

# PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

**June 12, 2025**

# Phoenix City Hall Online Using Webex

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### **1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements:**

The meeting of the Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission (EQSC) was called to order with a roll call at 3:02 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call.

The following Commission members left during the meeting:

Colin Tetreault left at 3:40 p.m.

Chair Lobo announced a new commissioner, Amy Scoville-Weaver. Commissioner Scoville-Weaver introduced herself as the director of The Nature Conservancy and she is filling the vacancy from Baltazar Hernadez. She is excited to join the Commission and is looking forward to collaborating on the important work the city and EQSC are doing surrounding healthy cities and resiliency.

Chair Lobo announced that Commissioner Cazarez has resigned. He has an ongoing conflict from his new role at Arizona State University and wouldn't be able to attend the meetings. He suggested that his vacancy be filled by the new CEO at Arizona Sustainability Alliance once that person is hired.

Commissioner Knoop shared that President Trump announced today that he signed three congressional resolutions disapproving California's efforts to adopt electric vehicles. California previously had permission to set more stringent requirements than set by the federal government and now this will be overturned. The state will be filing a lawsuit in response to this, however Commissioner Knoop is not hopeful this lawsuit will be addressed during the current presidential term given the number of lawsuits already in progress. Vehicle manufactures are still committed to producing electric vehicles in response to future demand, however Commissioner Knoop believes electric vehicle adoption will slow in response to recent federal action.

### **2. Review and approval of May 8, 2025 Minutes**

Commissioner Tetreault made a motion to approve the May 8, 2025 minutes.

Commissioner Groman seconded the motion, and it carried 9-0.

### **3. Public Comment**

No members of the public requested to speak.

### **4. Keep Phoenix Beautiful**

Chair Lobo introduced Jhenifer Shipe, Keep Phoenix Beautiful President and CEO, as presenter. Ms. Shipe presented on the goals and initiatives that Keep Phoenix Beautiful is currently working on, including "I Recycle Phoenix" events, Zero Waste and Sustainability Education, two community gardens at Mountain View Park and Pierson Street that includes programming such as workshops, events, and afterschool programs, and tree and pollinator plantings. Keep Phoenix Beautiful partners with many City departments, such as Public Works, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, Neighborhood Services, Office of Environmental Programs, and Parks, as well as with the Mayor and Council, and also partners with community organizations, such as Bike Saviors, Habitat for Humanity, NourishPHX, and Recycled City. Over the last year they have served over 3,370 hours of volunteer community service, which results in a \$112,867 value to the community.

Chair Lobo asked about how the partnership with the school works for their community gardens. Ms. Shipe said that is a combination of formal MOUs and informal agreements with schools and principals. The Keep Phoenix Beautiful staff member in charge of the program is a former teacher and has a great network and strategy to attract schools.

Commissioner Tetrault asked what the commission can do the support her organization. Ms. Shipe responded that Commissioner Tetrault has been a great collaborator to Keep Phoenix Beautiful and that the commission could support them by increasing visibility for their programs, volunteer their time, reshare their social media posts, and suggest projects for their support, for example neighborhood tree plantings that need support. The new fiscal year will bring new opportunities for speaking engagements and they are interested in hearing ideas on who to reach out to.

Commissioner Barr asked what the budget for Keep Phoenix Beautiful is and what the funding sources are. Ms. Shipe responded that their budget is \$500,000 to \$700,000 depending on the year. The City provides \$300,000 a year per their contract that expires in 2027 and they rely on fundraising for the rest through grants and sponsorships.

Commissioner Bar asked about the involvement with the city's food team and their Food Action Plan. Ms. Shipe responded that Garden Gale has provided presentations to the city and started the Calvin Goode community garden. They have paid attention to the city's tree planting efforts, nutrition fact education, and pollinator initiatives and hopes to collaborate more with community gardens and workshops. They also are applying for a grant to map community gardens and would partner with the city for this initiative. Ms. Shipe has never met the city's Food Systems Environmental Programs Manager Rosanne Albright and would love to connect with her.

Commissioner Chapman thanked Ms. Shipe for their work with Tiger Mountain on alley cleanups and expressed that he is a big fan of Keep Phoenix Beautiful. Ms. Shipe thanked Commissioner Chapman and applauded his work as well and noted his time as a former Keep Phoenix Beautiful board member.

Commissioner Knoop noted that she attended a Food Action Plan workshop and community gardens were a top priority for residents. She thought it was nice to see the work Keep Phoenix Beautiful is doing, especially that they utilized SRP irrigation water for their gardens, and she supports the work. Ms. Shipe thanked Commissioner Knoop and agreed that SRP irrigation water is a great benefit. They have seen a lot of interest in their community gardens and many home owner's associations are contacting them to help with starting their own gardens. Their partnership with the city's Neighborhood Services Department has allowed them to see and interact with many great neighborhoods and benefit from their unity and passion to improve their community.

Chair Lobo thanked Ms. Shipe for their work and asked about top programs that should be integral to the City. Ms. Shipe responded that the city should expand tree plantings as fast as practical, increase availability of shade and protection from heat to residents, especially in underserved communities, and addressing food disparities and addressing disparity in the tree canopy across the city. The Mayor and Parks Department are committed to shade goals and she looks forward to keeping this progress moving. The City is focusing on food systems and should consider more community gardens in public parks as this is a huge asset to community. She encourages the city to find a way to add gardens to public community spaces.

Chair Lobo thanked Ms. Shipe for her time and presentation.

## **5. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items**

Chair Lobo asked Commissioners for their ideas on future agenda items, including additional reviews of Climate Action Plan chapters. Commissioner Allee Taylor had previously offered to review the Stationary Energy chapter and Vice Chair Torres will be presenting at next month's meeting about equity. Chair Lobo expressed that the goal is to summarize the feedback from Commissioners in order to send a letter to Mayor and City Council.

Commissioner Barr asked if Chair Lobo had reached out to Commissioner Porter for a review of the Water chapter. Chair Lobo responded that she had reached out several times, however has not gotten a response. She suggested that Commissioner Barr could also contact Commissioner Porter to encourage her to provide a review at an upcoming meeting.

Chair Lobo asked if there was any updates on the upcoming Climate Action Plan 2025 Update. Joshua Uebelherr, Climate Program Manager, responded that he's still working on draft and there are no firm dates. He will share the draft with the Commission once it is available. Commissioner Barr stated that the Commission is providing review and comments on the 2021 plan and that it would be nice to see the updated version since there is likely to be significant changes. When the draft is available she suggested that Mr. Uebelherr give a detailed briefing and walk through the entire plan so Commissioners fully understand what the city is proposing so they can provide feedback.

Chair Lobo mentioned that she has been talking with Office of Sustainability Chief Sustainability Officer Carla De La Chapa about the Architecture 2030 Challenge and is trying to get a presenter for an upcoming meeting to discuss how the City can be involved.

Commissioner Chapman offered to provide a review of the Climate Action Plan specifically focused on sustainability for an upcoming meeting.

Chair Lobo mentioned that the comments provided by EQSC during the 2021 Climate Action Plan development have been tracked by OEP and is part of the process Mr. Uebelherr and staff are working through as a part of the new update.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist