

Tacoma Permit Advisory Task Force
Virtual meeting
Meeting #19 – January 14, 2021, 10:00am

Task Force Members in attendance: Michael R. Fast; Layne Alfonso; Clinton Brink; Jim Dugan; Jessica Gamble; Ben Ferguson; Jason Gauthier; Justin Goroch; Joshua Jorgensen; Mandy McGill; Claude Remy; Evan Mann; John Wolters; Chuck Sundsmo; Peter Levy
Excused: Jim Collins; Lacey Hatch; Kim Nakamura

10:04 am: Call to order

Jim Dugan, Chair, called the meeting to order.

10:06 am: Overview of virtual format

Lynda Foster provided an overview of Zoom webinar and answered Task Force Member questions.

10:14 am: Icebreaker

Jim Dugan, Chair, asked Task Force members to share positive news since the last meeting.

10:23 am: Approval of the February 2020 Minutes

Claude Remy moved to adopt the 2020 February minutes, Layne Alfonso seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10:23 am: What's going on at the City

(PowerPoint 1)

Terry Forslund, PDS staff, provided an update on policy areas of interest to the Task Force. Topics covered are outlined below.

What happened in 2020?

- COVID
- Building and Fire Code Updates
- Land Use Codes Updates
- Permit Process Improvements

In the works for 2021:

- Anti-Racist Systems Transformation - Racial Equity Action Plan
- Planning and Development Services Work
 - Return to Offices
 - Safety Program
 - Technology upgrades
- Other Department Lead Work

11:02 am: Q&A for staff

Layne Alfonso brought up questions about impact fees. This topic had not been discussed with the Task Force in 2018 or 2019 as the City began to consider impact fees, but it would have impacts on development and permitting processes. There was a request to share more information so Task Force

members can understand more about what how the City is considering impact fees and what the impact fees would be.

Chuck Sundsmo commented on various City projects, infill development, height limitations, and impact fees, sharing concerns that these would not help the City of Tacoma with growth.

Terry Forslund shared that the impact fees project is being led by the City's Public Works department. He provided some background on the past and current work the City has engaged in on impact fees, including sharing that the City is now in the process of hiring a consultant to determine how impact fees could be implemented if the City chose to do so. The contract isn't finalized yet. Public Works is doing a lot of work to get ready to engage the public. He raised the concern that the Task Force may not be the most efficient place to give the City input because the purpose of the Task Force is to discuss permitting and process improvements. It may be a good place to discuss it and come up with steps you want to take. Staff wants to make sure Task Force members are talking to the right people and providing feedback in the right way, which likely is directly to Public Works and not to the Permit & Development Services staff who run the Task Force meetings.

Jim Dugan directed Task Force members to share any thoughts and feedback with Lynda to be passed on as appropriate.

Terry Forslund affirmed that we want to keep task force informed and engaged, we'll bring up presentations as you want.

Evan Mann said that if we're going to limit the discussion at the Task Force to permit process improvements, he thinks the first item of business should be the infill item. He asked why the City requires a CUP for infill projects, which limits potential development. Peter Huffman shared background on how this is a first phase of broadening infill whether or not that continues as the permitting process into the future is up for debate. He suggested those sorts of conversations be rolled into direct participation in the infill project or Home In Tacoma project, with staff for those projects potentially coming to the Task Force.

Ben Ferguson asked several questions: will staff update the flow chart related to the new storm water manual; what's causing the urgency for Tacoma to implement codes before the state; can the Task Force talk about the City's Anti-racism work in a future meeting, with specific interest in understanding any work going through zoning, land use, and building policy; is there an affordable housing expert in the PDS department? Peter Huffman shared that PDS works very, very closely on affordable housing with the City's Community & Economic Development (CED) department, which has whole housing division. Terry Forslund shared that when the storm water changes get closer to their effective date the City will release updated information. Terry shared background on the Stormwater Management Program: As part of the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit, the City maintains a Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP). The SWMP is the City's plan for complying with the Permit that regulates the discharge of stormwater from the City's stormwater system. The City of Tacoma's 2020 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan is available. In August 2019, The City was issued a new 2019-2024 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The Stormwater Management Program Plan describes the City of Tacoma's plan for meeting Permit goals and managing stormwater in compliance with the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit. The SWMP Plan is updated annually.

Jim Dugan told Task Force members to forward any other questions they have to Lynda.

11:23 am: 2021 Calendar

Task Force members agreed to meet monthly in the virtual format. Justin Goroch requested the meeting time change to 10:30 am to noon. This was unanimously approved.

11:26 am: Final comments

(Handout 1)

Jim Dugan requested Task Force members review Handout 1, which provides background on how the Task Force left off and topics of consideration. He said that the Task Force's homework is for everyone to take a look at topics. Is there anything that we're missing that relevant today that wasn't relevant a year ago? Are they still relevant? Do they need to be edited in some way?

Layne Alfonso requested the Task Force establish having introductions, including staff, at the beginning of meetings.

Ben Ferguson requested an org chart, staff will provide this information.

11:28 am: Adjourned