



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** January 8, 2013

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ellen Moore, Holly Williams, Carol Shiflett, Jane Moore, Phil Coughlan, Karen Hamilton,

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dan Dzyacky, Bill Anderson, Nick Cutting, Kimberlie Lelli, Bliss Moore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kristi Lynett, Diane Wiatr, Bob Mack, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the December 11, 2012 Meeting Notes**

The December 11, 2012 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the January Agenda**

The January agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **2013 Commission Planning**

The Commission co-chair recently met with staff for pre-planning of the 2013 agenda. There were four “key” agenda items identified as requiring the Commission’s focus and efforts in 2013:

- Climate assessment
- Climate adaptation
- Sustainability plan
- Greenhouse gas inventory

These agenda items are central, as the cycle for the plan that was developed by the GRTF is reaching its first milestone; and questions: How does the STC want to proceed for the next five years? What do members want the areas of emphasis to be, and how are they going to put them into action in the new normal climate?

Climate assessment – a graduate student will take the lead on pulling together relevant scientific information about what the impacts are in the NW; and overlaying that information by meeting with various departments, and the tribe, about our infrastructure. The Commission will be continually updated throughout this process – March/April/May.

Sustainability plan – staff briefly reviewed the STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating) community rating system, and how it could be utilized as a template to help develop a sustainability plan. STAR is the nation’s first framework for evaluating, quantifying and improving the livability and sustainability of US communities.

The STAR pilot community program convenes leadership cities/counties to test and evaluate products and services. Tacoma is one of 32 pilot communities selected to test the STAR system. Within each of STAR’s seven categories, points are given by demonstrating community level outcomes and local actions. Pilot communities will be the first to receive a STAR community rating based on performance in the system.

The Commission is eager to move forward with the STAR system, as it reflects a lot of the work that has already been accomplished in terms of framing out sustainability, and is consistent with the

desire to make it more comprehensive than simply greenhouse gases. The process would entail a lot of member interaction with City departments and local communities. To start, it was suggested a basic survey be developed and made available at the Sustainability Expo booth to obtain community feedback on the STAR categories, as outlined below. Meanwhile, two graduate students will be designated to work with the STC on the program.

- Built Environment
- Climate and Energy
- Education, Arts and Community
- Economy and Jobs
- Equity Empowerment
- Health and Safety
- Natural Systems

Staff has applied for a grant to fund a speaker series – Pt. Defiance Zoo is moving forward with their PAWS approval award. The week of April 22, the Polar Bear International chief scientist will present the PAWS award and speak to the community about global climate change impacts. In May, a presentation would be directed towards the graduate student's research on local climate change impacts. A June/July presentation, utilizing a draft of the sustainability plan, would have member's obtain community input on local climate change actions.

Following additional input from management and City departments, staff will follow-up with an email to members on what the next few months of STC meetings will look like, along with 1) a list of community partners; 2) a list of all STAR categories and framework matrix; and 3) STAR outcomes and actions crosswalk.

#### ▪ **Sustainability Expo Planning**

- Vendor registration will go out to all potential vendors next week.
- Obtain new signs and banners using the STC's "visual identity."
- Introduction of the seven STAR categories; having the community prioritize each category in order of interest/priority.
- The previous Expo planning meeting was about: 1) finalizing the three workshops; 2) confirming with the Nature Center in organizing the kid's corner; 3) sending out vendor registration to all past vendors and others who have expressed interest; and 4) three additions to this year's Expo:
  - Tacoma farmer's mini market
  - Arts EnviroChallenger program for K-5 (art show)
  - SOTA students 15-minute dance piece
- Posters will be printed by February 1; members will help with distribution.

#### ▪ **Staff Updates**

- Pt. Defiance Zoo - PAWS – the press release will go out soon informing all businesses. Nominations will be accepted through March 26, and businesses will be recognized by April 22. STC members will help with judging.
- Neighborhood Councils – the schedule will be sent out for members to sign up to make appearances at the February/March council meetings.
- Wapato Lake Project sign-up sheet will be sent to those members that would like to accompany Christina on her door-to-door campaign.
- TPU -
  - Has adopted their Green Building Policy and will share more information with members at a future meeting.
  - Met with Purchasing and City Attorney staff regarding newly "drafted" purchasing policies.
  - Brief mention of four *potential* Legislative items: 1) carbon tax; 2) changes to the provisions on conservation; 3) bill regarding City employees' non-eligibility in water/power incentive programs; and 4) Initiative 937 on clean energy.

- **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.