



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** October 13, 2009

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Anderson, Bliss Moore, Dr. Jane Moore, Louise Bray, James Gawel, Dale Anderson, Elaine Ott

**COMMISSION MEMBERS/STAFF EXCUSED:** Kristi Lynett, Joanne Buselmeier, Tony Warfield, Ken Schmidt, Philip Coughlan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dan Thompson, Gary Kato, Ramie Pierce, Janda Volkmer, Michelle Warmuth, Ken Peachey, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the September 8, 2009 Meeting Notes**

The September 8, 2009 meeting notes were approved and adopted, with spelling correction.

▪ **Review and Approval of the October Agenda**

The October agenda was approved as presented.

▪ **Urban Forestry Policy**

Urban Forester, Ramie Pierce, presented an overview on the Urban Forestry Policy.

- Urban forestry is the management of trees/plant life and people in their relationship with plant life in their urban setting. In an urban setting, a lot of the vegetation lives on private property, open spaces, planting strips, alleys.
- The Urban Forest (UF) Policy addresses how the community would like to deal with issues related to trees (plant life) in the City's urban forest. The UF Policy will develop a comprehensive, sustainable and integrated approach to tree management on both public and private properties, and will work in conjunction with the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Plan.
- The UF Policy will affect just the Tacoma City limits and is listed on our website: [www.cityoftacoma.org/evergreentacoma](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/evergreentacoma). Members are encouraged to provide feedback and/or written comment.
- Urban Forestry program process:
  - June '09 – June '10 – Comprehensive Plan Amendment (two public hearings (March, May).
  - July '10 – April '11 – Regulation Updates (Critical Areas Ordinance; Tacoma Municipal Codes 9.18-20, 13.06 and 13.11; Building and Land Use Codes.
  - January '11 – June '11 – Urban Forestry Manual and Public Education Outreach
  - June '11 – June '12 – Urban Forestry Management Plan

- **Solid Waste Recycling Program**

Public Works Assistant Division Manager, Gary Kato, gave a presentation on the City's recycling program. Community Relations Specialist, Michelle Warmuth, provided information on customer outreach/education.

- Utility Overview
  - Approximately 53,000 residential customers and 4,500 commercial customers.
  - Have recently developed a business plan for 2008-2009 which gives us some guidance on how we can provide service more sustainably and more efficiently, and to ensure customer satisfaction.
  - The utility is completely funded by rates and fees.
- Tonnage Summary- 2.2% decrease in commingled recycling; 10.7% increase in residential yard waste.
- New Strategies
  - Determine if a change in the rate structure would encourage more recycling/waste reduction.
  - Food waste diversion program development
  - Home compost bin sales
  - Significantly expand reuse and waste reduction efforts
- Evolving Strategies
  - Continue mulching mower sales assistance programs
  - Increase recycling in the commercial sector
  - Continue to improve collection system efficiencies
- Public Outreach/Education
  - Solid Waste provides recycling/waste reduction education via schools (EnviroChallenger), local events, City's website, utility bill inserts, EnviroTalk newsletter, Garden & Recycling Guide, EnviroHouse, and landfill tours for kindergarten to college-age.

- **Public Comment**

Commission members have gathered a lot of information over the last three to four months. It was suggested that it might make sense to think about what has been produced up to this point, and what might be a three month, six-month or one-year plan around products that the group is going to produce. What is the group is really trying to accomplish more than just education? What is going to be done with all the data that the members have gathered?

- **Other Items of Interest**

- "I Am Cool" pilot program volunteers: Philip Coughlan and Bill Anderson.
- Tacoma ACTS has accepted applications from 20 organizations in a Green Business pilot program to do a carbon footprint analysis of their businesses to determine how well they do compared to an industry standard or other similar businesses.
- PLU Sustainability Conference and Expo, March 12-13, 2010
- Environmental Film Festival at the WA State History Museum, October 15-16, 2009
- Program is available for giving away (free) spill kits with sample spill plan to businesses.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248.