



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: December 8, 2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Anderson, James Gawel, Dale Anderson, Ken Schmidt, Bliss Moore, Dr. Jane Moore, Elaine Ott, Tony Warfield

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joanne Buselmeier, Philip Coughlan, Louise Bray

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Mack, Lisa Rennie, Kristi Lynett, Ryan Dicks, Stephanie Gowing, Lucy Kruesel, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Introductions**

- Ryan Dicks is the new Sustainability Manager for Pierce County.
- Lisa Rennie is the new Sustainability Manager for Tacoma Public Utilities, and comes to the City from Seattle City Light.
- Lucy Kruesel and Stephanie Gowing are the new interns for the City's Office of Sustainability and come to the City from UPS and Evergreen State College, respectively.

Approval of the October and November 2009 Meeting Notes

The October 13 and November 10, 2009 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

Review and Approval of the December Agenda

The December agenda was approved as presented with the addition of "City Council Communication and Coordination."

▪ **EPA Watershed Grant**

EPA Watershed Grant is a new \$1M grant opportunity for Puget Sound entities/municipalities to try to help implement the Puget Sound Partnership's action agenda. The City's proposal will develop a "Healthy Thea Foss Watershed Plan" and identify, prioritize, and implement low impact development projects in this urbanized basin. The grant application due date has been set back to the end of January 2010. The Commission will develop a letter of support by early January.

▪ **Consultant Contract Update – Sustainability Framework and Scorecard**

The first meeting with Cascadia was held last week to form a steering committee (Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Mary Morrison, Tony Warfield), and to put together a work plan and budget (\$20K was allocated). The main focus will be helping the City come up with sustainability framework and principles, 5- and 10-year goals, and a scorecard matrix report to better show STCs progress to the public and City Council.

▪ **Sustainable Speakers and Event Sponsorship**

Suggestions were given for providing resources in education and outreach to businesses and residents

- Commission partnering with other organizations that are currently doing other programming and/or creating our own programming.
- Monthly brown bag lunch workshops on each element of sustainability focusing on businesses, with business people serving on panels (working via of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce).
- Inspirational or motivational speakers.
- UWT also has a speaker series via Urban Studies and Environmental Sciences, as well as and an endowed speaker series which invites one major speaker annually. UWT may also have meeting space available to the Commission.
- Provide a sustainability events calendar on the STC website.
- Business-to-business programs to let business people talk to other businesses to help them learn and understand the benefits of doing what sustainability is all about.
- PLU has asked if the City would like to sponsor the Sustainability Summit on March 12 and 13. The City's Environmental Services (ES) department sponsored last year's summit (\$5K) at UPS through their ES Sponsorship Program. ES sponsorship activities would need to be within the City of Tacoma service area. PLU is within TPU's service area and has an actual budget for sponsorships and activities. Staff will research the possibility of TPU sponsorship funding for this event.
- It was suggested that the Office of Sustainability set aside some money out of the budget for the office and come up with a policy around sponsoring future events.

▪ **City Council Communication and Coordination**

Discussion on when and how the STC will want to engage the incoming mayor and council members on the progress of the Office of Sustainability (i.e., climate action plan update, sustainability matrix and scorecard, etc.). Possible opportunities: weekly Study Sessions, Environment & Public Works Committee presentations.

▪ **Tacoma's Climate Action Plan (2009-2010)**

Members reviewed the two-year Climate Action Plan (revised 12/7/09), and were pleased to find that nearly all of the items have some level of action underway. The major role of the STC is overseeing the implementation of the climate action plan. A lot of the workings are just oversight, to ensure things are happening at the various City levels, and then reporting out to Council and the public. The Commission will want to take advantage of local radio stations and newspapers, TV Tacoma, anything that enables them to reach out to the public and business to identify things that are taking place at the City level.

▪ **Staff Report**

- A follow-up meeting is scheduled with Community Relations regarding the STC website.
- EECBG monies have not been received to-date.
- Woodsmoke change out program: The goal is to remove 325 woodstoves and increase energy efficiencies in those homes. Mailings have gone out to 1200 homes in key zip codes near the air monitoring station that has put us out of federal compliance.
- Staff will follow up on the IMCOOL Campaign.
- Cross-Functional Design Team: The purpose of the team is to influence and make "standard," sustainability in our public works design manual and specs regarding public works infrastructure.

▪ **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

- **Other Items of Interest**

- Pierce Transit Planning Review - December 9, UWT

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- EPA Watershed Grant Letter of Support
 - Cascadia presentation and dialogue
 - Preparation for January 13 Environment & Public Works Committee Presentation

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248.