



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

Date: March 10, 2015

Commission Members Present: Ken Campbell, Sarah Chessman, Chrissy Cooley, Phil Coughlan, Nick Cutting, Karen Hamilton, Felicity Devlin, Alyssa Illich, Agnes Pate, Holly Williams

Commission Member Excused: Ellen Moore

Others Present: Council Member Anders Ibsen, Jim Parvey, Emily Campbell, Lowell Wyse, Jeanne Walter, Jennifer Kammerzell, Chris Van Daalen, Lisa Rennie

- **Roll Call**

- **Approval of February 10, 2015, Meeting Notes**

The February notes were approved with the following change: Chrissy Cooley stated that she would be willing to pay for an intern if it would mean getting the plastic bag ban approved. She wanted this to go on the record.

- **Review of March Agenda**

One addition was made: Jennifer Kammerzell will report on the Transportation Master Plan.

- **Subcommittee Report-Outs**

Outreach Subcommittee

- The subcommittee is exploring more ways to get the message out and expand the audience. This may be an opportunity to examine the Commission's mission and processes, perhaps in a retreat setting; this could include hearing from outgoing commissioners.
- A motion carried for OEPS to create a doodle poll with selected days for a potential retreat.
- Outreach is planning a community litter pickup, perhaps in conjunction with an already scheduled PTA event on the morning of May 9th.

Electric Vehicle Subcommittee

- There is a tentative date of June 24th for an Electric Vehicle (EV) Workshop, as referenced in the document "Desired Outcomes," previously circulated among the Commission.
- This workshop might be modeled on the Vision2Action symposiums, one of which occurred last Thursday.
- The EV workshop/symposium would be a forum for making the business case for electric vehicles in order to hear from and educate additional stakeholders. There's a working list of stakeholder names that will be re-circulated and amended.
- Phil moved to support an EV symposium, with additional stakeholders added. Chrissy seconded and the motion carried.

Plastic Bag Subcommittee

- The petition process has begun, based on a recommendation from Council Member Mello. Early support has come from the Sustainability Expo and other events. This is not an official petition.

• **Bottled Water Ban Campaigns—Chrissy Cooley**

- Chrissy presented a PowerPoint tailored to university bottled water bans; Chris Van Daalen's PowerPoint presentation will be made available to the group.
- PLU is part of the Washington Higher Education Sustainability Consortium. Ten Washington universities have already taken steps toward a plastic bottle ban. Universities may blaze a trail for cities.
- One hurdle may be the municipal water bottling operations.
- Council Members Boe and Walker may be interested in pursuing a bottled water ban.

• **Tacoma Power's Integrated Review Plan Update**

This item was tabled until Council Member Ibsen would arrive.

• **Green Infrastructure Vision2Action and Challenge Debrief—Chris Van Daalen**

- The symposium featured a great cross-section of stakeholders and an excellent keynote speaker. The goal of 100 attendees was exceeded by 20.
- Synergy with Tacoma GIS Challenge event benefitted both events (shared expenses, increased attendance). The goal is for stakeholders to realize how they benefit from collaboration.
- There is lots of potential for specific actions to come out of the symposium.

• **Sustainability Expo Debrief and Lessons Learned**

This item was tabled.

• **Transportation Master Plan—Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works**

- The Transportation Commission started from scratch in identifying its goals, and the resulting draft is indicative of that shared vision.
- This is being adapted for the new City Comprehensive Plan update scheduled for this fall.
- New policy shifts to prioritize pedestrians, bicycles and transit over single-occupancy vehicles have received broad public support, particularly at the Sustainability Expo. The Sustainability Expo has proven a particularly good avenue for collecting thoughtful feedback.
- The modal network map solicits public feedback on transit, bicycling, etc. A new comment period opens this week.

• **Tacoma Power's Integrated Review Plan Update (cont'd)—Chrissy Cooley**

- Chrissy attended a public presentation on behalf of STC. TPU is looking at a 20-year plan for where Tacoma's electricity comes from; really hoping for citizen engagement.
- Chrissy recommends sending a letter to TPU to thank them for having a citizen forum and also to make suggestions about the IRP.
- Lisa Rennie from TPU stated that the next meeting will be in May, and they are willing to do more.
- Council Member Ibsen expressed enthusiasm for this process. The timing is right for TPU to be proactive on sustainability issues. He suggested that many others would have loved to attend, but the afternoon meeting time was inconvenient for many. The City's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee would be interested in continued feedback from STC on TPU's IRP update process.
- Phil: There is potential to develop subcommittees for reviewing not only the IRP but also the new comprehensive plan and transportation plan. Due to the timing and importance of these plans, the STC should make a concerted effort to give feedback on each one. Formation of

these subcommittees will be added to next month's agenda. The Sustainable Materials Management Plan should also be added.

- Lisa Rennie: The IRP will be a pretty involved process, so STC representative(s) should be well prepared.

- **Sustainability Expo Debrief and Lessons Learned (cont'd)—Emily Campbell**

- The Expo was a huge success! Over 1500 people attended; about 350 took the exit survey; over 70% reported attending for the first time; and around 100 vendors attended.
- The home remodeling expo upstairs created excellent synergy. The STC should look into collaborating with that event in 2016.
- We will consider moving upstairs to the larger room and display area for next year.
- The book-music-movie swap was successful; volunteers from Fair Tradin' organization (which does its own swap events) were complimentary of our swap and wanted to be part of it again.
- Alyssa: A gimmicky giveaway related to the STC or OEPS (such as a publication) would help draw people to our table.
- Felicity: Something more interactive would be helpful. The sustainability app cards were helpful.
- Yellow directories were helpful for engaging people, but were too Seattle-centric. The windowed foyer area was nice.
- Chrissy: Emily succeeded in negotiating a last minute mix-up and eliminated bottled water at the event.

- **Staff Update: Environmental Action Plan, Plastic Bags, Electric Vehicles—Jim Parvey**

- The RFP for the Environmental Action Plan is essentially done and could go out next week.
- A contractor has been hired for the Sustainable Materials Management plan.
- Plastic bags: Staff work plan outlines a draft ordinance ready for Council by early fall.
- EVs: A number of bills in the Legislature are addressing EVs; some tied to the governor's executive order on climate change. Another consideration is whether the Comprehensive Plan is the best place for EVs code to reside.
- Jim met with Master Builders' Association about EVs. There are still some concerns from them based on additional building costs. Some recent apartment buildings in Tacoma have included EV infrastructure. OEPS will reach out to them for details about building costs.

- **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- Discuss a potential retreat for the STC following the appointment of new members.
- Form subcommittees to monitor and comment on the Comprehensive Plan, Integrative Resource Plan, Transportation Master Plan and Sustainable Materials Management Plan.
- Allow one-half hour for subcommittee breakouts during public meeting time.
- Discuss how to recruit more commissioners and new perspectives.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, 9th Floor Visibility Center.