



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

**Date:** February 28, 2019

**Commission Members Present:** Lexi Brewer, Jade Monroe, Matthew Benedict, Todd Hay  
Liberty Evans-Agnew, Emily Pinckney, Chris Karnes, JC Rubi

**Commission Members Excused:** Phil Coughlin, Emily Pinckney

**Commission Members Absent:** Kenny Coble

**Others Present:** Jim Parvey, Pat Babbitt, Leah Michaelson, Sander Lazar

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 4:34 pm.

Lexi added a Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit letter to be covered which was not on the agenda, a draft letter Chris Karnes will cover later in the meeting during the other letters that will be discussed.

Todd Hay added he had received a request from some citizens wanting to know if STC would start posting the agenda and minutes on a public website, like some of the other commissions do. Leah and Jim let the commission know that STC's agendas and minutes are available on the City website. Leah will send out the link to the group. Staff will review what other commissions do to maximize accessibility.

**Review of Agenda**

Motion to approve, passed.

Lexi had an addition to be added to the minutes that was not reflected. There was some question about the recycling changes discussed which centered around Option 1, the no curbside recycling option and why it was proposed. Since this is something that the commission will want to follow-up on, she thought it would be good to have it reflected in the January minutes. Jim Parvey mentioned that over 5,000 already responded to the survey and well over 50% were in favor of continuing and improving curbside recycling (Option 4).

**Approval of January 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve made by Lexi Brewer, motion passed.

## **Sub-committee Updates**

### Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee – JC Rubi & Jade Pinckney

Meeting went well. There is one new commissioner and two on the bench. Jade spoke about one of the agenda items they discussed – the Right-of-Way Residential Charging Electric Vehicle Pilot Program. Property owners would install EV charging stations at the right-of-way abutting their home and would need to obtain both right-of-way construction and electrical permits, but not a right-of-way occupancy permit. This would save the applicant \$600 permit fee as well as the \$90 annual fee.

### Transportation –Chris Karnes & Matt Benedict

Chris attended the Transportation Commission meeting earlier this month. They spoke about the Puyallup Watershed Initiative, trying to do a study for a bicycle corridor between downtown Puyallup and downtown Tacoma using \$30,000 funding from several different partners including the City of Puyallup and City of Tacoma. They are looking at the costs and benefits for one along River Road, one along East Levi Road and one running along SR 167. The Transportation Commission has recommended the \$30,000 for the study, which is a partnership between Downtown on the Go and Puyallup Watershed.

There is movement in the legislature right now to curtail the motor vehicle excise tax that is part of the Sound Transit 3 package. Councilmember Mello was down in Olympia yesterday testifying about what potentially that would do, delaying the extension of Tacoma to Federal Way in 2030 past that time frame and increase cost overall.

Additionally, Tacoma City Council received a presentation at Study Session on Bus Rapid Transit project and they are likely to be issuing a recommendation at the next Council meeting as to which alternative lane treatment should be used for that project. Whether or not it will be curb-side running or in the median of the street.

Lexi had a point to clarify as far as their role with the commission and with the legislature as it pertains to a letter from STC, it has been established that we can't send them to outside bodies, but this is something that directly impacts the Environmental Action Plan. The question was raised if this is something that could be done or if it would have to be routed through council members. Jim Parvey has question into Legal about similar issues, he doesn't have the final answer yet. He will let the committee know the final answer.

### Planning – Lexi Brewer

Last week's meeting shared a Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) Update. SMP is nearly done and ready for public comment. The outstanding items were the geologically hazardous areas and a joint review process with Ecology. Interest to the STC was the integrated biodiversity areas and corridors to the shorelines and sea-level rise. They integrated the sea-level policies into the comp plan into the general SMP. She noted no regulations were added and this should be revisited and discussion ensued regarding the studies. There is a hearing in April on the final draft of the SMP.

### TPU – Todd Hay

Study Session discussed the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). Coming up quickly for the Council, first read on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March and then 19<sup>th</sup>. They are exploring a utility waiver, he will follow-up with more of an update from their minutes. The second item TPU special rate structures for the power at the Port. Todd will be continuing to follow this as it progresses.

