



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**Date:** February 9, 2016

**Commission Members Present:** Chrissy Cooley, Philip Coughlan, Alyssa Illich, Felicity Devlin, Nick Cutting, Sarah Chessman, Agnes Pate

**Commission Members Excused:** Rus Higley, Peter Hickman

**Others Present:** Kristin Lynett, Emily Watts, Jetta Antonakos, Lisa Rennie, Emily Campbell, Jeanne Walters, Jim Parvey

- **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

- **Approval of January 12, 2015 Meeting Notes**

The January meeting notes were approved with no changes.

- **Review of February Agenda**

The February agenda was approved.

- **Finalize 2016 Work Plan**

- On February 24<sup>th</sup> the work plan will be presented to IPS. Phil noted that at the last meeting he wanted disposable plastic included and would still like to see this addition as he believes there is still work to be done in this area. Could be called single use plastics and it was noted the group should take action towards similar projects. Kristi noted that City of Tacoma staff will not have the time or resources to help in this endeavor. The commission will have to do the work. Reduce single use plastic consumption was added to the work plan. A campaign could look similar to the “plastic ain’t Tacoma’s bag” and be called “plastic ain’t Tacoma’s bottle”.
- Spelling correction: Healthy Homes Healthy Neighborhoods
- It was noted there should be a qualifier before equity. Perhaps something like neighborhood or district. Being so vague it begs the question of equity in terms of what? Environmental resources? There should be diversity on the commission as well as equity as it stands for access to sustainability programs and resources.
- Restaurant Scorecard work was added to the October/December section.
- Nick noted he will not be doing chair again. Chrissy Cooley will be chair but another co-chair/vice chair will be needed. Felicity’s term is done. Ellen and Jeff are no longer on the commission. Peter is out for a few months.
- Nominations for vice chair have been tabled until the next meeting.
- Reminder: STC Commission members should stay on and be present until their replacement starts.

- **Environmental Action Plan Review**

- Kristi noted that the EAP is currently in plan form although it is still being edited. It is approximately 90% done. The draft will be shared with council next Tuesday. Kristi requested any comments, questions, or suggestions that the group has to offer. Phil agreed to go over it in more detail to give feedback.
- It was presented to IPS where Alyssa and Felicity were in attendance. Councilmember McCarthy was interested in identifying which actions have policy/regulatory elements.
- A member of the audience Lisa Rennie presented a series of questions and concerns she has with the project. Including that she was trying to get changes to the EAP but has yet to see the changes implemented. As a representative of TPU, she believes they should have some say and involvement in how the EAP is written and presented. Many of the targets are set by law and TPU uses two year targets. Lisa would like the changes they wish to see (document handed out) before it is presented to IPS or council. She noted she had met with Kristin Lynett and Jim Parvey but Kristi had never received the document that was handed out. Lisa noted her concern for TPU being responsible for the targets being set. Phil noted that the Commission can only encourage the City to work together to figure out a solution. Lisa would like STC to be aware that these changes need to be made to EAP and the communication issues should be resolved. Nick noted that the confusion is understandable and that perhaps a disclaimer should be included with the targets so it is clear to an everyday citizen reading it. Lisa also pointed out that TPU was not offering a resource conservation manager position and there was confusion about whether it was a TPU or City of Tacoma position. Lisa also specifically noted Question B-9 needed some word changing with the need for requiring an ordinance. TPU also plans to put in their own anti-idling equipment when the EAP uses the word purchase. Phil closed this discussion by noting that these differences need to be smoothed out without watering down the aspirations of the targets and goals presented in the EAP.

- **Sustainable Material Management Plan Review**

- Phil noted to the group that he is a member of the consulting firm working on the material management plan. The focus is still the 70% diversion rate by 2028 while addressing things like waste streams, equity, and disposable products.
- It is a collaborative process with city defined goals and parameters while engaging stakeholders. The firm then took into account the waste characterization and worked to identify and quantify the options, develop and analyze the scenarios, and formulate a recommended strategy.
- Of the four scenarios, there are different MRF options. Scenario one includes mostly education with no MRF. Scenario two includes education, some regulation, with no MRF. Scenario three includes an integrated MRF with some regulation. Scenario four includes max recovery with a MRF and expanded regulation.
- The waste generation baseline now includes construction and demolition debris whereas before it did not.
- It was noted that scenario four cost more, but the per ton cost is also higher because more waste is being diverted so there are less tons to spread the costs over.
- The current strategy would be to phase in the different strategies over a timeline. Education and outreach in scenario one can be done right away while regulation can be pushed back towards the end of 2022. Regular check-ins to understand the current status is recommended so that decisions can be made to increase regulation, programs, incentives, etc.
- The next step is to run the phases through the models.
- It was asked whether less waste means fewer trips and whether that was accounted for. The firm is looking at the cost of operating. Avoided disposal costs are not look at.

