



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

Date: December 18, 2018

Commission Members Present: Lexi Brewer, Matthew Benedict, Todd Hay, Liberty Evans-Agnew, Emily Pinckney, Kenny Coble

Commission Members Excused: Jade Monroe, Phil Coughlan, Chris Karnes, Sheree Cooks, JC Rubi

Commission Members Absent: None

Others Present: Anita Gallagher, Cam LeHouillier, Kristin Lynett, Leah Michaelson, Jim Parvey, Patrick Babbitt

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 4:40pm.

Approval of October 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum present, so no motion was made.

Review of Agenda

There was not a quorum present, so no motion was made.

Overview of Transportation Electrification Presentation – Anita Gallagher, Cam LeHouillier, Kristin Lynett

Anita, Cam, and Kristin reviewed transportation electrification efforts at Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) and the City of Tacoma. Transportation electrification is outlined as a goal in the Environmental Action Plan: to register 2,000 electric vehicles by 2020. Five hundred eighty-three electric vehicles were registered as of 2017 (an increase by 200 registrations since 2015). Presenters referred to data that demonstrates Tacoma is significantly behind neighborhood King and Snohomish Counties in electric vehicle registration. It is a priority action that serves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect the environment, and safeguard public health from air pollution.

Anita and Cam outlined 2017-18 TPU activities, which focused on partner engagement as well as education and outreach. Education and outreach activities included three electric vehicle (EV) and electric bike ride-and-drive events, EV 101 workshops, webpage creation, social media engagement, a charging station pilot project, and a discount program incentivizing EV and electric bike purchases. To date, the discount program has supported more than three dozen EV sales.

Multiple initiatives are developing and will be continued through 2019, including funding proposals for the Volkswagen (VW) settlement, electrification of vanpools, a residential EV charging study, EV charging investments partnerships, legislative advocacy, development of an EV strategic plan, and further stakeholder engagement. TPU is developing two VW settlement funding proposals, including school bus electrification and development a shore power rate with the Port of Tacoma for ships at berth. In coordination with the Washington State legislature, TPU is seeking to address state laws that limit electric vehicle infrastructure development, including those around public gift of funds. In order to improve transportation electrification in Tacoma, TPU recommends changes to land use and building codes that simplify the permitting process and reduce fees; increases to the availability of charging options; research of incentive options; and City and TPU efforts to lead by example. As next steps, TPU will return to IPS Committee in spring 2019 to discuss progress in their initiatives.

Overview of Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance 2018 Reporting Surveys – Leah Michaelson

Leah provided an initial report on recent community member and retailer surveying conducted as required by sections three and four of the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) ordinance, which took effect in July 2017. Contrary to pre-implementation surveys, which elicited some negative retailer feedback, recent surveys demonstrated that community members and retailers tend to support the ordinance. Specifically, 70% of community members and 66% of retailers support the disposable bag ban. Retailers were also surveyed about impacts to their customer experience, and only 24% reported negative effects. Staff members suspect that pre-implementation surveys were skewed by a relatively low rate of response (49 respondents) and self-selected biases; the post-implementation survey involved a comparably larger (298 respondents) and more representative mix of retailers. In terms of positive environmental impacts, 77% of community members reported decreasing their usage of disposable bags and 58% reported seeing fewer disposable bags as litter in Tacoma since the BYOB ordinance. As of this time, data from the BYOB ordinance surveys are still being processed to determine patterns. Leah is preparing a presentation for IPS Committee in January 2019.

Environmentally and Socially Responsible Investing Letter of Support

Commission Members reviewed the letter of support for the proposed resolution, making minor edits. Without a quorum, the Commission was unable to vote to on the letter of support. A vote will be added to the January 24, 2019, meeting agenda.

Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee updates were moved to the January 24, 2019, meeting.

Staff Updates – Patrick Babbitt

OEPS is currently in the process of posting the Green Building Specialist position. Also, multiple staff members are currently serving various Environmental Services Department Strategic Plan initiatives related to equity in Department services, developing an environmental baseline for Tacoma, and implementing a Department-wide marketing campaign. The current strategic plan outlines Department-wide goals, strategies, and initiatives through 2025 and is a significant change to the Department's approach to working together to effectively serve Tacoma's community and environment. As a follow-up to the Bring Your Own Mug campaign, a few dozen branded travel mugs were purchased with remaining funds. These mugs will be distributed to brand ambassadors, including STC members, who are uniquely positioned to serve as effective role models and campaign messengers.

Commission Member Comments –

Todd expressed interest in the Commission being briefed on the latest National Climate Assessment by experts.

Guest Comments –

None

Public Comments –

None

Objectives for the Next Meeting(s)

- Vote on the letter of support for the proposed Environmentally and Socially Responsible Investing resolution at City Council.
- Review Sustainability Small Grants funding proposals
- Discuss possible memo to City Council about Tideflats Subarea Plan staff resources
- Receive briefing on National Climate Assessment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, January 24, 2018, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, OEPS Staff, Note Taker