



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: August 9, 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Moore, Bliss Moore, Phil Coughlan, Jim Gawel, Steve Garrett, Elaine Ott, Carol Shiflett, Dale Anderson, Dan Dzyacky

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bill Anderson, Ellen Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bob Mack, Bill Smith, David Schroedel, Annie Hicks, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the July 12, 2011 Meeting Notes**

The meeting notes were amended to state: "The subject of anti-idling was moved to the Outreach subcommittee from the Land Use/Transportation subcommittee....." The July 12, 2011 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the August Agenda**

The August agenda was approved.

▪ **Updates from Commission Subcommittees**

Land Use/Transportation

- Parking regulations are moving forward through the Planning Commission process. Staff presented recommendations to the Planning Commission on parking minimums and maximums, specifically in the downtown area. To-date, some really great recommendations are coming out of the Commission about setting parking minimums in the expanded downtown area, as well as a recommendation to ban new surface parking lots on main pedestrian arterials downtown. At some future time, the STC will submit letters of support to the Planning Commission.
- At their recent meeting, EPW was very supportive of open space being transferred to the stormwater utility, and directed staff to move forward in doing more research; part of that research would be looking at setting appropriate fee structures.
- The EPW was presented a brief overview of the Healthy and Sustainable Food Resolution, in which they appeared very interested and supportive. From that meeting, staff did not receive clear direction from EPW on their recommendations for potential next steps. Staff will inquire further and bring back more information to the STC.
- Presentations have been tentatively scheduled for the September/October STC meetings
 - Transfer Development Rights program
 - South Downtown Dome Brewery District sub-basin planning
 - Complete Streets Implementation update
- A few points were brought up during the Pacific Avenue Streetscape presentation to EPW: 1) wanting two lanes of traffic in each direction; 2) parallel parking instead of angle parking, and the consensus that the plan should not be driven by a parking balance; 3) removal of a large

portion of standing spaces, as there currently are a lot of common gathering spaces in the area with no need to sacrifice sidewalk or other transportation space for more; 4) possibly turning some of the parking into bicycle parking (12 to 1). Staff will continue to follow-up and provide members with any further updates to the plan.

Energy

- Community solar – the Sun Eye Power Company (Brad Burkhartzmeyer, founder) and the NorthWest Solar Group (non-profit) have been doing free assessments on three public properties (Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Solid Waste transfer station, TPD) and looking at doing one or two at Metro Parks and Pierce County to obtain some baseline information. The City will be entering into a small contract with Mr. Burkhartzmeyer to do some additional research on the legal agreement framework for entering into community solar organizations.

Green Building

- The Green Building Resolution calls for the adoption of a green building policy. A staff meeting was held last month in which McKinstry helped facilitate in laying out goals and assumptions. The City will be forming an all-hands (six member) steering committee along with four to five subcommittees that will begin developing/drafting policy and guidelines; this would be for all City buildings. The policy would clarify what is meant by buildings - all existing LEED buildings need to be LEED O & M, and all others are going to be using the LEED existing operations and building framework. The goal is to have a green building policy in place by April 2012, with updates to EPW and the STC every six months.
- The Energy and Green Building subcommittees are scheduled to meet with the BLUS Green Team on Thursday, September 15. A meeting invite will be extended to all STC members.

Waste

- The BLUS notification system is up and running; staff are being notified when folks come in for demolition permits.
- Progress is moving forward on the flow control enforcement; once in place will look at incentivizing.
- Staff will be making available the construction site recycling plan template and a cost benefit form.

Outreach

- Members are looking at Round 2 for the Sustainable Tacoma Grants and having everything in place by mid-September to advertise for six weeks. Home Depot \$50K grant funds will be utilized. An informational email was sent to all existing grantees requesting suggestions for grant program changes/improvements they might like implemented in Round 2. Staff will be posting to the website actual success stories on several completed 2010 grant projects.
- Members reviewed the draft document "What You Can Do: Individuals" – a listing of resources and guidelines on living sustainably and protecting the environment. Staff will be meeting with Community Relations staff for additional input and posting to the website.
- The library will be holding month-long events in October regarding saving resources and saving money. The STC will be participating in some of these events.
- In October, members will begin discussions on 2012 sustainability expos.
- UWT is offering a seminar series this fall built around a sustainability theme. Members were asked to submit recommendations for potential speakers (i.e., eating local, cultural sustainability, etc.).
- Anti-idle campaign – Suggestions were to secure an advisor to work with interns to do outreach at the schools. Consensus was to utilize an existing program where students are required to do community projects and possibly team the student(s) with one of the professors on the STC. Staff will ask STC member Professor Moore's permission to be the student(s) advisor.

▪ **Staff Updates**

- Staff will send out email notification to *all* STC members of any future subcommittee meetings.
- The street car stakeholder group met in the spring and came up with six recommended corridors. Funding - in order for the federal government to give money, an alternative assessment must be done which can take up to 1½ years to complete. Sound Transit will be the lead on the project, hiring a consultant to do the assessment. The consultant will start

with work the stakeholder group did to identify the six corridors, but will also examine if streetcars are the best alternative and will be looking at all modes of transportation. They may explore a seventh corridor (north to Federal Way).

- The Environmental Business (EB) Alliance is a newly formed partnership between the City, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber, CHB, and Go Local that helps Pierce County businesses improve their environmental performance and increase their profitability by providing access to resources and information about environmentally sustainable practices: www.eb-alliance.org
 - Members reviewed the 2011 General Government Sustainability Survey results. The survey was open for two weeks with 753 respondents.
 - Tacoma's sustainability manager has been chosen as part of a team of Tacoma business leaders to attend a sustainable economic development conference in Denver.
 - Bike Ride for a Clean Planet – September 24, 9:30 to 1:30, starting at Skyline and 6th Avenue park and ride.
 - Three STC presentations are scheduled for October: Transfer Development Rights, South Downtown Dome District and Stadium Bike Club.
- **Public Comment**
- David Schroedel, Metropolitan Development Director, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
- Parking standards going to a zero minimum; 2-1/2 maximum
 - MLK plan is with Beckwith Consulting have done a lot of subarea plans; lots of experience
 - Pacific Avenue will be four lanes with parallel parking; no bike lane
 - Streetcars - it may be two years until they actually determine what will be done, however, Stadium Way is being designed to accommodate streetcars; bike lanes.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.