



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

Date: May 13, 2014

Commission Members Present: Phil Coughlan, Holly Williams, Agnes Pate, Ellen Moore, Chrissy Cooley, Nick Cutting, Alyssa Illich, Karen Hamilton

Others Present: Stephen Atkinson, Jim Parvey, Kristin Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bill Smith, Bruce, Catherine Taylor

- **Approval of the April 8, 2014 Meeting Notes**

The April 8, 2014 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

- **Review of the May Agenda**

The May agenda was reviewed and approved.

- **Electric Vehicle Comprehensive Plan Amendment: Possible Response to Planning Commission Recommendations**

Members had submitted a letter of support to the Planning Commission regarding the original staff recommendations on urban forestry, bicycle facilities and electric vehicle infrastructure. The original staff recommendations required electrical vehicle conduits for new single-family homes. They also recommended requiring a percentage of total parking spots with electrical vehicle chargers at other types of facilities (multi-family, office, retail, etc.). There have been a couple changes, over the last few months, due to public comment and Planning Commission's deliberations. The Planning Commission's recommendation to Council regarding electric vehicles is no requirements for single family electric vehicle infrastructure (no conduits) and for multi-family no requirements, not even conduits; but for the offices and retail of a certain size maintaining the requirements for old chargers.

A public hearing on the amendments is scheduled for June 3rd. At that time, members will have an opportunity to voice their concerns and/or recommendations to the Council on all the amendments. It was moved that members draft and write a letter reiterating their original proposals and reasons why (to include meeting the CAP and other comprehensive goals) and submit to Council's public comment period on June 3rd. Motion carried.

- **Electric Vehicle Charging at City Facilities and City Rights-of-Way**

To encourage people to drive electric vehicles, staff is looking at adopting new code that models a 2009 state statute, that would allow the City to offer the public and employees free charging at City electric vehicle facilities while either working or conducting business at the City. Staff will be taking this proposal to IPS on May 14th. The City has about 30 charging stations at about eight different locations. The prices vary by location and employees driving to work may be paying more in charging fees than they would pay in gas. Staff would like to allow some internal guidelines to determine how the 30 charging stations could fit the needs of employees or visitors doing business w/the City and

eliminate some of the barriers. Staff is currently working on privately owned charging stations in the public right of way. This would be applicable to homeowners or residents that don't have off-street parking available. Some residents have installed charging stations in the planting strips. While being supportive to electric vehicles, the City will want to identify minimum standards to protect the existing infrastructure.

- **Sustainability Resolutions Update: Green Events and Material Management for Council Approval May 13; Greenroads Set for June 3**

Resolutions for the Green Events Program and Sustainable Materials Management should be adopted at tonight's (May 13th) Council meeting. Commissioner Cutting volunteered to briefly speak to Council in support of the two resolutions.

The Green Roads resolution should move forward in the next few weeks. Public Works wants to ensure that there won't be any significant impacts on operations and maintenance staff. Details will need to be worked out with their staff.

- **Staff Updates**

- Staff held a meeting last week on climate vulnerability and risk assessment with Planning staff and community partners from Pierce County, Port of Tacoma, Metro Parks, City and County Emergency Management and TPU. Staff will be moving forward this summer on doing some initial assessment work in pulling together the most recent data on projections of the risks and vulnerabilities. The meeting was held to find out if other entities would want to join the City's efforts. There was a lot of interest but no commitments. Staff will be sending out a scope of work for the project.
- A website was put out by a national organization that does a great job at looking at climate change both current and in the future, by region. Staff will forward the link to members.
- The first 5-STAR city was approved this week: North Hampton, MA (29K people)
- The City's Strategic Planning and Visioning process is moving forward. Consultants are currently under contract and will be looking for community input this summer.
- The new 20 minute TV Tacoma show "Urban Green" has premiered and will be on every other month; Diane Wiatr is the host.
- Members viewed the final outcome of the "Biggest Loser." Ellen Moore was the grand winner!!
- Commissioner Cooley has done a lot of research around the restriction of bottled water usage at city facilities or city-sponsored meetings and would be interested in looking at other alternatives.
- Members proposed that an audit be taken of all items that have gone before the IPS but have not yet been resolved.

- **Public Comment**

Bruce asked if the Commission has weighed in on the proposed plastic bag ban. Yes, members submitted to IPS three to four months ago. It will be addressed in the Material Management Plan which calls for looking at alternatives for plastic bag disposal.

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

There were no objectives outlined for next meeting.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.