



**City of Tacoma
Sustainable Tacoma Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 24, 2019

Commission Members Present: Lexi Brewer, Jade Monroe, Matthew Benedict, Phil Coughlin, Liberty Evans-Agnew, Emily Pinckney, Kenny Coble, Chris Karnes

Commission Members Excused: Todd Hay

Commission Members Absent: Emily Pinckney, JC Rubi

Others Present: Jim Parvey, Pat Babbitt, Preston Peck, Jetta Antonakos, Leah Michaelson, Abigail Vanover

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lexi Brewer at 4:30 pm.

Approval of November 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Lexi Brewer, motion passes.

Approval of December 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Lexi Brewer, motion passes.

Review of Agenda

Motion to review, passed.

Overview of Potential Recycling Changes in Tacoma—Preston Peck

A review of the potential changes to the Tacoma's recycling system led by Preston Peck and included details regarding the purpose of these changes, potential options moving forward, and the timeline of when a decision needs to be made by. Preston emphasized that changes are necessary not because of a "China problem" but rather a "contamination problem"—contamination rates in Tacoma are too high to be able to continue business as usual in a changing market. It was also noted that City of Tacoma reserve funds are currently being utilized to keep the Solid Waste recycling program running, but that this is not a long-term solution. Several options were presented on, from taking away recycling altogether to increasing rates to keep service at the current level. Commissioners had questions about why Option 1 (eliminate curbside recycling) was included in the range of options in the survey. Jim Parvey explained that it was about doing due diligence in presenting the full range of options. Commissioners were concerned about the inclusion of Option 1 as it was counter to the city's goals in both the Environmental

Action Plan and Sustainable Materials Management Plan. The presentation was concluded by Preston introducing the TacomaRecycles.org website that features a community survey; a large part of any choice going forward includes re-educating the Tacoma public about recycling.

Overview of Sustainability Small Grants Review—Commission with Leah Michaelson & Jim Parvey

Quarter 4 applicants for the Sustainability Small Grants were reviewed; there were six in all. Lexi Brewer recused herself from talking about or taking any action on the grant proposed from the Tacoma Tree Foundation due to conflict of interest in her professional role. Leah introduced a new budgeting system and announced funding available for distribution. It was also announced that Solid Waste is actually \$7,000 over budget already for grant funding, but that there is sufficient funding available in the General Government fund. Jim Parvey expressed that there's a need to create a standing request to roll over the funds from the year before, which should be workable since the grant is funded through the biennium. Lexi rated the grants from Salishan and Zero Waste Washington as the best and raised a motion to fund them in their entirety, to which Jade also added the Tacoma Tree Foundation Grant. The motion was passed. After debate, Kenny Coble raised a motion to fund the stormwater conference in full, which was passed. The neighborhood garden project was partially funded with stipulations that grant awardees utilize city resources like the Tacoma Tool Library and an additional note was added urging them to re-apply next quarter. The World Vets project was also funded in full.

Overview of Tidelands Subarea Plan Letter—Lexi Brewer

The commissioners agreed that they want to express concerns about staff capacity on this subarea plan, that is a large, complex, and very important job that will be jeopardized by the limited staff assigned to it. Chris Karnes raised a motion to let Lexi write this letter, the motion was seconded and passed.

Overview of Environmentally & Socially Responsible Investing Letter of Support

Kenny makes motion to send letter, motion was seconded and approved.

Subcommittee Updates

The outreach subcommittee waited to discuss plans for the future until Kristin Lynett would be in attendance. Chris's transportation committee update is that Pierce Transit is currently figuring out which bus stop design to utilize for their planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project for Pacific Avenue.

Staff Updates – Abi Vanover

The South Sound Sustainability Expo is coming up on March 2nd, 2019. Commissioners are urged to sign up to staff the STC booth at the Expo.

Commissioner Comments –

None

Guest Comments –

None

Public Comment –

None

Objectives for the Next Meeting(s)

Draft letter to Council supporting increased staffing on the Tide Flats Subarea Plan effort.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Thursday, February 28th, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 243.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Abi Vanover, Staff