



MINUTES

(Approved on May 7, 2025)

MEETING: Regular Meeting (hybrid)

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Christopher Karnes (Chair), Anthony Steele (Vice-Chair), Morgan Dorner, Robb Krehbiel, Brett Marlo, Matthew Martenson, Jordan Rash, Payton Swinford

ABSENT:

A. Call to Order

Chair Karnes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Chair Karnes read the Land Acknowledgement.

B. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chair Steele moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes

There were no meeting minutes to approve.

D. Public Comments

Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, reported that there were no written comments received for public comment.

No individuals addressed the Planning Commission.

Public comment ended at 5:01 p.m.

E. Disclosure of Contacts and Recusals

There were no disclosures of contacts or recusals.

F. Discussion Item

1. One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Update – Environment (Part 2)

Maryam Moeinian, Senior Planner, presented the Environment and Watershed Health Element of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, including the update timeline, GMA requirements, critical areas protection, an overview of the current Element, an outline of proposed updates, community feedback, climate change risks, urban heat and air pollution policies, tree canopy coverage policies, the Climate Ready Urban Landscape and Habitat Strategy (CRULHS), and CRULHS alignment with One Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding how sea level rise affects prioritizing trees, tree retention encouragement, workforce development within critical areas and open spaces, net-gain, the canopy cover goal, community engagement, other vegetation options, the critical areas maps, the climate legislation, protections for vulnerable populations, wildfire risk, ambient noise-level tracking, encouraging native plants, and the nomenclature of “urban landscape” versus “urban forest”.

The Planning Commission recessed at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened at 6:17 p.m.

2. One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Update – Engagement

Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner, presented the Engagement and Administration Element of the One Tacoma Plan, including planning goals, the importance of engagement practices, an overview of key updates, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding community events; timeline, radius, and language of mailing notices; accessibility of the city website; engagement exhaustion; meeting conflicts; and vulnerable groups and trauma-informed practices.

H. Upcoming Meetings (Tentative Agendas)

(1) Agenda for the December 18, 2024, joint meeting with the Transportation Commission:

- High Frequency Transit Network
- Pierce Transit Long Range Plan

(2) January 1, 2024, meeting – cancelled

Atkinson outlined the upcoming schedule.

I. Communication Items

The Commission acknowledged receipt of communication items on the agenda.

Atkinson provided an update on the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan, the draft Tideflats Subarea Plan, and the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District.

Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, provided an update on recruitment for the vacant position on the Commission, commissioner lunches, and budget discussions.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

**These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit: <https://tacoma.gov/planningcommission>*