- **Disposable Bag Survey Results and Options**

- Chrissy noted that the world record event went very well and that there was a great turn out of participants. Many businesses wanted to participate both days. There was also a diverse group of participants at the libraries.
- Chrissy presented a large scrap book that was created to show the amount of outreach that was done.
- Chrissy noted that climate change disproportionately affects the poor and asked if possible for member to testify at city council tonight.
- The disposable shopping bag survey will be presented to IPS on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

- An overview of the disposable shopping bag issues were presented by Jim Parvey and Emily Campbell. Life cycle analysis was included. The last presentation STC has on this issues was two years ago.
  - There has been much more outreach in the last few months that has resulted in new data. The survey received 2,188 public responses and 84 responses from businesses. It was noted this is relatively high compared to other surveys. It is not a true random sample.
  - Phil noted that some of the results are confusing at first because of the double negative. Some people “don’t want no action” so they want there to be some action.
  - Responses from businesses that don’t provide plastic disposable bags were removed so as to get feedback only from those who do provide them.
  - The comments received were summarized into categories and it’s important to note that the current options are to 1.) take no action 2.) ban plastic, \$.05 fee on paper 3.) fee on plastic and paper of \$.05 or \$.10 4.) restrict bags only at big box stores.
  - Economic perspectives like equity, businesses, and consumers must be included but it’s important to note that the environmental costs of plastic bags are not reflected in the cost of them.
  - Lesson learned from other cities are necessary to look at. After talking with cities that had implemented it they found that once you implement an ordinance the results were mostly good.
  - A definition of disposable bag is needed. Exempting restaurants and take-out is an option.
  - If an ordinance with a fee is implemented, it may need to be raised to remain effective over the long-term.
  - One option is letting the grocer keep the bag fee as it would lessen the operation burdens and it would look less like a tax.
  - Phil asked whether the generally recommended model (like Bellingham) includes a minimum 40% recycled content on paper bag? (answer unknown)
  - It was noted that this information takes quite a bit of time to present and wondered how much time there would be at IPS to present it. A recommendation was to remove some slides but also add; what is next?
  - Currently the NW Grocers Association is lobbying for the Bellingham model.
- **Review and Possible Approval of Disposable Bag Letter to IPS**
    - It was noted that some people may not know what the Bellingham model is. It might be a good idea to attach or include that model in some way.
    - Phil noted that the information should be clear and transparent when referencing the survey results. Plurality does not mean majority. The survey results should not be spun in any way but rather be clear and straightforward.
    - Sarah is going to give the group more information on the psychological benefits, as she is developing a thesis on this topic.
    - Phil will make the approved changes and send out to everyone before it is presented to IPS on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - Letter approved with edits to be made.
  - **Review and Possible Approval of Methanol Scoping Letter to Planning Department**
    - A draft was created before the draft EIS scope came out. This current letter may no longer be relevant given the information in the draft scope.
    - Phil noted that the group can still use the letter but shift the focus to encouraging that certain items be kept in the draft scope.
    - Some items such as emissions are quite detailed in the scope and it was noted that it would no longer need to be included in the letter. If it were to be included, it would need to be quite specific, address how emissions are calculated.
    - Questions brought up were would the plant offset 100% of its carbon emission and do they have interest in community solar?
    - It was noted that air pollution concerns should still be reiterated.
    - Nick proposed that this letter be sent to the planning department about whether they would like STC to give input.
    - Jim noted that the planning process is quite rigorous and may not allow for STC input but that STC can still offer.

- The EIS is about informing the public. If STC can help in that process, great. STC can offer to help keep the public informed on the EIS and give feedback.
- It was noted that there could possibly be questioned posted at the South Sound Sustainability Expo.
- The group voted to send the letter with approved changes that Phil will contribute where it will then be send to the planning department.

- **Subcommittee Report-Outs**

- Electric Vehicles Subcommittee

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

- Outreach and Education Subcommittee

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

- Responsible Bags Subcommittee

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

- Green Building Subcommittee

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

- Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

- **Staff Updates**

- There were no staff updates.

- **Public Comment**

- Lisa Rennie made comments during the Environmental Action Plan review portion of the meeting. These comments have been noted above.

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- - Elect a co-chair/vice chair
  - Review sustainable small grant sponsorship
  - EAP review
  - City Enviro outreach and promotion

- **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 5:01pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Visibility Center.