



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: February 8, 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Julia Petersen, Steve Garrett, Dr. Jane Moore, Bliss Moore, Bill Anderson, Ken Schmidt, Phil Coughlan, Jim Gawel, Elaine Ott

COMMISSION MEMBER EXCUSED: Dale Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristi Lynett, Bob Mack, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Jetta Antonakos, Chris Larson, Diane Wiatr, Jessica Ludwig, Vito Iacobazzi, Dan Dzyacky, Stephanie Gowing, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the January 11, 2011 Meeting Notes**

The January 11, 2011 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the February Agenda**

With the addition of one agenda item, the February agenda was approved.

▪ **EECBG Grant Updates**

- A \$200K grant was received by the City's Traffic Signal section to replace the old incandescent traffic signal heads (red and green) with LED appliances, to include pedestrian heads. The amber signal heads will slowly be replaced over time. With these grant funds the City was able to replace 1,500 individual signal modules for an energy savings of approximately 570 mwh per year (or \$28K/year). To-date, the City is at 86% LEDs. TPU had some incentive funds to assist in the program and are paying about 34% of the material cost. Along with the \$200K energy grant, \$58K was received from TPU. Within three or four years, the City should be 100% LED in traffic signals.
- A \$500K grant, "Going for the Bronze", was awarded to achieve a bicycle community-friendly status. Evaluation, education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering will be addressed for this bicycle facilities program. An implementation committee was developed to assist in guiding the direction for bicycle boulevards. A bicycle boulevard is a bicycle route that is on a street that is not an arterial, but a corridor, where there are traffic calming devices to ensure traffic moves slowly. Implementation will begin in the spring.
- A \$300K grant was received by MetroParks to replace the heating system at their headquarters building on South 19th Street. The building was constructed in 1993 with a basic heating system and over the years some of the components have had to be replaced, but is now needing upgrading. The old natural gas system will become an electric system (about a 20% savings) with TPU providing rebates for the new system. The final detailed construction documents will be in place by February 11; the project will go out to bid the first part of March for two to three weeks; MetroParks Board to approve around April 1; with notice to proceed May 1; and completion July 1.
- A \$45K grant was received by CHB to implement a "Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tacoma" (BEST) program. The BEST program will provide Tacoma businesses

with free assistance to help them increase their profitability and improve their environmental performance. It also helps local companies to learn about cost saving, sustainable business practices in energy conservation and water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, stormwater pollution prevention and employee commute reduction. Forty-one businesses have been visited to-date.

- A \$40K grant was received by TacomaActs in support of their mission by providing free ghg inventory tools to the business community, and developing green business sector support through education and networking. The program objectives are to provide resources to encourage sustainability/conservation, recognize businesses that implement sustainable practices and educate the business community to support their carbon footprint reduction to match with the City's CAP goals.
- A \$150K grant was received by the "Downtown: On the Go!"(DOTG) program for their August 2009 – June 2010 Phase II: planning and transportation management association (TMA) and Phase III: implementation pushing towards a TMA model.

Accomplishments to-date:

- Held several sustainable events
- Developed five downtown walking maps and hosted six walking events
- Worked with Pierce Transit to offer (anonymous) employee addresses to help with their system redesign process
- Received a \$4K Sustainable Tacoma Grant to begin a student bicycle group at Stadium High School
- Received the governor's commute smart Community Champion Award
- Transitioned from an informal partnership to a formal board of directors model

The Downtown: On the Go! mission is to be the transportation advocate for anyone whose daily life is downtown, by educating about transportation choices, encouraging use of transit, biking, walking, and advocating for transportation options and land use policies that promote a vibrant downtown.

Current projects:

- Employer support services - working with employers regarding their goals and showing them how it can be done
- Live downtown pilot program – employers come together and incentivize employees to live downtown
- Develop and maintain a DOTG website – www.downtownonthe-go.org

Board priorities for 2011-12

- Establish a one-stop shop for transportation downtown
- Increase outreach to businesses and transit ridership
- Identify mobility improvements
- Create a measurement plan
- Collaborate on a downtown transportation plan
- Continue to work towards being a sustainable organization

Sustainable funding

- The City has agreed to fund DOTG at \$50K annually for the next biennium (\$100K)
 - If Proposition 1 passes, Pierce Transit will fund at \$50K this year; if not, they would continue to provide significant marketing and in-kind services.
 - In the near future, there may be some private sector funds available
 - There is also an additional grant that DOTG will use for employer services and to maintain a healthy reserve
- A \$450 grant was received for the Woodsmoke Weatherization Program – the zip codes have been expanded to include an additional four to five zip codes. This program is a joint effort between the City, Pierce County, PSCAA, TPCHD and local utilities.

▪ CAP Progress Report Template Review

- Members entered in round table discussion on the "draft" CAP progress report. Several suggestions were given on the format and content of the report. Members will send their revisions to City staff by February 11 for input to the final draft. The final report will be available in March via hard copy and the website. It was determined that the introductory letter on the report face will come from Mayor Strickland.

▪ **2011 STC Priorities**

The 2011 STC priorities matrix was assembled, over the last month, through the work of all the subcommittees. Each subcommittee came up with a list of potential interest areas for pushing forward this year. Most priorities were ranked according to the agreed upon criteria. Each subcommittee engaged in discussion and pointing out their top three or four priorities:

Transportation:

1. Develop a healthy sustainable food systems resolution;
2. Anti-idle campaign;
3. Research eliminating parking minimum requirements; and
4. Work with staff to transfer open space/urban forestry programs and funds to stormwater program for water quality benefits.

Energy:

1. Encourage home buying inspections that educate buyers about energy audits;
2. Community solar research presentation;
3. Green building work plan and Tacoma historic preservation design guidelines; and
4. Municipal energy tracking software and reporting.

Waste Reduction:

1. Construction demolition;
2. Mandatory commercial/residential recycling and organic diversion policies, waste prevention recycling; and
3. Increase Styrofoam recycling (food service and block) and research ban/fee on Styrofoam food packaging.

The subcommittees will meet in the next few weeks to revamp and condense these priorities and develop a work plan and timeline.

▪ **Staff Report**

- South Sound Sustainability Expo, Saturday, March 5; STC volunteers are requested
- This will be the 10th year for the library's Tacoma Reads Together Program. This year's selection is the book titled "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" a true story on renewable energy.
- TV Tacoma will be running a segment on the Commission and Office of Sustainability with the focus on the 2010 Sustainable Tacoma Grant Program.

▪ **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- 2011 STC Priorities Review

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.