

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 3:08 p.m. There were 7 members present at roll call. Quorum was not established until 3:27 p.m. The following commissioners arrived at the times stated below:

- Darren Chapman at 3:30 p.m.
- Sarah Porter at 3:27 p.m.

Chair Colin Tetreault called for announcements from commissioners and staff. Commissioner Ginger Torres attended a December Solid Waste meeting and announced an upcoming tour of the North Gateway Transfer Station to view the upgraded recycling facility, located at 30205 N Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix, AZ 85085 and recommended that fellow commissioners also attend.

2. Review and approval of December 12, 2019 Minutes:

ACTION:

Commissioner Caroline Lobo made a motion to approve the December 12, 2019 minutes at 4:21 p.m. as quorum was not achieved earlier due to technical difficulties. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor seconded the motion and it carried 9:0.

3. Public Comment – No one spoke:

Commission Chair Tetreault indicated that attendees wishing to offer comments to feel free to do so. There were no public comments.

4. Solid Waste Rate Increase Update

Samantha Tavares, Operations Manager for the City of Phoenix Public Works Department, presented an update on the proposed Solid Waste Rate Increase. She indicated that three community meetings have occurred and invited commissioners to attend the ten more that remain. Chair Colin Tetreault inquired as to the status of the questions posed by Council concerning other possible scenarios than the options previously presented. Samantha Tavares indicated that some of the scenarios being considered include further postponement of equipment replacement, rerouting service areas, and investigating additional employee concessions on top of the \$4 million from 2010-2016.

5. Tree and Shade: Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation (TII) Subcommittee Update

This item followed item 4, but then was revisited after item 7 due to technical difficulties.

Mark Hartman, Chief Sustainability Officer, presented information updating the Commission on Tree and Shade activities being conducted by the City of Phoenix. Mark Hartman presented the recommendations made by the Commission to the Council Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation (TII) Subcommittee on January 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. He also updated the Commission on the Tree Donation Portal being approved by the TII Subcommittee. He also updated the number of trees planted throughout the city was approximately 4,900 trees in 2019, about 400 more than he had stated in the last meeting. He said that in order for the city to reach its goal in the Tree and Shade Master Plan, the city would need to

plant 12,000 trees or more per year, which may require partnerships with other organizations, like the Regional Urban Forestry Roundtable. Mark Hartman also indicated there would be many tree planting events in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and would hope that the commissioners could be present for some of these activities. Chair Tetreault spoke about further advocacy of the Tree and Shade Master Plan above and beyond writing the recommendation to Council. He inquired as to the cost of a program to plant the required number of trees to meet the Council's goal. Mark Hartman stated that the various departments were compiling data concerning the cost of planting trees. Chair Tetreault also indicated the need for a city budget line item concerning trees and that members of the Commission attend upcoming community budget hearings. Chair Tetreault also recommended attending the Planning and Development Village Planning Meetings to advocate for the proposed text amendment concerning trees. Nancy Allen indicated that there is a new City of Phoenix Budget tool online (currently available for the FY 2019-2020 budget at <https://phoenix.abalancingact.com/PhoenixBudget19-20>) that individuals can use to prioritize the budget and can be submitted as feedback. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor spoke about the SRP tree program that is available to customers to help plant trees. Commissioner Torres asked about the large equipment necessary to plant and how would organizations like Citizen Forester use that equipment. Mark Hartman indicated that many of the plantings have pre-planting activities performed by the city or others, like hole digging, that makes it easier for the volunteers to come in and plant trees.

6. Arena Sustainability Update

This item was moved to a future date.

7. Waters of the US (WOTUS)

Tricia Balluff, Environmental Programs Coordinator for the City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs, presented information on the repeal and replacement of the Waters of the United States Rule. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Tricia Balluff gave a brief history of the Clean Water Act. Commissioners discussed the significance of the change in the rule, but Tricia Balluff stated that until the final rule was published it was unclear as to what the possible effects would be. Commissioner Torres requested a map of the waters located within city boundaries, which is currently unavailable. Tricia Balluff spoke about the comments sent by the City concerning the rule include that impoundments should be supported as being WOTUS, against an ephemeral break severing upstream jurisdiction and that ephemeral washes can be important as point sources, are physically large in the City of Phoenix and very important in arid/semi-arid regions.

Tricia Balluff requested the support of the Commission for the Greater Phoenix Metro Green Infrastructure Handbook Low-Impact Development Details for Alternative Stormwater Management prepared by Arizona State University's Sustainable Cities Network (SCN). For the City of Phoenix to increase adoption of sustainable practices, new standards must be approved. Commissioner Bill Sandweg indicated the difficulty in obtaining a variance from current building codes when trying to construct water permeable pavement. Chair Tetreault requested that the handbook be distributed to the Commission and will be considered at a future date.

8. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Future possible agenda items include:

Vice-chair Guidas proposed stepping down as vice-chair and holding an election

Status of AZ Recycling Industry
Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State
Working Together: Trees and Green
Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes
Mayor Kate Gallego
Rio Reimagined
EQSC Branding
Solid Waste Update – after community meetings
Food Policy Update
Air Quality Update
Phoenix Water Drought Pipeline Project
Opioids in Water
Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness
SCN Green Infrastructure Handbook

Nancy Allen announced that the City of Phoenix has joined the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and that members of the organization would be in Phoenix on Monday and Tuesday of the next week to begin work. Nancy Allen also announced that the Arizona legislative session would start on Monday and that the Department of Environmental Quality would need advocacy from the Commission to obtain the requested funding.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist