



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16, 2023

Commission Members Present: Matthew Benedict (in-person), Lexi Brewer, Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), Sheena Hewett, Tony Ivey, Adam Reichenberger, Laura Svancarek, John Doherty (in-person), Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair),

Commission Members Excused: Casey Twiggs, Lowell Wyse, Mike Chang

Others Present:

Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability: LaKecia Farmer, Jim Parvey, Kristin Lynett (in-person), Beth Jarot (in-Person), Carson Brock (in-person), Mike Carey (in-person), Perry Spring (in-person)

Rochelle Gandour-Rood (in-person), Tacoma Public Utilities

Poppy Storm, 2050 Institute

Kelly Marrin, AEG

Elliott Barnett, Planning and Development Services

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper at 5:01 pm, including an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public. Then, Evlondo administered a roll call, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

Unanimous Approval of November 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of October 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff gave updates on:

- OEPS Director Position

Jim Parvey explained recruitment for replacement has been put on hold because of organizational changes. There is a possibility that they are moving the office to the city manager's office. Interim directors will hold place until recruitment is finished. There are ongoing conversations with office staff about potential move. Jim then suggested if there were any feedback from STC, they should write a letter if interested. The posting will save first round applications and then the City will repost in the future.

Commissioners expressed that OEPS moving to the City Manager's Office (CMO) is a good move. Some worried about the position being closed in the process. Finally, a commissioner asked if switching to CMO would change the job description. Jim replied that it should stay the same.

- Governor Inslee will be coming to Solid Waste and there will be a press release about landfill funding coming out soon. Governor Inslee will also be at the Center for Urban Waters to speak about Climate Corps.
- Jim Parvey thanked STC in case there was no December meeting as he will be retiring.

Additional updates from STC Commissioners:

- Commissioner Matthew Benedict gave an update from the Environmental Services Commission. The wastewater comprehensive plan is looking at wastewater capacity/pumps and what needs to be done with population growth.
- Kristi and Evlondo gave an update that the Clean Air Agency came to the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. Air Toxics are going down (there's still diesel) in Tacoma. Judy Olsen from the TPCHD is working with STC and final report comes out to share with the community.
- Commissioner co-chair Evlondo Cooper gave an update and request to create a subcommittee on the South Tacoma Warehouse Project. It is going forward and he requests pushing for deeper assessment with more environmental safeguards in new project. The subcommittee would be about creating procedures: not commenting but working on policy and laws that future projects would be applied to.
 - Jim clarified that actions where City Council has a decision making role, STC can't comment on the project.

Important Dates

- November 28, 2023 Study Session Decarbonization - joint session w/ TPU board
- November 28, Council Meeting – First reading of Tree Protection Ordinance

Building Decarbonization- Presentation

Poppy Storm from 2050 Institute, Kelly Marrin from AEG, and Beth Jarot from OEPS gave an update on community building decarbonization. They spoke about strategies and targets around the Tacoma Decarbonization plan. They updated the commission on Milestone 2030: Tacoma needs to stop installing fossil fuel equipment and they have an opportunity to do so. The strategy goals is not just about reducing greenhouse gasses but includes equity, health, reduced bills, increase resiliency, and grid reliability. Additionally, they detailed in the presentation the impact assessment and decarbonization pathway. Their key findings from sector emissions was to electrify- burnouts on the natural replacement schedule almost works in residential and optimized replacement timings are close to

burnout, but they need to ramp up sales share to peak by 2030. Finally, grid stability and renewable natural gas is not a major game changer with the strategies.

Commissioners asked questions about the City CPRG, presenters responded that there were 100 grants total (two to three per state). Additionally, presenters answered questions around new construction versus existing building 2021 energy code: clearer requirements about heating are getting improved later in the month.

Home in Tacoma Phase 2- Presentation

Elliott Barnett gave a presentation on Home in Tacoma Phase 2 update. Elliott detailed the timeline (see below) and various details of the potential final package that can be found on the Planning Commission website. The sustainability items that might be of particular interest to STC was detailed by Elliott as: promoting standards for E-bikes, landscaping requirements (no tree planting or retention projects), requiring trees in development sites and public areas, more soil volume under the surface, large fines for removing certain trees, tree credits based on small and larger tree, state mandates on affordability, and other items around landscaping standards to be discussed in detail at the next December meeting.

July-Dec 2023

- EIS Consultation
- Develop full package

Jan-March 2024

- Planning commission Public Hearing
- Release Draft EIS
- Planning Commission rec

April-June 2024

- City Council Review
- Release Final EIS
- Council PH
- Council action

Public Comment

No further public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Tentative Objectives for the Next Meeting (December, 2023)

- Building Decarbonization updates – municipal
- Small Sustainability Grants
- Trees subcommittee

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 7:00pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday December 14th, 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 220A.

Evlondo Cooper III

Margaret Schwertner

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer Carson Brock

LaKecia Farmer and Carson Brock, Staff / Note Takers