### Outreach – Liberty & Jade

They have had one meeting and spoke about the Expo and youth groups that are happening around Tacoma and possibly visiting schools to talk about sustainability in some way.

Lexi drafted a document as part of the orientation package for the new commissioner covering expectations, etc. Discussion ensued regarding ideas, changes and additions to the document and the group was happy with the document as drafted by Lexi. Leah offered her help to the Outreach team to draft any part of their expectations. They are going to set-up a physical meeting for the small group to meet.

### Port

Emily Pinckney would like help covering the Port Committee, which will mean double coverage for someone. The date is the third Thursday once a month. Jade mentioned the Manufacturing Industrial Council does an excellent job summarizing this meeting. JC mentioned he could be available when he was in town.

### **STC Refresher: Rules of Procedure, Work Plan**

Pat Babbitt went over some minor changes to the Rules of Procedures document with the committee. Discussion ensued regarding areas of changes reflected in the document; office qualifications/duties and moving Sub-Committee and Staff Updates on the agenda. Sub-committee reports and staff updates were moved to the beginning of the agenda going forward. It was discussed amending language to reflect that email communication is a sufficient form of record. Discussion ensued on language used for officer terms of service and commissioner requirements and changing the number for a quorum to a simple majority. OEPS was tasked with coming up with the verbiage for the quorum language in the work plan. Discussion then ensued regarding excessive absences, holding hearings and arriving on-time to meetings when at all possible. Discussed standing practice for STC to attend IPS meeting in April to give update on the Environmental Action Plan progress report. OEPS will be presenting to the Study Session on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Pat Babbitt will amend document with changes discussed.

The draft Work Plan for 2019 and the first 2 months of 2020 was reviewed. The outline is based off of past commission activities/interests and knowledge of things that are coming up. Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for the EAP. The progress report is based on the calendar year and then STC gives the departments two months to get their drafts in. Toward the end of March OEPS will bring a draft to the commission. Discussion then ensued regarding the general priorities. Legislature activity was mentioned regarding low carbon fuel standards, methane emissions, 100% clean energy and following up on what laws were passed. Also discussed getting ahead of things by having some input into the City's legislative priorities. Discussed adding active transportation to the list to promote. Lexi also expressed interest in working with Commission Chairs and Staff for the Planning and Transportation Commissions.

Discussion ensued regarding the different Pierce County committees mirroring that of the City's.

### **Officer Nominations**

Committee voted and passed nominating Co-Chairs. Lexi is happy to continue her current role. Motion made by Jade to nominate Lexi and Chris for the next term as Co-Chairs, motion passed.

### **Letters: Recycling Changes, ADU Regulations**

Letters approved in January, but were not in their final forms, they are now in their final forms. One was the staff support for the Tides Flats Sub-Area Planning and the other was around Fossil Fuels, this one will be going to Council sometime in March. Lexi asked the letter be changed to address the Honorable Mayor Woodards.

There were no letters for the ones mentioned on this agenda, but there was a letter that was added based on the Transportation Sub-Committee plan around the Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit. Lexi turned it over to Chris for discussion.

