



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

**Date:** October 15, 2020

**Commission Members Present:**

Lexi Brewer, Nikie Walters, Matthew Benedict, Grace Hope, Phil Coughlan, Elly Claus-McGahan, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan, David Thompson, Emily Pinckney, Tony Ivey

**Commission Members Excused:**

Evlondo Cooper, Gabe Moaalii

**Commission Members Absent:**

N/A

**Others Present:**

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, LaTasha Wortham, Steve Atkinson  
Public: Deepa Sivarajan, Kat, Charles Neuman, Barbara Church, Kierra, Steve Nicholas

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Lexi Brewer at 5:00 p.m., including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on.

**Approval of September 17, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

**Seconded by:** Grace Hope

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Evlondo Cooper, Gabe Moaalii

**Approval of September 17, 2020, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting agenda as written. Motion made by Grace Hope.

**Seconded by:** Nikie Walters

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Evlondo Cooper, Gabe Moaalii

**Staff Updates**

Staff acknowledged the Commission's new Vice-Chair, Grace Hope, and revisited a Vice-Chair's responsibilities, which include but are not limited to:

- Agenda input
- Meeting facilitation
- Subcommittee support
- Commissioner support and accountability
- Commission performance tracking and review
- Annual Commission report to Council

Staff provided a brief update to the Commission, based on their September Commission meeting activities related to Urban Forestry, that Tacoma's Tree Coupon program providing tree purchase discounts at participating nurseries is now active from October 1, 2020, through March 2021. This information can be found at: [www.cityoftacoma.org/treecoupon](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/treecoupon).

Staff additionally updated the Commission about an October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with Deputy City Manager Wille that Commission Chair Brewer led. The Chair discussed the five priorities for 2020 that the Commission developed. The results of that meeting include:

- Chair brief Deputy City Manager on the building electrification draft resolution
- Deputy City Manager shared budget update timeline
- Deputy City Manager expressed support for climate planning work

As a result of the Commission's engagement with City Council about the Commission's 2020 priorities, two Councilmembers have invited the Commission to meet quarterly with them to discuss priorities on an ongoing basis. Councilmembers Beale and Walker will meet with Commissioners first on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff will coordinate Commission participation and preparation.

### **Sub-Committee Updates**

Commission sub-committees revisited a working list of draft equity norms and processes to guide the Commission. This work on equity norms and processes will continue for an undetermined amount of time. Staff also supported Commissioners to learn about other cities' climate action plans as part of a learning process in which Commissioners will also oversee and make recommendations about Tacoma's climate planning process. Finally, staff supported Commissioners to draft a letter of recommendation regarding building electrification, to be brought forward and edited further this meeting.

### **Commission Business Items**

#### **Building Electrification Letter of Support**

Brought forward by a Commission subcommittee, the Commission reviewed, edited, and adopted a letter of support for electrifying City buildings, including new constructions and significant renovations, the City fleet, and City equipment. It also recommends encouraging other local public agencies to move to clean energy assets, and supporting a legislative agenda in line with the City's vision to decarbonize its operations through increased electrification. Finally, it recommends that the City direct an impact assessment on requiring all-electric heating

and fuel sources in new development in Tacoma to be completed by May 1, 2021. This letter was re-framed from building electrification to general “decarbonization”.

**Tacoma Tidelands: Subarea Planning, Interim Regulations, and Fossil Fuel Study – Steve Atkinson, Planning and Development Services (PDS), City of Tacoma**

Steve gave a wide-ranging update to the Commission regarding multiple Tidelands-focused projects and processes. He explained the work plan and Public Engagement Plan for the subarea planning process, including upcoming meetings for the Tidelands Advisory Group (10/28) and Steering Committee (11/12). He also provided an overview of the purpose and main elements of the interim regulations, including the schedule for potentially updating the ordinance which otherwise expires on June 2, 2021. Finally, he provided an update on the status of the Fossil Fuel Study, which was delayed due to COVID-19 budgetary impacts. The study, for which funding was authorized on October 6, 2020, will continue in the near-term and be coordinated with subarea planning.

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

There be no time for additional Commission activities, this business item was moved to the upcoming November 19, 2020, Commission meeting.

**Public Comment**

No written public comments were delivered. Written comments were required in line with Governor’s Inslee’s 20-28.11 proclamation requiring virtual public meetings while the COVID-19 pandemic remains a public health threat.

**Objectives for or before the Next Meeting**

- Subcommittee updates
- Home in Tacoma initiative update (possible)
- Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero updates (possible)
- Pierce County-City of Tacoma Solid Waste Management Plan 2020 update (possible)
- Update from Environmental Policy and Sustainability Office staff about Climate Justice Planning

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. with a motion made by Tony Ivey and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Evlondo Cooper and Gabe Moaalii were absent for this vote.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, November 19, 2020, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 248.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker