



**CITY OF TACOMA
SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES
AUGUST 11, 2009**

DATE: August 11, 2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Anderson, Joanne Buselmeier, Tony Warfield, Bliss Moore, Dr. Jane Moore, Ken Schmidt, Louise Bray, Philip Coughlan, Dale Anderson, Elaine Ott

COMMISSION MEMBER EXCUSED: James Gawell

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Huffman, Kristin Lynett, Ken Peachey, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the July 14, 2009 Meeting Notes**

The July 14, 2009 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review and Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

▪ **Sustainability Definition**

What is sustainability?

- Capacity to endure
- Carrying capacity
- Long-term success
- Managing (forests, products, natural resources, etc.)
- Not take more than your share
- Energy, Environment, Equity and Enhancement (cultural, issues of livability)

A sustainable Tacoma will look like.....

- Pushing the boundaries to look at and consider different alternatives.
- Balance
- Possible 50%(?) LEED buildings
- Livability factor - pedestrian and non-motorized pathways, green space, etc.

▪ **Commission Roles and Workplan**

Roles

- Educated and Educator
- Reactive
- Proactive

Workplan

- Begin by reviewing the two –year recommendations introduced by the Green Ribbon Climate Action Task Force.

▪ **Comprehensive Planning Process 101**

Planning Division Manager, Peter Huffman, gave a brief overview of the City's Comprehensive Planning Process. The Washington Growth Management Act requires that the City of Tacoma create, adopt and maintain a Comprehensive Plan which is amended on an annual basis. The Comprehensive Plan is the official statement adopted by the City Council setting forth goals and policies to protect the health, welfare, safety, and quality of life of Tacoma's residents.

▪ **Public Comment**

- Shaping Tacoma's sustainable vision should be a dynamic process imagining goals or targets with the vision being reviewed annually in keeping with the Planning Commission's annual reviews of Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan.
- Regarding defining sustainability and the perceived trade-offs between environment and economic growth, the Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC) might be well-served to undertake discussions clarifying member assumptions about the severity of climate change.
- In response to the Comprehensive Plan discussion which highlighted a possible tension between oversight and micro-managing, it was suggested that the STC oversee by identifying reports for review (i.e., what related considerations are occurring within the Planning Commission).

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- What is the STC's vision (short- and/or long-term)?
- Review planning documents of Puget Sound Regional Council (2020 / 2040 Plan); as well as Cascade Land Conservancy.
- Review matrix of Climate Action Plan.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248.