



**City of Tacoma  
Sustainable Tacoma Commission  
Meeting Notes**

**Date:** March 14th, 2017

**Commission Members Present:** Alexandra Brewer, Josh Jorgensen, Alison Baur, Christine Cooley, Philip Coughlan, Peter Hickman

**Commission Members Excused:**

**Others Present:** Emma Keese, Adrienne Chaney, Pat Babbitt, Erika Tucci, Zachary Christin, Chris Van Daalen, Ron Stuart, Kirsty Kalkhoven

- **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.

- **Approval of February 14th Meeting Notes**

The February meeting notes were approved with no changes.

- **Review of March Agenda**

The order of items was changed to reflect the time available for speakers and guests. A nomination for Chair and Vice Chair was added to the agenda by consensus.

- **Public Comment**

Chris van Daalen from Northwest Eco Building Guild invited the Commissioners to a fundraising celebratory event called Racing to Innovate immediately after the commission meeting. The event celebrates the work of Green Building Innovators as they race to a sustainable future. They are celebrating the implementation of "The Code Innovations Database" that will bring together sustainable building codes all over the country. They are also celebrating the work of Bob Ferguson and his live/work codes and policies in Tacoma.

The plan is to build a partnership with the City Planner to encourage more sustainable live/work options in Tacoma.

Commissioner Coughlan wants to follow up with the Green Building codes and technical expertise and encourages the cooperative partnership with the Planning and Permits staff.

Commissioner Cooley invited Chris to come back in May. Commissioner Baur was told to go to the website [www.codeinnovations.org](http://www.codeinnovations.org) to look for the crowdfunding site in order to make a donation and support the program.

Brochures and postcards were distributed at the meeting.

- **Healthy Homes, Healthy Neighborhoods Presentation – Pat Babbitt Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) staff**

A powerpoint presentation was given by OEPS staff, Pat Babbitt. Highlights from the presentation include the following:

The program was started as an AmeriCorps “boots on the ground” outreach to low income neighborhoods addressing the problem of contamination of Wapato Lake. It has since increased to four targeted areas: Wapato, Dometop District, Hilltop and currently the Lincoln District. Pat is the first and only full time employee hired by the City to do this work. Through the help of neighborhood groups that are already established, Pat works to identify strengths, resources weaknesses, needs and barriers for the residents. This includes door to door outreach and engagement. Over the course of 10 months Pat and volunteers work to bring people and resources together to improve homes and lives. Over 7,000 connections with Tacoma citizens have been made in these 4 areas with a fall initial survey and spring follow up.

Commissioner Brewer wanted to know what areas may be considered next? Or will some areas be revisited? Pat explained that since there are two visits to a home already, it is more likely that HHHN will move to a new area, possibly South Tacoma.

Commissioner Coughlan asked if there are any measurable standouts with the Lincoln District. Pat stated that community gardening and connectivity to the Weatherization program offered by TPU have been the most used and helpful programs.

The commissioners wanted to make sure there was follow up to the program. Pat assured the commissioners that many of the agencies he connected the community to were in fact following up with the residents to continue to provide the services they needed. Barriers tend to be that for home repairs, many residents are renters and cannot use the resources themselves, but must rely on their landlords to make the connections.

Pat concluded that the goal of the program was to make sure the citizens wanted the services and changes. His job is to facilitate the improvements they want to see not to bring improvements that may not be embraced by the community. He also encouraged the commissioners and guests to check out community based social media by Dr. Doug McKenzie Moore [www.CBSM.com](http://www.CBSM.com).

- **2017 Sustainability Expo Review**

Jim Parvey introduced Emma Keese and Adrienne Chaney, AmeriCorps members who worked on the Expo. Emma gave the Commissioners an overview of the event and the successes and feedback from the attendees. Over 2,300 people attended the event

over a 100% increase over last year. Tollefson Plaza was activated as celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the Expo allowing us to have different vendors such as a Tiny house, FIN the Salmon, 3 food vendors and live music. In the Greater Tacoma Convention Center the vendors booths were packed with people and the three workshops were filled to capacity. Staff and vendors were extremely pleased with the outcome of the event.

