



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

Date: January 18, 2024

Commission Members Present: Matthew Benedict (in-person), Mike Chang (in-person), Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair), John Doherty (in-person), Tony Ivey, Laura Svancarek (in-person), Adam Reichenberger, Casey Twiggs, Lowell Wyse (in-person)

Commission Members Excused: Lexi Brewer, Sheena Hewett, Devynee Le, Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair)

Others Present:

Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability: LaKecia Farmer (in-person), Kristin Lynett, Carson Brock

Rochelle Gandour-Rood, Tacoma Public Utilities

Call to Order & Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper at 5:15 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 January 18, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Unanimous Approval of December 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Staff Updates

Carson gave updates on Sustainability Small Grants. He reviewed the application that will be on the Small Sustainability Grant website the following week. Commissioners gave comments on the draft application including asking what data was collected previously and what equity outcomes were evaluated. They suggested adding demographic information to the application for outreach improvements. Commissioners also commented on the length of the application saying it was too long and requesting / suggesting ways to streamline the questions on the application.

Officer Nominations - Discussion

Commissioners had questions about time commitment and co-chairs vs vice-chair / chair models.

Mike Chang was nominated but declined the nomination.

Lowell Wise was nominated but declined the nomination.

Margaret Schwertner was nominated.

Casey Twiggs was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Evlondo Cooper was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Rules of Procedure - Discussion

LaKecia proposed two updates to the Rules of Procedure:

- “The commission may send other agencies and public entities (such as Pierce County Transit and Metro Parks) communications only if it is clarifying information or asking questions.” was identified as repetitive and was struck;
- There was generally positive feedback about “The Council has no role in permit decisions, therefore the Commission should not adopt recommendations in the permit review stage.”

Year in Review and Year Ahead - Presentation

LaKecia gave her presentation on 2023 past actions, 2023/2024 survey results, and the 2024 work plan draft.

Public Comment

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item.

Tentative Objectives for the Next Meeting (February 15, 2024)

- Officer Elections
- Urban Forestry Grants
- Home in Tacoma Phase II and subcommittee presentations

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 7:01pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday. February 15, 2024, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248.

Evlondo Cooper III

Casey Twiggs

Evlondo Cooper and Casey Twiggs, Co-Chairs

LaKecia Farmer

LaKecia Farmer / Note Taker