



City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15th, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Jen Braveboy, Lexi Brewer, Mike Chang, Sheena Hewett, Tony Ivey, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair), Lowell Wyse, Evlondo Cooper, (Co-Chair), Casey Twiggs, Laura Svencarek

Commission Members Excused: Matthew Benedict

Commission Members Absent:

Others Present:

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Kristi Lynett, Jim Parvey (Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability); Mike Carey, City of Tacoma Urban Forestry Program Manager

Members of the Public: present

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Margaret Schwertner, 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, Margaret administered an extended roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance and new Commissioners were introduced.

Unanimous Approval of June 15th 2023 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of May 18th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item or in writing prior to the meeting.

Staff Updates

OEPS Staff gave updates on:

- New Climate Data and Grant Analyst, Nathan Crane, started June 5th
- Tacoma Climate Leadership Cohort applications Round 2 training weekend is June 23-25. We received over 40 applications.
- Sustainability Small Grant Process update

Right of Way Street Tree Code Update

Mike Carey, Urban Forestry Program Manager –provided an update on the draft right of way tree codes under final development. The draft will go to Council Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee in September for consideration.

Climate Action Recommendations for City Council

The Commissioners discussed the draft letter and talking points and refined the language. They also added some content about vehicle pollution and health impacts. Jen asked about tribal liaison staff and it was decided to add that as a topic to a future meeting agenda. Laura also brought up the Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project and concern about its status and progress. It was decided that not enough information was currently known to form an adequate recommendation at this time. A letter to IPS was unanimously approved, pending word-smithing edits.

Staff and Commissioners discussed how the Council meetings have occurred in the past and the talking points document was reviewed. A google doc link was shared with Commissioners to sign up to meet with the Mayor, City Manager or Council members through Teams in June and July.

Home in Tacoma Recommendation for City Council

The Commission reviewed a draft and then unanimously adopted a letter, with minor word-smithing edits to come later, to send to IPS Committee regarding Home in Tacoma Phase 2. They added language to the draft around clarifying tree preservation ordinance, a recommendation to use low scale option B, and comments about short term rentals.

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item or in writing prior to the meeting.

Objectives for the Next Meeting (July 20, 2023)

- Adopt letter to Council on ROW Tree Codes
- Presentation and discussion on heat and smoke preparation and response

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, July 29, 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper and Margaret Schwertner, Co-Chairs

Kristi Lynett, Staff / Note Taker