



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** December 14, 2010

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dale Anderson, Julia Petersen, Jim Gawel, Steve Garrett, Dr. Jane Moore, Bliss Moore, Bill Anderson, Ken Schmidt, Phil Coughlan, Elaine Ott

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Reuben McKnight, Michael P. Slevin III, Kristi Lynett, Bob Mack, Lisa Rennie, Dan Dzyacky, Robert Hill, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the November 9, 2010 Meeting Notes**

The November 9, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the December Agenda**

The December agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Historic Preservation Plan Program Update**

Preservation Planner, Reuben McKnight, gave an update on the City's Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) program.

About the program

- The HPP program dates back to 1973
- Began with efforts to save Old City Hall and Union Station
- There was a Citywide architectural survey created in 1977 and revisited over the next several decades with approximately 1,600 building records
- With a Landmarks register of 140+ buildings and another 1,100 within historic districts, the City has the second largest HPP program in WA State and is a regional leader

Program structure

- The City has an ordinance (governed by TMC 13.07) which provides the authority for a Volunteer Landmarks Commission to review nominations to the historic register, to approve design review proposals to those buildings, grant incentives and make policy recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Preservation Plan

- Recognizes our unique historic and cultural resources
- Creates strategies for their care and capitalize on their social and economic potential
- Includes goals, policy statements and an action agenda
- Historic preservation plays a key role in sustainability efforts in three basic categories: environmental, cultural/social and economic

Examples of proposed policies/actions

- Provide tools to encourage cooperation between advocates for historic preservation and sustainability
- Provide information about the environmental benefits of preservation of existing buildings
- Encourage the library to provide resource materials on preservation/sustainability
- Use historic structures to highlight green building practices
- Introduce sustainability into design and landscaping guidelines
- Historically appropriate energy retrofits

- Demolition review

The HHP is currently before the Planning Commission for review. A draft version is accessible online (TacomaCulture.org) with a 90% draft to be rolled out in January. The HHP and associated amendments to the City ordinance will go before the City Council in June/July 2011. The STC will provide comments to the HHP within the next few weeks.

▪ **EPW Joint Meeting Comments**

- The EPW/STC joint meeting on December 8 was successful. The meeting helped to clarify how the STC have, and should in the future, go through a similar process of coming up with policies and recommending them to the EPW. There was discussion on whether the STC should actually draft the resolutions or allow the EPW to do so. Consensus was to keep it flexible, as there could be times when the STC may have certain incites or opinions that EPW may not have. The EPW was more than willing to take general policy recommendations from the STC and have them turn it into actionable legislation. In terms of the specifics of the resolutions brought forward, the EPW determined they will hold additional study sessions focused on how to bring them forward and/or how to get Council up to speed on some of the specifics within the resolutions (in particular the life cycle and green building resolutions).
- EPW is planning a joint session with the Tacoma Utility Board, which will go towards addressing some of TPU staff's previous concerns about the resolution language.
- The issue of costs was brought up; not necessarily where each dollar comes from but outlining a list of potential costs when handing off to the EPW, or when going out to City staff for comment. Becoming more formal about identifying areas of costs would make the STC proposals better as they are moved forward.
- The STC will want to continue to report back to the EPW on their sustainability goals, including the reduction in ghg emissions. A ghg inventory will take place this spring using 2010 data. There was conversation by EPW members on the sustainability goals and how they would fit into the Climate Action Plan.

▪ **Draft Policy Process Flowchart**

Draft policy process

- EPW requests a policy/resolution or the STC determines a policy/resolution is necessary; timeline would then be set for completion of draft
- Commission would hold an initial discussion and determine which subcommittee and what additional stakeholders would be involved
- Subcommittee drafts policy/recommendation and presents back to STC
- STC would provide feedback at the next month's meeting
- The broader staff (reaching out to colleagues to obtain a full range of comments) would offer written comment
- Subcommittee reviews staff/stakeholders suggestions; prepares final draft
- Final discussion and edits by STC, with recommended policy/resolution moved to EPW
- EPW would take recommendations and move it through the legislative process
- Staff communicates with EPW any existing concerns
- The entire process could take up to three months.

It was suggested that subcommittees set out regular dates (biannually - January/July) for brainstorming sessions, to gather information and prioritize ideas prior to selecting which items to move forward on. Subcommittees will meet the first week in January and bring information to the next meeting.

▪ **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Budget Priority Recommendations Staff Responses**

The STC developed a list of CAP budget priorities and asked City staff to forward to key staff to obtain their responses; two key staff members responded. The Commission reviewed the responses documenting each one: (No) the response was not adequately answered and (Yes) the Commission needs to push harder for it be considered or prioritized.

- Off-street parking – (No) not being adequately addressed; (Yes) should find a way for that type of study; given the impact of transportation on ghg emissions
- Implement Phase I of the Mobility Masterplan – (Yes / No) more details needed

- Traffic light timing and synchronization implementation – (No / Yes) more information needed
- Implement the open space/urban forestry plan – (No / Yes)
- Pilot program for biweekly garbage pick-up and food waste/yard waste program – (No / Yes) more information needed
- Expand commercial food composting program – (No / Yes) will have more information from the January presentation to the STC

STC will request additional information on MoMap, traffic light timing and Solid Waste programs before the next meeting.

#### ▪ **Sustainable Tacoma Grant Update and Awardees**

Notification letters have gone out to all Sustainable Tacoma Grant awardees. The Grant Review Subcommittee did a great job in reviewing all grants. A complete list of awardees will be posted on the website.

#### • **Staff Report**

- The City recently received three major awards with regards to sustainability
  - NAIOP Award (national and local level) – LEED building participation for Pacific Plaza, which is a public/private partnership platinum LEED structure
  - NAIOP Award (state level) – Center for Urban Waters received the “Best Public LEED Project”
  - NACWA Award – the “Excellence in Environmental” award for the City’s urban watershed programs with regards to urban waters and the recent study with cleaning up Commencement Bay and Thea Foss; and how Tacoma is the first city in the nation to have statistically significant sampling of cleaning a Superfund site.
- A draft copy of potential meeting topics and presentations for the next two months was presented to members for feedback.
- STC vacancy position – applications are due December 17. The Council Appointment Committee cancelled their December meeting therefore; the appointment will not be in place until February.
- There is lots of federal stimulus dollars in our region for free charging stations. There are two companies doing outreach to public parking lot owners to see if there is an interest in these free charging stations.
- Sustainable Communities Award and \$50K received from The Home Depot Foundation

#### ▪ **Public Comment**

Robert Hill made comment regarding –

- Solar panels on Tacoma City Hall roof (east and west side) \$50-60K; is there a subcommittee can make this happen?
- Parking – there are hundreds of parking stalls across from the T-Dome not being used
- December 15, TPU Board meeting regarding their budget; concerned about the need for a Green River new treatment facility
- How hemp is addressed; have it be referenced in some small policy way

#### ▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting Agenda**

- Food waste pilot expansion
- Legislative priorities
- Food policy
- Subcommittee’s report
- BE Green event announcement – January 31

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.