Commissioners wanted to know how many people were returning and it was estimated that 40% were returning attendees. Most of the attendees carpoled to the event.

Staff is unsure whether or not to activate Tollefson Plaza again, due to fewer AmeriCorps members, weather and financial resources.

- **Subcommittees Discussion**

**Transportation:** Josh brought a letter to the Public Works department regarding the Green Roads Resolution drafted with the help of Lowell Wyse before he left encouraging the department to comply with the ordinance. The Commission reviewed and recommended changes to the letter. A motion was made to accept the letter with changes and the motion was seconded and approve. A final revised letter will be prepared for Chair Cooley to sign.

**Climate Resiliency:**

Commission Brewer asked if the sea level rise study was going to be used with new development projects that are being approved by the City. Jim replied that it will be used by projects at or near sea level. He also explained that the Port of Tacoma Commission wants a Sea Level Rise report at their May 11 meeting.

Commissioner Brewer commented on the recent planning commission meeting and that there was no discussion about climate resiliency when addressing the Urban Heat Canopy Cover. She wants to make sure the Planning Commissioners understand the climate resiliency issues and asked staff to work on this.

**Buildings and Energy:**

Commissioner Baur expressed concern about the upcoming Tacoma Power rate increase to the customer service fee and the seeming disproportionate affect it will have on low income households while not addressing a per kilowatt hour to help conserve usage. The City Council will be having a second reading on the issue at the March 21 meeting. She recommended writing a letter opposing the rate increase to Tacoma Power.

Erika Tucci from Tacoma Power offered to send the Commissioners the analysis report done by the agency noting that the service charge was an under-recovering fixed charge that models showed it would be the most effective way to solve the problem.

Commissioner Baur will also send out an opposing report to the Commissioners explaining the concerns and impacts the rate increase will have.

Due to the limited amount of time Commissioners will be encourage to read through the information and go to the Council meeting to speak as a Commissioner but not for the Commission.

**Materials Management:**

Invite Planning and Development Services and Solid Waste to the May meeting to discuss progress on Demolition and Diversion Waste and green building advocacy.

Commissioner Cooley wanted to make sure and have the BYOB workplan in the STC folder so that Commissioners could review it and help be advocates of the work.

Surfrider wants to support the BYOB and STC should have the same message. STC should be a multiplier to help active others to make sure the same message is getting out and no one is blindsided.

**Air and Local Food:**

The committee will be supporting the work of Hilltop Urban Gardens (HUG) on Earth Day on April 22, for their event, 'Comcast Cares Day of Service.' HUG will be planting and renovating the yards.

As part of the EAP supporting community gardens they will follow them as a pilot program for food with the support of Harvest Pierce County.

**Natural Systems:**

Commissioner Hickman presented the Commission with a draft matrix using form monthly reporting. A Green, Yellow, Red color will indicate the status of the project while column will indicate the lead, any obstacles, and next steps for project. The goal will be to have the Commissioners use the matrix for monthly reports and to tie the reports into the annual report.

A draft of the matrix has been placed in the STC folder in Google docs. Commissioner Cooley will make a PowerPoint that will include the populated matrix for each Committee Report that will be presented at the STC meetings.

**Education and Outreach:** Nothing to report.

**Staff Updates**

- 27 applicants for the STC have filed applications. Several came from the Expo. Interviews are scheduled for April 12 at 4:30 pm.

- Councilmember Ryan Mello would like to come to the April or May meeting to discuss legislation on coal and hydrocarbon exporting.
- There will be a big push for BYOB

- **Officer Nominations**

Commissioner Lexi Brewer was nominated for the Chair position.  
Commissioner Peter Hickman was nominated for the Vice Chair position.

Official approvals will be made at the April meeting.

Notes

- **Public Comment**

Encourage presenters to demonstrate how projects impact sustainability issues such as storm water from an evaluative perspective.

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

EAP  
Greenhouse Gas  
Ryan Mello  
Confirm nominations  
Presentation on Demolition (May meeting)

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday April 11th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Visibility Center.