



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: June 11, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Phil Coughlan, Nick Cutting, Jane Moore, Ellen Moore, Carol Shiflett, Bliss Moore, Holly Williams

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dan Dzyacky, Karen Hamilton

OTHERS PRESENT: David Pringle, Evann Sawyers Rouse, Kristin Lynett, Jim Parvey, Jana, Hallie, Rebecca, Bill Smith, Butch Trail, Jessica Ludwig, Alyssa Ilich, Catherine Taylor

▪ **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 14, 2013 MEETING NOTES**

The May 14, 2013 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **REVIEW OF THE JUNE AGENDA**

With the inclusion of Introductions, the June agenda was approved.

▪ **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Phil Coughlan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for self-introductions.

▪ **GRAD STUDENT REPORT ON “UPDATE OF CAP AND STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM ASSESSMENT”**

Evans School grad students, David Pringle and Evann Sawyers Rouse, have been working with OEPS staff to update the City’s 2008 CAP. They gave a brief overview of their recent (March 2013) presentation to the Commission.

Part of the student’s research for this project was also looking at academic research on CAPs across the US and Europe. They found that many cities are moving to the idea of a sustainable action plan, which gives them a much broader sense of what they’re looking at.

- Seattle is near completion of their CAP, with the focus on ghg emissions reductions, but incorporating the broader goal of sustainable actions across their city.
- Portland has had a CAP since 2009 and is in the process of updating. They’ve done annual reports on their progress, and much like Tacoma have focused very strongly on emissions reductions.
- St. Louis and Washington DC are two examples of cities that have adopted these plans for the first time. Both have very much embodied the ideas of a livable, workable, playable place. It’s a broad set of plans that touches not just ghg emissions reductions, but all things that are thought of as a sustainable city. St. Louis is developing a CAP but it’s a subpart of their sustainable plan.

The OEPS created a report highlighting the accomplishments of the City’s 2008 plan. The achievements of each of the goals were categorized as either *complete*, *good*, *needs work*, or *discontinued*. There was movement towards all but one of the goals, and over half of the goals were

rated as either *complete* or *good* (*completed* goals: Citywide environmental purchasing policy, volume-based waste rates and Citywide bike and pedestrian plan).

As part of their process, grad student's utilized the STAR system which the City became a pilot for in 2012. The STAR tool assigns the City points for a variety of outcomes that it can be working towards, and actions that can be taken (518 outcomes and actions in STAR). Outcomes are often data-driven and actions can be plans, partnerships or incentives.

Students collected their data by working with staff in contacting a number of City departments and partnering agencies, as well as conducting nearly 30 interviews to talk about outcomes and actions that each area may have some control over.

Next steps/recommendations

- Use the STAR tool to set priorities going forward. It's a really good self-assessment tool and a good way to benchmark Tacoma against other cities across the US.
- Integrate an updated CAP.
- Re-engage or use the STC as a platform for renewing efforts to obtain the public engagement that is necessary to create the kind of plan that is right for Tacoma.
- Secure mayoral, city council and city manager support.
- Strengthen the visibility of Tacoma's STAR score.

▪ FINALIZE COMMISSION 2013-2014 PRIORITIES

The list of 2013-2014 priorities were reviewed and discussed at the May meeting. The current goal is to discuss and finalize the priorities for STCs August 28th presentation to IPS.

- Energy
 - Addition: **Continue to emphasize the value of community renewable adoption.**
 - TPU to provide an energy policy update at the July 9th meeting).
- Education and Outreach – Additions
 - Present to Neighborhood Councils and Business Districts **one to two times annually.**
 - To develop a ghg reduction education campaign, **form a subcommittee by end of 2013.** (summer interns will provide assistance).
 - Receive STAR rating **by end of November** (move this item under Climate Change)
- Land Use and Green Building - **Identify timelines** for
 - Comprehensive Planning process (starts 2013, updates adopted by June 30, 2015)
 - Urban Forestry Codes update; and
 - PDS Green Tools website
- Transportation
 - Request updates on draft Transportation Master Plans and provide comments and recommendations on those plans.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling
 - Submit to IPS a **draft policy suggestion** towards waste diversion 70% goal
- Implementation of a small grants program in October 2013; staff will discuss with ES director.
- Develop a fossil fuel divestment subcommittee with intern assistance.
- Utilize intern assistance in looking at other cities and what kind of goals they have for their municipal operations under energy, fuel, food and waste.

▪ STAFF UPDATES

- There are currently two vacancies on the Commission. The posting for applications was closed May 30th with interviews to be conducted by the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (IPS) Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 10th.
- The STC will present an update on their work and priorities to IPS at their August 28th meeting.
- Members were asked to think about future meeting dates and start times: 1) July and August are popular vacation months; staff will poll members as to their availability during these months; and 2) with Council's encouragement to include youth seats on the Commission, the 3:30 start time may be a barrier for some students.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

- **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**

TPU Energy Policy presentation

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.