Chris updated the group on the two different options being considered. The first option; Curbside alternative, having the bus operate in mixed traffic on the right-hand lane and a couple parts you would see some widening of the street to accommodate a business access transit lane which is where transit would move in the forward direction, but general traffic would be able to make right-hand turns into parking lots, etc. This concept has about the same level of transit priority as the other alternative, but one of the impacts you have is the roadway widening in addition to the stations on the side of the street so passengers end up having to cross seven plus lanes of traffic in order to access the stations. IPS has concern about this option, especially Council Member Beale. The second option; Hybrid alternative has substantially larger amount of transit priority within the City of Tacoma, principally between 38<sup>th</sup> street and 121<sup>st</sup>. In this scenario buses would operate in their own median lane, which would allow for pedestrians only having to cross half of the street. There is business access and some BAT lanes. There are connecting bus routes along 5 different areas of this portion of the corridor. You have more reliability and greater speed of transit vehicles along this portion of the corridor versus the other alternative. Discussion ensued regarding the two options and the impacts from each. What Chris is encouraging the City Council recommend is the Hybrid alternative and that OEPS staff be consulted moving forward. Public Works and Planning have been involved, but OEPS has not been as much of a concern. There will be a meeting to discuss March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Hybrid plan gets more people moving together and follows along with what is in the City's Comprehensive Plan Policy as well as EAP priorities and support of long-term initiatives. JC voiced his opposition to the Hybrid plan, but not from a STC standpoint, but that of a business person. If there was a vote he would abstain from the vote. The decision was originally scheduled for last May, but it was delayed in order to get all the results of the traffic impact analysis. The results show that there is marginal impact within the City of Tacoma, but it is the long distance trip between Spanaway and downtown Tacoma that is impacted by an additional 300 second delay in 2045. Discussion ensued over where crossing would happen throughout the route.

Motion to approve letter made by Jade Monroe, motion to approve passed.

Moved on to discussing the letter for Recycling Changes and the concern about why Option #1 had been floated. The media latched onto Tacoma considering eliminating curb side recycling. The other letter discussed was the ADU Regulations letter. There are two hearings at Council coming up in March and we may need to miss this since it is coming up so quickly.

Jade Monroe motioned again, but to table both letter ideas, motion passed.

### **STC Booth at Expo, Event Outreach**

Leah Michaelson gave update on this year's expo. Leah gave kudos to Abi Vanover who has taken the charge for the expo this year. A reminder was given on who had duties for the booth this year. There are 121 vendors this year, the most ever. Next year it may move to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, which would double or triple the amount of space. New this year will be a fix-it fair with Zero Waste Washington; people can bring their items to be fixed for free. Mayor Woodards will be hosting a bike ride to the expo from Tacoma Municipal Building starting at 9:45 AM. There is a food drive, Pat Babbitt has been working with Nourish Pierce County and there will be donation bins at the entrance. There will be an Expo After-Party

hosted by Tacoma Green Drinks at 7 Seas immediately following the expo. Lexi noted she sent invitations to the Mayor and Council members. She received confirmations from the Mayor and Council Members Mello and Beale that they will be attending. Council Member Beale is also going to be joining Lexi and other STC members in they are available for the Green Infrastructure Walk that happens at 2:45 and will end at 7 Seas. Leah also reminder everyone volunteering in the booth of their duties. Leah will be sending an email to everyone that will be in the booth that will have a PDF of what will be on the poster boards. Anna will get the archive room key to look for some missing banners, etc.

### **Staff Updates**

Pat Babbitt handed out mugs to STC members - 7 in 10 coffee cups in Tacoma are a single use cup. Help be an ambassador in getting them out of the landfills is important and the mugs are sustainability work. Lexi commented people have come up to her wanting to know where she got her cup. There are only a limited amount of cups and Pat is trying to reach out to influencers.

Jim Parvey updated STC that the Green Building Specialist is up on the City website.

### **Commissioner Comments –**

None

### **Guest Comments –**

None

### **Public Comment –**

None, but Matt Benedict shared his story while working from home during the snow he saw the garbage truck pick-up both the recycle and garbage containers on the street together and empty them into the truck and did this all the way down the block. He looked on all social media to see if there was anything to explain this behavior. Jim Parvey is going to look into this and let STC know the outcome.

### **Objectives for the Next Meeting(s)**

1. Work Plan
2. Continue discussion regarding recycling letter supporting option 4 and not option 1, putting a positive spin on the letter.
3. There will be a new Commissioner next month, Grace Sullivan. Lexi was very heartened by her interview, said that she really knows what the STC and the role of the commission is and will be a great fit with the current work model. There will also be two people added to the bench.
4. Preparing for EAP updates in April. Leah said that she will be able to provide a draft as a progress report of the previous years' work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Anna Boyle, Staff