



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

Date: February 11, 2014

Commission Members Present: Bliss Moore, Holly Williams, Agnes Pate, Ellen Moore, Carol Shiflett, Chrissy Cooley, Nick Cutting, Karen Hamilton

Commission Members Excused: Dan Dzyacky, Phil Coughlan, Alyssa Ilich

Others Present: Jessica Knickerbocker, Jeralee Anderson, Elliott Barnett, Steve Atkinson, Walt Miles, Aaron Knight, Joe Harrison, Lisa Kittilsby, Jeff Thomas, Ian Wingard, Steve Helvey, Layne Alfonso, Kristin Lynett, Geoffrey Smyth, Jim Parvey, Dan Seabands, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Olivia Mathison, Emily Strong, Catherine Taylor

- **Approval of the January 14, 2014 Meeting Notes**

The January 14, 2014 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

- **Review of the February Agenda**

The February agenda was reviewed and approved.

- **Draft Greenroads Resolution and Presentation**

Greenroads Foundation is a non-profit organization based out of Redmond. Their goal is to forward sustainability, education and recognize sustainable transportation projects. They began five years ago at the UW with over \$500K in research funding from state and federal departments of transportation. Greenroads was designed with the original intention of recognizing sustainability performance that is substantially above and beyond minimum compliance for environment. Also recognizing and making provisions for human-centered features for access mobility and safety of roadway users and incentivizing economic sustainability through lifecycle thinking.

Currently, Greenroads has nine certified projects in the world. They have over 50 roadways registered in seven states and three countries outside the US, with a construction value over \$5.5 billion. And the green market for buildings has reached upward of \$44.4 billion in 2013, with most growth in the government sector. The total value of registered greenroads currently represents 13% of that market value.

Tacoma is a world leader in greenroads. Since the spring of 2010, Tacoma has successfully certified four projects achieving one bronze and three silver awards. Environmental Services Division Manager, Geoffrey Smyth, presented the awards to Miles Construction and the entire design construction team that helped Tacoma achieve greenroads certification on the projects: Asotin Court, Wapato Lake Drive and Alaska Street (S 72nd to S. 56th).

Members reviewed the draft Greenroads Resolution to provide feedback prior to staffs' presentation to IPS in March/April.

- **Sustainability Code, Urban Forestry Landscaping Code, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan Element Updates**

The Planning Commission is working on a long list of comprehensive plans and code amendments for 2014. Planning Development Services staff spoke to three of the nine planned updates:

Urban Forestry Landscaping Code: Amend the code to strengthen trees and landscaping-related regulations, with a focus on achieving such policy intents as incentives, flexibility, quality and tree health. Plant more and plant better.

Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element: Amend the element and obtain certification from the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain the City's eligibility for certain funding programs administered by RCO. Issues to be addressed in the amendment may include: planning process for recreation issues, needs assessments and benchmarks for success and inventory of capital projects and assets.

Sustainability Code: Amend the code to incorporate and address sustainability-related issues identified through recent projects and analyses, including LEED for neighborhood development, STAR and NPDES low Impact development review and other relevant code issues reviewed by the Regional Code Coordinating Committee. (e.g., electric vehicle infrastructure – would require that 10% of auto parking provided by multi-family development is wired for future Level 2 charging stations; long-term bicycle parking facilities; setback exceptions for rainfall catchment systems).

Timeline:

February 19 – Planning Commission authorizes proposed amendment for public review

March 19 – Planning Commission public hearing

April 16 – Planning Commission recommendations to City Council

- **Sustainability Expo Planning Update**

- Members were given expo posters for their distribution around the City.
- Staff requested volunteers to staff the Commission booth (ListServe/EnviroNews sign-up sheet, overview of STAR banner and Green Living guide map).
- Currently 61 vendors out of 74 spots have been filled.
- Three workshops are in-place: 1) backyard chickens and getting started; 2) solar power and how it works; and 3) cooking demonstrations.
- Sustainability short films on will be shown throughout the day.
- Tacoma's Biggest Carbon Loser's big reveal

- **Staff Updates**

- Nick gave a quick briefing on his recent presentation to the North End Neighborhood Council
- Carol Shiflett has accepted an employment opportunity out-of-state requiring her resignation from the STC
- Staff has updated the STAR website.
- A STAR article on Tacoma is featured in a recent issue of the Association of WA Cities magazine.
- The City has released the RFP for a consultant on community visioning and strategic planning process.
- The TNT started distributing ad packets in orange bags to non-subscribers. The opt-out form is available on TNT's website <http://www.thenewstribune.com/extraoptout/>).

- **Public Comment**

- TPU staff addressed House Bill 2176: Renewable energy systems, customer access via low-cost loan or lease program offered by electric utility or third-party vendor
- TPU's automated Energy Star Process is underway; go-live is anticipated for April 10

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

Sustainability Expo debriefing

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.