

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY
OBSERVER REPORT**

Sustainable Tacoma Commission

November 19, 2020, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Observer: Lydia Zepeda

Called to order at 5:03 pm

Commissioners Present:

Matthew Benedict, Lexi Brewer, Elly Claus-McGahan, Evlondo Cooper, Phil Coughlan, Katin Kendrena, Nikie Walters, Grace Hope, Tony Ivey, Ashley Sloan.
Gabe Moaalii and David Thompson came in later.

Commissioner Absent:

Emily Pinckney

City of Tacoma Staff Present: Patrick Babbitt, Jim Parvey, Kristin Lynett, Beth Jarot, Elliott Barnett

Amended Oct 15 minutes, with correct date of Tideflats regulations ending June 2 not Dec 2, passed.

Amended agenda to allow public comment at beginning, passed.

No written public comments submitted prior to meeting.
No public comment requested.

STAFF UPDATES

Pat: Visit google doc with pronouns
Next meeting is December 17 at 5:00 pm
New COVID-19 protocols

Port of Tacoma is developing its 2020 strategic plan. It can be shared to the community
2020 Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan survey/information page:
<https://www.portoftacoma.com/about/strategic-plan>

Thank you for participation in 2020 Subcommittees. List of subcommittees and openings:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gh66A0hiWDR880Le5Cph6dlyo1YDcGcTDRwwz_qTUTo/edit

Jim Parvey - first reading of the ordinance with rates for environmental services Tuesday night. City Council asked for zero percent increase in 2021; staff is crunching the numbers for that.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate action subcommittee

Phil Coughlan reported: We have been reviewing City of Long Beach materials; the Port of LB has a sustainability plan. We are hoping to make a spreadsheet to generate a white paper on content and format of City's Environmental Action Plan and a possible letter to the City Council. The subcommittee has reviewed other plans which strengthen climate action planning here to come up with sustainability recommendations for City Council.

Chair's meeting

Lexi Brewer reported: Met with Council members Beale and Walker about decarbonization letter; Beale and Walker were looking for a resolution rather than a letter. Walker was interested in bikes and leading by example. Beale is interested in urban heat island. Commissioners asked Council members how they

were doing on communication. They were told it is unique among the Commissions to meet once a year with individual Council members. They were told that letters to individual Council members are seen as more effective than blanket letters to the entire Council. They were also told STC needs to figure out when they should do joint meetings with other overlapping Commissions, e.g. transportation. They found out that the Purple Air study will be released on December 1 (*This was not explained, but Purple Air is a real time air quality app; presumably the study they are referring to concerns air quality*).

Tideflats planning and regulations subcommittee

Lexi Brewer reported: City planner Steve Atkinson indicated the regulations will be on the Planning Commission agenda to adopt as non-interim in April or May. The City Planning Commission will decide on the Tideflats regulations on December 2. The subcommittee will meet with Chet on December 4 to find out what the Planning Commission decided. Tony Ivers noted there are room for public comments about the Tideflats regulations at the 12/2 Planning Commission meeting.

Waste prevention and recycling subcommittee

Pat Babbitt: There is a City County plan to develop proposals for actions to the City-County Solid Waste Plan for March or April. He proposes forming a subcommittee to review proposals in February.

25 minute team building exercise for Commissioners.

Home in Tacoma Initiative www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma

Elliott Barnett - Housing Planner presented a powerpoint on Affordable Housing.

Goal: more housing for more people; keep affordable housing in good repair; help people stay in their homes and communities; and reduce barriers for people who often encounter them.

By: supporting housing supply (developers), cost effective government (cutting services), infill, and anti-racism resolution.

Why? 40% of Tacomans are cost burdened by housing. Rents have gone up 40% and housing prices doubled in past 15 years. Rents and housing prices are going up faster than incomes. 6400 households are on the waitlist for subsidized housing. Black home ownership in Tacoma is 30%, White is 61%.

“Home in Tacoma” will diversify housing types and improve affordability tools. Council will follow up with zoning changes.

In Tacoma 3/4 of land is exclusively zoned for single family homes.

The “Missing Middle” housing is housing between a single family and a large apartment complex. The City Council aims to create regulations to permit more missing middle options like ADUs, etc.

Elly Claus-McGahan: Why not have ordinance/incentives to promote zero energy housing?

Beth Jarot: Builders are very concerned about new code on energy use and we need to support them because they are so anxious.

Another Question: Short term rental market is exploding, how do we prevent affordable housing being converted to short term rental?

No response.

Climate Justice Planning Update

Pat Babbitt: This started September 2020. It is a one year process in three phases across two tracks: community engagement and technical plan development. A contractor is doing engagement and modeling. Plan ambassadors have been trained. Environmental justice leaders meet once per month to provide their expertise to plan.

7 sectors: buildings and energy; mobility and land use; consumption and material management; natural system and local food, ; climate adaptation/resilience; green economy, musical operations/carbon neutrality.

The role of STC:

- Can serve on the subcommittee to review Climate Action Plan (CAP) to review and make recommendations to CAPs staff.
- Communicate individual, household and community needs

- Give technical input in meetings and offline.

Another team building exercise for 15 minutes that extended beyond 7:00 pm.

At 7:00pm the Commissioners were told they could leave.

Examples of Sustainable City Stories: <https://www.slocity.org/home/showdocument?id=27815>

Public comments

- Cathy Caruthers - STC needs to ask for data, what is climate change costing us? What are the costs if we do nothing? For example, we will need more power lines, we need more water because of drought, the port will have floods, we have had to put bigger culverts in to deal with increased rains.
- Also Fixing Tacoma rail would reduce emissions.
- Please consider the County when you do your analysis.
- Electrical utilities provide subsidies but not for fuel switching, e.g from gas to electric heat pumps. This needs to be fixed if we want to enhance sustainability.
- Response by Kristin Lynett: no data is being collected on the cost of inaction.

OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING Dec 17

Staff updates,

Subcommittees updates for

Climate Action Plans

Tideflats Planning and Regulations

Climate Justice Planning update

Transportation master plan, Vision Zero - transportation 2/3 of GHG emissions

ADJOURNMENT 7:12pm