



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: May 14, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Phil Coughlan, Jane Moore, Nick Cutting, Ellen Moore, Carol Shiflett, Karen Hamilton, Bliss Moore

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: Holly Williams, Dan Dzyacky

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristi Lynett, Bill Smith, Lisa Rennie, Bob Mack, Alyssa Illich, Catherine Taylor

▪ **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 9, 2013 MEETING NOTES**

The April 9, 2013 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **REVIEW OF THE MAY AGENDA**

With the inclusion of the nomination of the STC vice-chair, the May agenda was approved.

▪ **STC VICE-CHAIR NOMINATION**

The Commission nominated Nick Cutting as vice-chair. A motion was made and adopted for Nick Cutting to serve as vice-chair of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission.

▪ **STAR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Staff met, earlier in the day, with regional STAR representatives from King County, Victoria, Seattle and Portland, along with two STAR staffers. Information was shared on what each community hoped to do with STAR and what, if any, the challenges were. The group would further discuss data gathering and working with the GIS software company, Esri, which could help to facilitate some of the spatial data collection. Staff received contacts in Tucson and Indianapolis and will be contacting them specifically on how they might be using STAR in planning phases.

The City is near completion with the STAR self-assessment. While staff is getting the validation data for the "yes", the City manager has recommended the STC return to City departments (this summer) to obtain additional assessments on the ones that have not yet been done (phasing).

Evan Sawyers Rouse and Dave Pringle (Evan's School), who presented on STAR at the March 2013 meeting, have completed scans of other municipalities' sustainability plans and climate action plans. They will present that information to members at the June meeting. In preparation, staff will provide members with the links on some of the plans beforehand.

The joint commission meeting on STAR was attended by Phil, Nick and Karen, along with five members of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and one Planning staffer. Attendance was heavily weighted towards the HRC, however, feedback was very positive. Most everyone could visualize how their narrower field of focus fit into sustainability. There was a lot of support for moving forward with the assessment and in wanting to meet again as a group to continue the dialog among the various commissions. It was clear that sustainability was something everyone really wanted to support within their commission(s).

▪ **2013-2014 COMMISSION WORK PLAN**

The discussion is an attempt for members to obtain the top priorities within the areas that had been previously prioritized as the sustainability work plan. These priorities would not necessarily be truncated by the calendar year, but are priorities the STC are proposing remain active until accomplished. Members would actively engage the staff on providing information that supports each priority and/or how to accomplish it. Education and outreach are a critical part, which in all areas the STC will want to arrive at some form of Council support or action. Priorities discussed:

- Develop a Material Management Plan using the 2009 waste audit
- Ensure sustainability goals and policies are written into Comprehensive Planning process
- Provide input to updated Urban Forestry codes
- Ensure Transportation Master Plan fully encompasses sustainability
- Work together with Planning & Development Services on their Green Building Program
- Promotion of energy benchmarking and reporting
- Develop a Climate Adaptation Assessment and Sustainability Action Plan
- Shared funding with Solid Waste for Sustainable Tacoma Grant Program in autumn 2013
- Receive STAR rating
- Reduce consumption strategies, including disposable bags
- Provide more focus to education and outreach

▪ **STAFF UPDATES**

- Staff has placed a request to get on EPW's July 24 agenda, to allow the Commission to introduce STAR and share their work plan priorities.
 - EPW (Environment and Public Works) Committee has been renamed IPS (Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability) Committee
- The IPS will take over all duties of the previous Appointment Committee, effective July 1
- There are two open seats on the STC; closing date of posting is May 31
- City Council passed a new resolution having a 2-year youth seat on several City commissions, to include the STC; effective July 1
- Recruitment is being coordinated for a new Transportation Commission
- Staff will receive a new AmeriCorps intern, full time, 1-year position, effective September 2013
- Bike month – Diane Wiatr will speak on Tacoma's bicycling history at Wheelock Library
- Staff attended a forum at UPS on "Living Well in Pierce County: Happiness, Economy and Environment." HIPinthe253 is interested in giving a short presentation to the STC on happiness vs. sustainability
- TPU will later report on their new "Customer Solutions" program.

▪ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

▪ **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**

STAR presentation

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.