



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** October 12, 2010

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dale Anderson, Elaine Ott, Ken Schmidt, Phil Coughlan, Bliss Moore, Steven Garrett, Jim Gawel, Louise Bray, Julia Petersen

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dr. Jane Moore, Bill Anderson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael P. Slevin III, Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Colleen Hall Barta, Dan Dzyacky, Jessica Ludwig, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the September 14, 2010 Meeting Notes**

Subject to requested changes, the September 14, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

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

The October agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Co-Chair Nomination/Vote**

Julia Petersen was nominated as the co-chair for the next one-year term. Thanks went to Dale Anderson for his valuable contributions to the STC as the former co-chair.

▪ **Final Review of Draft Sustainable Purchasing and Life Cycle City Resolutions**

- The EPW committee has requested another joint meeting with the Commission to bring forward the revised resolution from one year ago. With a full agenda/schedule for the remainder of 2010, the Council would prefer to have all STC resolutions presented at this December 8 joint meeting, to include the Life Cycle City (LCC) and Purchasing Resolutions.
- The City's legal staff has taken a brief look at the two resolutions; both resolutions will be returned to Legal over the next month for further review.
- TPUs senior management team has expressed an interest in seeing these resolutions looked at in a more holistic way, since they do interconnect. In mid-September, TPU staff sent their general comments on the sustainable Purchasing Resolution to the STC for their consideration.
- Budget concerns - There are monies available in general government, human resources and purchasing budgets for City training. It was suggested that initially the Commission should ensure the LLC resolution has the principals they want to support. Once in agreement, the STC can then begin to think about funding and other ramifications. The point was made that it is important when the Commission puts their time into building something they make sure that it connects to money. Just knowing, informs the STC how likely things will happen in the near future vs. the more distant future.
- Members engaged in round table discussion on the LCC resolution language, offering suggestions as to phrasing, definitions, etc. as well as the IERE's involvement in the process. IERE staff has been invited to give a presentation to the STC at their November 9 meeting.

- TPU staff forwarded a couple questions to the STC regarding the Purchasing Resolution that have not yet been addressed. While the STC may move forward, TPU staff will continue to articulate their concerns with certain sections of the resolution. The STC wants to get a policy under consideration from the Council that is going to move the City toward a sustainable purchasing framework. It was suggested that the STC obtain a markup from TPU staff identifying the changes they would like to see made to the resolution and present this markup to the Commission by October 26.

▪ **Resolution 37631 Revision Exercise**

The Commission split into three teams with each group taking approximately 20 minutes to review the draft Resolution for a Sustainable City of Tacoma. Following, the Commission began a round table discussion on the resolution language. The intent was to ensure that the City has a definition of sustainability that is what the Commission believes it should be. City staff will incorporate all suggestions/markups from this discussion into the resolution and forward a draft to members by October 26.

▪ **Subcommittee Reports**

The three STC subcommittees will resume. It was suggested that instead of meeting in subgroups, to form groups that include someone from each committee that then would schedule appointments with two or three Council members to sit down, look over the list of budget priorities and discuss as a group. City staff will work with Council members to coordinate their schedules for these subgroup meetings.

▪ **Staff Report**

- Sustainable Tacoma Grant applications are currently being accepted through October 29. The Commission will be involved in the review and funding recommendation of all grant applications in mid-November.
- Potential presentations for future meetings
  - IERE presentation – materials to be presented to STC prior to meeting
  - Waste audit results and commercial food composting program
  - PSE conservation programs
  - Historic Preservation Plan – Dec/Jan
- The budget is now being finalized. To the extent the commission wants to engage further in budget dialogs with Council, the next six weeks would be appropriate. There are several opportunities available to members (i.e., EPW committee will be approving the six-year transportation plan; the six-year capital facility program is out in draft and going to the Planning Commission by month end).

▪ **Public Comment**

Colleen Hall Barta, IERE Development Director –

- The Institute for Environmental Research and Education (IERE) is a non-profit institution located on Vashon Island. Their mission is to support environmental decision making based on facts. Their activities focus on:
  - Environmental management;
  - Environmental impact research;
  - Environment and development; and
  - Environmental education for adults

The IERE has been working with the OoS for at least nine months to help in formulating LCC proposal.

- IERE has also been meeting with Clover Park Technical College on curriculum development for many different things that the institute is engaged in. One of those things is the Water Energy Biology Sustainability (WEBS) training, which was a point of discussion by the IERE with the City's human resources director. The IERE is hoping this WEBS training will be included in the overall LCC proposal. Once the WEBS training is developed in their curriculum, Clover Park

Technical College will be looking at an initial pilot program for joint training with key faculty members and key people at the City.

- The term LCC is something that the institute came up with this last year through their director's efforts (globally), where people had come to the table wanting to initiate life cycle attitudes. These discussions that have been happening all around the United States. The IERE wants Tacoma to be the first LCC in the United States.

Louise Bray announced her resignation from the Sustainable Tacoma Commission. With a newly acquired job, it became challenging to fully contribute to the STC. Members and City staff expressed their appreciation to Ms. Bray for her valued service to the STC.

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- IERE Presentation
- Waste audit results
- Commercial food composting program

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.