



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: January 12, 2010

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

COMMISSION MEMBER ABSENT Joanne Buselmeier

OTHERS PRESENT: Marc Daudon, Michelle Caulfield, Laila Parker, Lisa Rennie, Kristi Lynett, Ryan Dicks, Julia Petersen, Erik Sloan, Frank DiBiase, Arabie Jaloway-Hill, Kathryn Appleyard, Stephanie Gowing, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Introductions**

▪ **Approval of the December 2009 Meeting Notes**

The December 8, 2009 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

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

The January agenda was approved as presented.

▪ **Sustainability Framework and Vision – Cascadia Consulting Group**

The Cascadia Consulting Group is working with Tacoma staff to expand on what is already in place to establish a sustainability vision and set of principles (gap analysis) to guide Tacoma's sustainability activities. Tacoma's targeted audience to participate in this gap analysis include the:

- Sustainability Commission;
- Green Team;
- Sustainable Steering Committee;
- Ad hoc Community Green Team (to be established); and
- Broader public/community

Representatives from the Cascadia Consulting Group gave an overview of the Framework Project and what they will be doing over the next six months with the City's Office of Sustainability. The goal is to develop a sustainability framework including vision, principles, targets, indicators and a template report card for guiding, evaluating and communicating progress.

The purpose of the meeting was for Cascadia to learn from Commission members about their perspectives on and ideas for a sustainable Tacoma. And what are some of the challenges and opportunities the Commission might see for Tacoma, and some of the outcomes they would like to see achieved over the next ten years.

It was an opportunity for Cascadia to obtain input from the Commission on what sustainability means to them, and what are some of the key principals and values the STC would like to see expressed in this framework that they are working with the City on developing.

- **EPA Watershed Grant**

The EPA Watershed Grant is a \$1M grant opportunity for Puget Sound entities/municipalities to try to help implement the Puget Sound Partnership's action agenda.

Blueprint for a Healthy Urban Watershed – Tacoma's Thea Foss Watershed as a Pilot for Innovative Stormwater Management

A 'draft' letter-of-support from the STC to Mayor Strickland for Tacoma's application for *Blueprint for a Healthy Urban Watershed* proposal was reviewed by members for added input and approval. This proposal will improve water quality while also building community and making Tacoma a greener, more livable and economically competitive city. With a few minor revisions, members approved the 'draft' letter-of-support for mailing.

- **Sustainable Tacoma Budget**

The City Council has allocated \$250K for the Office of Sustainability (excludes salaries). Minimal funds have been expended to-date, although some funds will be used for the Cascadia contract. Members were asked to recommend activities and/or programs they would like to see funded. The consensus of the STC was to make educational and public outreach a priority.

- There was open discussion for the STC's participation in hosting a table at PLU's Sustainability Summit on March 12 and 13.
- Formation of a subcommittee (Jim, Bill & Elaine) to research various events that are happening over the next year. The Commission could develop and partner with others to sponsor speakers and films. (The USGBC is a good source for resources and assistance).
- Formation of a subcommittee (Ken, Phil & Louise) to research the possibility of a small Sustainability Grant Program (under \$5K).

- **Environment & Public Works (E&PW) Committee Presentation**

Commission members Bliss Moore, Bill Anderson, Louise Bray, Dale Anderson, Jane Moore and Phil Coughlan will be presenting an STC progress report to the E&PW Committee on January 13.

- **Staff Report**

- March 2010 – Finalization of STC website
- April 2010 – Citizens for a Healthy Bay will be working with BCRA on the *Greenspring* event; for businesses that offer sustainability-related products/services.
- Staff is working with the Community Relations office to create a STC logo.

- **Public Comment**

Public comment was taken during Cascadia's presentation/exercise.

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- STC co-chair nomination

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248.