

Sustainable Tacoma Commission Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16, 733 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

June 3, 2009

Temporary Staff Person: Alisa O'Hanlon called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Alisa O'Hanlon, Kristin Lynett, Dale Anderson, Jane Moore, Bill Anderson, Elaine Ott, Phil Coughlin, Bliss Moore, Ken Peachey, Tony Warfield, Ken Schmidt, Joanne Buselmeier, Louise Bray

Commission Members Absent: Jim Gawel

Others Present: Ramie Pierce (COT-Public Works), Chris Larson (COT-Public Works), Ruth Doyle (MBA PC), Lindy Holmes (Metro Parks Tacoma), Nancy Davis (Metro Parks Tacoma), Vito Iacobazzi (Metro Parks Tacoma), Jessica Holden (BCRA), Kelli Boettger (COT-Public Works)

Introductions

Temporary Staff Person, Alisa O'Hanlon, welcomed everyone then introduced herself and Kristin Lynett, explaining that Kristin will be heading this commission. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Alisa explained that the purpose of the meeting today is to come to a consensus about what are the strategies the Commission would like to recommend to the Environment and Public Works Committee for funding with the Energy and Efficiency Block Grant.

To review the two specific charges the Environment and Public Works Committee for this Commission

1. Look at the Climate Action Plan and decide what strategy you would recommend for funding with the block grant.
2. Is there a strategy that could address the air quality in Tacoma's non-attainment area and also meet the energy efficiency criteria?

Alisa and members looked at specific strategies and picked the ones they thought would have a strong case for meeting the criteria of the grant. Based on the member's expertise, they rated those. Based on those ratings, the attached handout was prepared by averaging the provided feedback.

The prioritized strategies as assessed by the members were; the Woodstove Change-out Program which addresses the non-attainment issue came out on top. The second place program was Comprehensive Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Program that Steve Bicker of TPU presented at the last meeting. The third place program Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tacoma - Education Proposal the Bill Anderson of Citizen's for a Healthy Bay presented at the last meeting. The next two programs were the Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Government Buildings and Reduce the City's Electricity Use by Implementing Energy Conservation Measures are really the same thing, regarding energy efficiency in the City. The fifth place

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program is the Recycling Programs and sixth is the Single-Family Rental Weatherization Program that Steve Bicker also presented.

Alisa presented a matrix that staff prepared, rating the strengths of the proposals above in terms of meeting the criteria of the grant. The matrix is attached. It was their assessment that the Woodstove Change-out Program was an average match to the criteria. The items with asterisks are items that have some of the detail for the program worked out and handouts for those programs are attached.

Kristin reminded the commission members that when evaluating the proposals, to keep in mind the costs of some of the proposals that fit the criteria. The Commission may not want to fully fund any one proposal.

Alisa asked the members to note that four of the proposals in the top six have a high probability of accessing funds someplace else or moving forward without the grant funds. The four would be the Woodstove Change-out Program, Comprehensive Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Program, Recycling Programs, and the Single-Family Rental Weatherization Program.

Member Bill Anderson asked if there would be a problem if those programs in the top were combined in a proposal for the grant.

Kristin replied that the Commission would be accountable to do it. The Commission would not want to propose \$5M in work and only complete \$2M. All of the top strategies would probably be accepted as valid strategies.

Member Bill Anderson stated that the BEST Program, expand promotion of Pierce Transit's Online Ride Sharing and Carpooling Program and encouraging telecommuting could all be combined to work in partnership as outreach and educational programs.

Alisa suggested that GTEC encompasses all of those things and that if the Commission wanted to direct that the Commission thinks the block grant should be directed in the direction of the four strategies highlighted in yellow, the GTEC is a specific example of how those could be done.

The members discussed and confirmed that the Comprehensive Citywide Bicycling and Pedestrian Plan, setting the minimum LEED standard of silver for City renovations or new buildings, and implementing an environmentally responsible purchasing policy belong in the lower half of the listing.

Joanne asked how the Commission would know what things are going to cost to implement. She stated that if a program were required to match funds, it would make the money go farther.

Alisa said she proposes that they frame this as, "This is the policy direction that you want to give, will be the best direction will address the non-attainment issue, something that will address Sustainable Tacoma Commission Minutes

multifamily weatherization, and something that will address upgrades of government buildings and the professional staff will work out specifics.”

When the original direction was given by the Environment and Public Works Committee, one of the objectives was job creation, energy efficiency and it has to be quick to implement. One of the Commissions objectives is to reduce CO2 emissions. Some of the programs are intuitive in fulfilling these objectives.

Ramie Pierce, Urban Forester for the City of Tacoma, suggested the Urban Forest Management Plan and for a Sample Tree Inventory. She stated that these plans would address the issues of carbon, air quality and energy efficiency.

In the Climate Action Plan in the 2-Year Action Plan under Category 3 it did identify that increasing tree planting is a strategy. In the last meeting, the Commission agreed to look at only Categories 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Joanne asked if the Commission was to recommend specific programs and policies to the City Council or give them a strategic direction to move in rather than specific programs to fund without having the time to take a comprehensive look at the programs. Then the City Council can designate what program(s) to fund.

The Environment and Public Works Committee would like a progress report on the Commissions at their June 10, 2009 meeting. The application needs to be submitted on June 25, 2009 and Federal Department of Energy also refers to a strategy, the details of the activities are due 3 months after the application deadline.

The Commission would like clarification on what the Council specifically wants at the June 10th meeting and recommends submitting the strategies to the Committee after June 25th because the Commission would like to drill down more into specific projects.

It was asked if City staff could get the specific details of the programs in the top strategies box in addition to transportation strategies so the Commission can compare the strategies and specific project details side by side.

Alisa confirmed that the four categories/directions that the Commission is interested in are Residential/Commercial/Public Buildings Energy Efficiency, Education, Transportation, and Recycling. The report to EPW will include the four identified category directions with the question, “Do you just want these directions or do you want us to drill down further into specific projects?” and the statement: “The Commission is looking exclusively at Green Ribbon Task Force Climate Action Plan items with the exception of the Woodstove Replacement Program?”

The next meeting of the Commission will be on June 17th at 3:30 – 5:30pm in TMBN 16 unless Jim Gawel won’t be able to make it. Joanne Buselmeier offered to be spokesperson to present at the EPW Meeting on Wednesday, June 10th in conference room TMB 248 from 4:00 – 6:00pm.

Alisa announced that the Planning Commission is having a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment on June 16th. If the members are interested, contact Alisa.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Alisa O'Hanlon, Temporary Staff Person

Kelli Boettger, Office Assistant, Public Works