



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2022

Commission Members Present:

Margaret Schwertner, Kendra Stauffer, Lexi Brewer (Co-Chair), Tony Ivey, Casey McManus, Elly Claus-McGahan, Matthew Benedict, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair; joins 5:07pm)

Commission Members Excused:

Nikie Walters

Commission Members Absent:

Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), James Parvey, Kristin Lynett

Other Presenters: Leah Michaelson

Members of the Public: Heidi Stephens, Dan Villa, Janeen Provazek, Steve Nicholas, Larry Leveen

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Lexi Brewer at 5:03pm, including an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements. Lexi administered roll call.

Approval of July 21, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda as written. Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

Seconded by: Elly Claus-McGahan

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

Approval of June 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

Seconded by: Matthew Benedict

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: Elly Claus-McGahan

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

Public Comment

Two written comments were submitted before the meeting. Heidi Stephens requested that the Commission consider commenting on/engaging with the Tideflats Subarea Review, The Thorne Road Properties, Moratorium within the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District topics before the City of Tacoma and Port of Tacoma. Larry Leveen, Executive Director of Forevergreen Trails and applicant to the Sustainability Small Grant program, provided an update about Pierce County Trails Day planning and participation. Both Heidi and Larry were present to verbally communicate their comments to the Commission.

Staff Updates – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma

Commission staff liaison Patrick Babbitt recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) June 2022 meeting activities and then delivered brief notices to the Commission, including COVID-19 safety guidelines from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, recent Planning Commission and Transportation Commission meeting items, and City biennial budget public input timeline information. Staff member Kristin Lynett provided updates on Climate Action Plan "jumpstart actions" implementation progress. Patrick recapped the results of Commission meetings with City Council and Management. Commissioners requested that staff to organize debrief meetings among Commissioners and staff immediately following meetings with City Council and Management in the future.

Subcommittee Updates

Commissioners and staff recounted subcommittee meetings in June and looking ahead to July. Matthew Benedict attended a discussion with staff about the Design Review Program, which served mainly as an introduction to the program; future meetings will be held. In coming weeks, the Commission will convene subcommittee to discuss the Green Economy, development of a Port/Northwest Seaport Alliance Engagement Program, and the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium.

Commission Business Items

Sustainability Small Grant Applications – Leah Michaelsen and Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, City of Tacoma

Leah provided a program overview as well as updates, including that applications will be moved to a biannual cycle (from the current quarterly cycle), with the next application deadline December 31, 2022. In addition, projects located on private residential property will generally be discouraged unless they demonstrate a significant public benefit. These changes support program effectiveness and limits on staff administrative capacity.

Leah communicated that four Sustainability Small Grant applications were received during the second quarter of 2022, with two deemed ineligible. Leah discussed applicants' project descriptions, proposed benefits to Environmental Services department utilities, requested and matching funds, and other considerations. The Commission discussed the merits of each application.

The Commission voted as outlined below:

Sustainability Small Grant Application Decision – Central Neighborhood Council’s “Peck Depave and Rain Garden” Project

Motion: To award the Central Neighborhood Council application with full funding (\$3,000) with standard Sustainability Small Grants program requirements, including that any in-person activities follow COVID-19 health safety protocols from public health agencies.

Motion made by Tony Ivey.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained:

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

Sustainability Small Grant Application Decision – Forevergreen Trails’ “Pierce County Trails Day & Conference” Project

Motion: To award the Forevergreen Trails application with full funding (\$5,000) with standard Sustainability Small Grants program requirements, including that any in-person activities follow COVID-19 health safety protocols from public health agencies. Motion made by Lexi Brewer.

Seconded by: Elly Claus-McGahan

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: Tony Ivey

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

Tideflats Subarea Plan Environmental Impact Statement Letter – Lexi Brewer and Elly Claus-McGahan, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

Lexi and Elly introduced the draft letter regarding the Tideflats Subarea Plan Environmental Impact Statement Letter.

The Commission reviewed the letter, suggesting and finalizing edits that culminated in the following vote:

Adoption of the Home in Tacoma Phase II Letter of Recommendation

Motion: To adopt the letter as written with insubstantial edits and formatting to be made by Co-Chairs and staff. Motion made by Casey McManus.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

Mid-Year Commission Planning – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, City of Tacoma

Patrick shared an overview of tentative meeting items for the Commission through November. He noted many activities are likely to move into 2023 with uncertainties about whether projects are ready for progress reporting. He encouraged the Commission to communicate topics and work to prioritize for coming months. The Commission's Co-Chairs will continue to work with staff to build out its meeting plans over coming months.

Public Comment

No additional public comment was delivered during this agenda item.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Extended roll call
- Staff Updates, including CAP Implementation
- Subcommittee Updates: Green Economy (including Rain Incubator), Port/Northwest Seaport Alliance Engagement Program, South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium
- Meeting with Council Member Walker

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 7:02pm.

Adjournment of July 21, 2022 Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Tony Ivey

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Emily Pinckney, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 5:00pm.

Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chairs

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker