



City of Tacoma

Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 878 2905 6704

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/87829056704 Passcode: 614650

September 14, 2022

4:30 PM

Chair Kristina Walker, Vice Chair John Hines, Olgy Diaz,
Catherine Ushka, Joe Bushnell (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Diaz, Hines, Ushka and Walker

Vice Chair Hines and Deputy Mayor Ushka participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. [22-1016](#) Approval of the minutes of the June 8, 2022, meeting.
2. [22-1017](#) Approval of the minutes of the June 22, 2022, meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Diaz moved to approve the minutes of the June 8 and June 22, 2022, meetings.

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Ushka.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - Diaz, Hines, Ushka and Walker

Briefing Items

3. [22-1012](#) Board of Building Appeals Interviews
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:33 p.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, informed the Committee they would be interviewing one applicant for the Board of Building Appeals (BOBA), following the BOBA interviews held at the August 24, 2022, meeting, where the Committee interviewed James Dugan and Konnie Wells, and recommended Wells for the Mechanical/Plumbing Contractor position.

The Committee interviewed Ben Ferguson.

Discussion ensued regarding the applicant's qualifications.

MOTION: Council Member Diaz moved to recommend the appointment of Ben Ferguson to the Board of Building Appeals to the "Position 4 - Architect" to fill an unexpired term to expire August 31, 2026.

SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Hines.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - Diaz, Hines, Ushka and Walker

4. [22-1013](#) Pierce Conservation District Update
[Dana Coggon, Executive Director, Pierce Conservation District;
Mike Carey, Urban Forest Program Manager, Environmental Services]

At approximately 4:45 p.m., Mike Carey, Urban Forest Program Manager, Environmental Services (ES), provided opening remarks and introduced Dana Coggon, Executive Director, Pierce Conservation District (PCD). Coggon presented the PCD update, including a history of conservation districts and the Puget Sound; PCD mission and vision; background; work practices; challenges; core programs, noting Harvest Pierce County, environmental education, climate resiliency, and water quality improvement; actions individuals can take to contribute; upcoming volunteer opportunities; and information available online at piercecd.org.

Discussion ensued regarding planting fruit trees and urban gardens in Pierce County.

5. [22-1014](#) Urban Forest Tree Preservation and Food Tree Ordinances
[Ryan Hebert, Urban Forestry Analyst;
Mike Carey, Urban Forest Program Manager, Environmental Services]

At approximately 5:03 p.m., Carey provided opening remarks and introduced Ryan Hebert, Urban Forestry Analyst, ES. Together, they presented proposed Tacoma Municipal Code updates for trees in the right-of-way (ROW), including an overview; background, noting policy review and purpose; background and recommendations for issues, noting food producing trees, ROW tree protections and violations, and code cleanup; and next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding fruit dropping from trees, outreach to pedestrian groups, planting trees in the ROW, caring for trees in the ROW, access to tools and education, the partnership with Harvest Pierce County, caring for sidewalks and mitigating damage caused by trees, distributing fruit harvested from the trees, old growth trees and the tree canopy, Heritage Tree programs, penalty amounts, private property versus the ROW codes, qualifiers for tree removal, and next steps.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

6. [22-1015](#) September 28, 2022 - Sustainable Tacoma Commission's Annual Report;
Climate Action Plan Budget Proposal;
Accessory Dwelling Unit Update
October 12, 2022 - Home In Tacoma - Phase 2;
Transfer of Development Rights Update
October 26, 2022 - Decarbonization Resolution Update; Capital Facilities Program

Cathy Sims, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be held on September 28, 2022, and will include updates on the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's annual report, the Climate Action Plan budget proposal, and Accessory Dwelling Units; the October 12, 2022, meeting will include updates on the Home in Tacoma Project Phase 2 and the Transfer of Development Rights Program; and that the October 26, 2022, meeting will include updates on the decarbonization resolution and the Capital Facilities Program.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Heidi Stephens, regarding committees, boards, and commissions appointments and tree preservation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Kristina Walker, Chair

Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office