



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

Date: September 17, 2020

Commission Members Present:

Matthew Benedict, Grace Hope, Lexi Brewer, Phil Coughlan, Elly Claus-McGahan, Katin Kendrena, Evlondo Cooper, Ashley Sloan, Gabe Moaalii (joined 5:15pm), David Thompson (left 6:00pm), Emily Pinckney (joined 5:35pm, left 6:45pm), Tony Ivy (left 7:02pm), Nikie Walters

Commission Members Excused:

N/A

Commission Members Absent:

N/A

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, Lewis Griffith, Sam Lake, Dan Corum, Phet Sinthavong, Mike Carey, Arin Lewis, LaTasha Wortham
Public: Kat, Shyla, Steve Nicholas, Donna Thompson Lydia Zepeda

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 August 20, 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: Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney

Approval of September 17, 2020, Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt meeting agenda as written, except adjusting the title of the eighth business item to "Urban Forest Management Plan & Public Incentive Programs Update – Staff Presentation". Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

Seconded by: Grace Hope

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Gabe Moaalii, Emily Pinckney

Staff Updates

Staff announced the City Council will have its final consideration for the 2021-2022 biennial budget on October 6. Initial estimates for the budget shortfall for 2020 were about \$40 million; recent estimates suggest a 2020 budget shortfall of closer to \$20 million due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Staff reflected on feedback from Councilmembers Hunter and Ushka from their meeting with Commissioners about Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) annual priorities.

- Councilmember priorities and feedback :
 - Under-used public lands: parcels, right-of-way
 - Food security
 - City building on/supporting community energy
 - Appreciates role of Commission informing Council
 - CBCs as a source for community organizing and leadership
 - Communication/approach: need to build from successes
 - Electrification of transportation
 - Bicycling
 - Food programming

In related work, staff announced the Commission will meet with Deputy City Manager Tadd Wille to discuss the Commission's annual priorities before the October Commission meeting. Staff also announced that, as a result of STC's annual Commission priorities meeting with Councilmembers Beale and Walker, the two Councilmembers requested quarterly engagement meetings with the Commission. Staff will schedule these and seek to support rotating Commissioner participation.

Sub-Committee Updates

Staff supported Commissioners to revisit draft equity norms and processes for the Commission. 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 research building electrification policies.

Commission Business Items

Vice- or Co-Chair Election

Chair Lexi Brewer and Staff explained the Officer election process, as well as Officer qualifications and duties. Nominees Matthew Benedict and Grace Hope gave short introductions about themselves, why they want to serve as a Vice-Chair, their qualifications, and reflections on fulfilling the related duties. Commissioners briefly discussed the strengths of each nominee and a roll call vote was taken by the Chair. Commissioner Grace Hope received a majority of votes.

A motion to elect Grace Hope to serve as Vice-Chair through the first meeting of 2021 was made by Nikie Walters and seconded by Matthew Benedict and carried unanimously at approximately 5:40pm.

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

Kristin and Patrick refreshed Commissioners on the planning process, including its timeline, phases, and engagement and technical tracks. They communicated an opportunity for member to serve as Ambassadors.

Materials Management Update and Planning – Lewis Griffith, Solid Waste Utility, City of Tacoma

Lewis serves as Division Manager for Environmental Services Department’s Solid Waste Utility. He provided a mix of information and updates. He gave an annual update to the Commission on the status of implementation of Tacoma’s Sustainable Materials Management Plan, which is now in Phase 2 and focuses on aggressive education and outreach as well as limited regulations to prevent and divert waste at this stage of implementation. He updated the Commission on the Recycle Reset Project. The Commission recommended that the Utility look into developing local recycling facilities and markets, perhaps in collaboration with King County and Seattle which are looking to do so. The Commission also recommended provided more glass drop-off sites to maintain a level of convenience that will satisfy evident public interest in glass recycling and support their participation. He described the WasteFree253 waste prevention effort; its program webpage is now live. He also explained the City’s role on the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, which has a policy development role at the state level and is looking at Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation. He briefly described legislation passed in 2020.

Urban Forest Management Plan & Public Incentive Programs Update – Mike Carey and Arin Lewis, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Mike and Arin gave updates regarding Tacoma’s Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) and Tacoma’s Tree Coupon and Grit City Trees programs. Given budget cuts, staff have re-focused UFMP work on policy and Code changes. Staff explained autumn through spring (the wet season) is the ideal planting season. The Grit City Trees program’s applications closed by September 6, 2020. Tree Coupon program results from 2019-2020 were shared, and coupons become available October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. Both programs have increased participation and trees planted over recent years.

Public Comment

No written public comments were delivered. Written comments were required in line with Governor’s Inslee’s 20-28.9 proclamation requiring virtual public meetings while the COVID-19 pandemic remains a public health threat.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Update from Planning and Development Services staff about Tideflats Subarea Planning, Regulations, and Fossil Fuels Inventory
- Building Electrification Draft Resolution letter of support
- Update from Environmental Policy and Sustainability Office staff about Climate Justice Planning

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. with a motion made by Evlondo Cooper and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Emily Pinckney, Tony Ivey, and David Thompson were absent for this vote.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, October 15, 2020, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 248.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker