussion ~~ensues-ensued~~ around the best option for tree ownership, ideas brought up include, if the City should take over street tree maintenance, what trees could be saved from this, how much it would cost in time and money.- ~~If the City were to care for right-of-way trees, the cost is estimated at \$1.3 million per~~ year for city arborists ~~to be able to take care of and maintain trees in the right of way in bust areas.~~

Another option discussed is to develop City guidelines for a permit to remove a tree, with the possible issue that would arise for low income families, with low tree funds available. Fruit trees also ~~creating-create~~ ownership conflicts with City ownership of maintenance and their use as a food source by the resident.

Jim Parvey gives a brief update around Urban Forestry job opening, OEPS will wait until close to the end of year before hiring in the role open, 200+ applicants applied.

Jade gives the suggestion that [tacomatreeplan.org](http://tacomatreeplan.org) finds a different location for the survey on the website so it will gain better visibility.

Pat Babbitt goes over the UFMP timeline: the second survey will go out mid-October, the IPS meeting is in November, and this will go to Council in December. Discussion around a sub-committee as discussion needs to occur before the next meeting with recommendations on the letter, Lexi, Emily, and Grace will support sub-committee.

#### **FHWA & WSDOT Landscaping Practices- Letter of Recommendation**

Letter from Ricky Clousing to Representative Jake Fay. After discussing support of this letter or if changes are necessary, commission agrees more information is needed. Lexi suggest having Ricky come back to meet with the commission or at least provide more information. Pat ~~volunteers to will~~ reach out and get more information from Ricky. Lexi suggests ~~moving~~ this to the October meeting until further information is provided.

#### **EV Readiness Codes- Staff Presentations: Kristiy Lynett & Beth Jarot**

Tacoma EV policy goals include Resolution 40016 from May 2018, the Environmental Action Plan, Tacoma 2025, and the Tacoma Power Strategic Plan. ~~With Q~~ other related goals ~~of include~~ promoting fossil fuel-free transportation and reducing Tacoma's carbon footprint. As of July 2019 there are 1,400 registered EVs in Tacoma with predictions that electric vehicles will

account for 14% of the US market by 2025. Tacoma currently has 80 Level 2 EV station outlets and 15 DC fast outlets. Funding for charging station installation is coming for Electrify America. Issues that will be faced are readiness factors, accessibility and ADA minimums, and building code 2021. There are three code options: currently, existing land use and building code, which includes moving land use code to building code. Second being Seattle, with EV ready panel, conduit/circuit, 208/240 volt, 40-amp outlet. Lastly, anticipated State building code code, which takes effect in 2021 which is and affects new construction only. The results of the Health, Equity & Sustainability Analysis include; little to no vehicle maintenance cost and-tailpipe and carbon pollution, half the cost of gas prices, and the need for multi-family tenants to have access to charging. Upcoming outreach includes Board of Building Appeals in fall 2019 and hosting a public information session on October 1, 2019. Next steps include IPS on October 16, 2019 and City Council consideration on December 2019.

Jade leaves at 6:18pm

#### Discussion about Earth Day 2020-Kristiy Lynette

Kristiy informs the commission it will be Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. She opens the question to the commission around what events and other happenings they would like to see in the City. Kristiy says she is looking into Earth2020NW, getting plugged in and talking with the community, and a celebration and call to action. Chair Brewer offers the idea of using December to reach out to more groups and ask for participation. Overall, Kristiy is looking to support local organizations and do what the community wants around this celebration time. STC would like to see Earth Day 2020 supported through the Sustainability Small Grants program.

**Public Comment:** Connor Mann, Mayors Youth Commission

#### Next Steps and Objectives for the Next Meeting

- All sub-committees to share their updates to Pat to share electronically meet-before next meeting.
- Lexi will meet with an Urban Forest Management Plan STC subcommittee; Emily, Grace, Suzanna, and staff to draft a resolution and supporting letter of recommendation regarding UFMP.
- Todd coordinate with Grace, Lexi, and staff to research potential ordinance regarding building electrification.
- All will-help recruit for vacancies on STC
- ~~Council Engagement summary~~
- Due to holidays, special meetings will need to be created for November- and December- STC meetings.
- Next meeting:
  - Quarterly review of small grants
  - Urban Forest Management Plan letter

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- TPU Low Income Energy Conservation program
- Council Engagement summary meetings summary

- Tabled long term: Tacoma 2025 metrics and tracked progress: it, doesn't have a strong focus on environment but open communication is available.
- Kristiy- strategic plan initiative: Team at ES to make services more equitably delivered. ~~(6mo)~~ Her project team is working over the next six months.

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**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be October 24, 2019 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Rm. 243.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Michelle Emery, Staff