



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** May 11, 2010

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Anderson, Dr. Jane Moore, Elaine Ott, Phil Coughlan, Bliss Moore, Dale Anderson, Jim Gawel, Louise Bray, Steven Garrett, Julia Petersen

**COMMISSION MEMBER ABSENT:** Ken Schmidt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Caulfield, Jessica Branom-Zwick, Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bob Mack, Ryan Dicks, Lucy Kruesel, Stephanie Gowing, TPCHD, Ken Peachey, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the April 13, 2010 Meeting Notes**

The April 13, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

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

The May agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Cascadia Consulting Group – “Draft” Sustainability Framework Presentation / Discussion**

In January, Cascadia Consulting Group met with the STC to talk about the values and visions to get a sense of what sustainability means in Tacoma. Representatives from Cascadia gave a presentation on the work they have been doing to-date with the City’s Office of Sustainability (OoS) on the sustainability framework and report card project.

Schedule and overview of the work Cascadia has been doing:

- Assessment (December)
  - Reviewed plans and policies
- Values, Vision, Outcomes (January-March)
  - Drafted framework based on assessment
  - Gathered input from the STC, Green Team and City management
  - Revised, based on feedback
- Measures and Targets (April-May)
  - Compiled measures and targets in Tacoma
  - Reviewed indicators programs
  - Developed criteria for shortlist
  - Developed a shortlist
- Report Card (June-July)

Values, Visions and Outcomes Feedback

The sustainability framework should:

- Be clear and understandable
- Be inspiring with thoughtful outcomes that push Tacoma

- Express what sustainability means in Tacoma
- Express the importance of integrating sustainability into all that the City does
- Address cultural, social, and economic factors
- Emphasize City leadership
- Account for progress made through measurable outcomes
- Include separate metrics for city and community and build on Green Team's work plan

#### Outcomes

Cascadia identified eight essential outcomes to express core values and goals of the Tacoma community:

- Conserving resources and reduce toxics and pollution
- Tacoma's government leads by example and is effective, open and trusted
- Being good stewards of our natural areas and open space
- Build complete, compact connected neighborhoods that support transportation alternatives
- Ensure our local economy is healthy and diverse
- Residents should feel safe, healthy and supported
- Tacoma's unique arts and culture thrive
- Everyone should be involved

#### Report card

Measuring our progress:

- The ultimate product is a sustainability report card to share with the Council, public and staff
- The OoS is responsible for shaping, maintaining, and reporting on the City's sustainability efforts
- Framing the discussion is the
  - Purpose of the project and report card
  - Audience for report card
  - Use of the report card and how it could integrate with existing efforts

What are the purposes of an indicator?

- Organize data and assign meaning
- Raise awareness and understanding
- Measure progress towards desired outcomes
- Support decision making

Indicator methodology that was used by Cascadia

- Reviewed existing indicator projects (Recycling Institute, Sustainable Seattle, City of Issaquah)
- Gathered over 250 potential indicators (City of Tacoma, Pierce County Sustainability Strategy, TPCHD, King County, Sustainable Seattle)
- Categorized by outcome and issue area
- Narrowed the list down to 68 indicators

Indicator criteria used - are they:

- Valid – accurately reflects progress toward the City's sustainability vision
- Understandable – easy to explain and understand
- Balanced – balances Tacoma's long-term vision with immediate needs for action

Cascadia asked the STC to think about which of the indicators resonate the most with them and/or make recommendations on indicators that they think would resonate well of citizens; a grouping to help communicate and convey progress towards sustainability as a whole.

Next steps

- OoS to work with internal staff, management and other organizations tracking indicators to develop and implement process to select indicators and establish targets
- Publish sustainability report card by end of 2010.

▪ **Staff Report**

- Green Building Subcommittee: On May 20 Commissioners Dale Anderson and Phil Coughlan along with City of Tacoma and TPU staff traveled to Seattle to meet with City of Seattle and King County green building program experts. Discussion items included: Seattle's Greenhouse Gas program, the Seattle Green Building Program's expedited permitting process (Green Queue, Priority Green Permitting, Innovation Advisory Committee and Living Building Pilot) and energy use disclosure ordinance. The group also learned about King County's GreenTools 2, which provides a roadmap for municipalities seeking to develop green building programs.
- Small Grant Program – Staff met with a UPS professor regarding their sustainability grant program; UPS is eager to share information with the STC.
- An educational event survey will be sent to the STC.

▪ **Public Comment**

- The STC will draft a letter of support to the Council for creating a dedicated funding source to implement the Mobility Master Plan
- Comments were received from those attending local Earth Day events
- The STC website should be up and running by June; an event calendar will also be added
- The Climate Action Plan will be sent out for a quarterly update
- Bill Anderson has been reappointed to another term on the STC
- Request was made for a current list of all STC members contact information
- OoS Intern, Stephanie Gowing, was given a special note of appreciation for her hard work in support of the STC

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- Personal introductions by Julia Petersen and Steven Garrett
- Development of subcommittee work plans
- Climate Action Plan quarterly report update
- Report on May 26 EPW Committee meeting
- OoS budget/funding requests

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.