

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 3:03 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call. The following commissioners arrived after the initial roll call:

- Kelly Barr at 3:09 p.m.
- Kathy Knoop at 3:08 p.m.
- Caroline Lobo at 3:05 p.m.

There were no announcements.

2. Review and approval of December 9, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the December 9, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Caroline Lobo seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.

3. Public Comment – No speakers.

Chair Colin Tetreault indicated that attendees wishing to offer comments to feel free to do so.

There were no speakers.

4. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee (UHITS) Update

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that a meeting of the Subcommittee occurred on January 11. Vice Chair Torres informed the Commission that the Subcommittee would be focusing on policy recommendations from those items in the Subcommittee's Accomplishments Memo that included items like Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure (LID/GI), cool pavement, and urban forestry. The meeting included discussions with the Planning and Development Department about LID/GI and the Subcommittee is interested in continuing these discussions with other city staff along with other organizations, including Sustainable Cities Network and Maricopa Association of Governments. The Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM) also provided an update to the Subcommittee on their continued work to establish the office before this year's summer season. The Subcommittee also discussed working on ways to continue public engagement with the OHRM once the Subcommittee sunsets within 90 days of the December 9, 2021 Commission meeting. Vice Chair Ginger Torres indicated she hopes that the policy recommendations from the Subcommittee would be recommended by the Commission in order to perhaps standardize approaches in these topics across the city. Vice Chair Ginger Torres also appreciates that the Commission extended the Subcommittee's sunset date and understood the importance of the work being conducted by the Subcommittee.

5. UHITS Equity Policy Recommendations

This item was taken after item 6.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres reviewed the heat equity policy memo from the Subcommittee that spoke to existing city goals, policies, and then the recommendations from the Subcommittee. Chair Colin Tetreault asked what the specific ask from the Subcommittee was regarding the heat equity policy memo and Vice Chair Ginger Torres indicated that the goal was for city staff to develop a policy for City Council to review and for the city to operate with those

considerations in mind. Commissioner Sarah Porter asked why is this policy needed as the memo mentioned work being done in this space and what specifically were the recommendations needing approval from the Commission. Vice Chair Ginger Torres indicated the importance of formalizing the process and having policies in place that would apply across the city. The Commissioners entered into a discussion about the process being sought, the best way to accomplish the recommendations from the Subcommittee and the timeline for this process. Directors Nancy Allen, Mark Hartman, and Dr. Dave Hondula spoke about the equity office that is being established and how that office would need to be involved in this type of policy and the best way to move forward on these types of policy recommendations. Vice Chair Ginger Torres asserted that this kind of policy is important and steps need to be taken now to begin the process of creating it.

ACTION:

Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor made a motion that EQSC affirms UHITS recommendations on the creation of a city-wide heat policy - given public health implications – and recommends that Phoenix City Council direct city staff on the development of a heat equity policy so that heat investments are made in an equitable manner and is to be presented to City Council within six months. Vice Chair Ginger Torres seconded the motion and it carried 12:0.

Commissioner Tim Franquist, Vice Chair Ginger Torres, Chair Colin Tetreault and Director Dr. Dave Hondula then spoke about the tradeoffs to be considered when planting trees, like air quality and water consumption to also be considered in the policy recommendations.

6. Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Update

This item was taken up after item 4.

OHRM Director Dr. Dave Hondula provided an update on the American Forests Commitment, hiring process for the department, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as a possible source of funding for heat work, and public engagement with OHRM. Director Dr. Dave Hondula thanked Office of Sustainability Director Mark Hartman for spearheading the work to obtain the \$260,000 American Forests Commitment. The City Council authorized accepting up to \$500,000 in donations for this effort. OHRM is in the second round of interviews for the Urban Tree Program Manager, which will be followed by a posting for the Built Environment Specialist position. Director Dr. Dave Hondula spoke about the potential programs that may be funded by ARPA that OHRM could work alongside with or support other departments, including home weatherization, residential tree equity accelerator, shade structures and school tree plantings. Director Dr. Dave Hondula spoke about the public and stakeholder engagement being conducted with Village Planning Committees, existing tree farms, schools and community-based organizations. Director Dr. Dave Hondula asked the Commission for their recommendations on the desired public engagement elements that would best provide guidance to city staff on this type of work.

Chair Colin Tetreault asked about the timeline of using the donations. Director Mark Hartman spoke about the national investors interested in Phoenix and the ability to leverage the tree equity scores to assist vulnerable populations and this would be attractive to future investors. The discussion also spoke about local organizations, like the Urban Forestry Roundtable and how best to go about using these donations. Director Dr. Dave Hondula said now that some of the financial barriers are being addressed that other barriers are being considered, like labor

shortages. Chair Colin Tetreault asked how the supply chain issues and labor issues were going to be addressed regionally and recommended working with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, and Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Kelly Barr congratulated Director Dr. Dave Hondula on the recent birth of a child and then entered into a discussion about the mechanics of using the funds and if it would be possible to use these funds to match donations from businesses. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor offered to provide contacts of landscape contractors and that there are a variety of different shade opportunities in the city. Commissioner Darren Chapman recommended that future engagement include members of city staff alongside residents in committees like the Village Planning Committees and to include landscapers, non-profit organizations and to work on workforce development in requests for proposal. Director Dr. Dave Hondula indicated that three non-profits were already a part of the tree planting menu and they are working to include more. Vice Chair Ginger Torres recommended engaging neighborhood leaders in high priority areas or develop leaders in those neighborhoods. Commissioner Tim Franquist spoke about other considerations when planting trees, like the effects on air quality from the release of volatile organic compounds from the trees.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

No announcements.

Future possible agenda items include:

Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State - TBD

Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes - TBD

Rio Reimagined – TBD

Air Quality Update – TBD

Opioids in water – TBD

Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness – TBD

Walkability throughout the city – TBD

Clean Water Act and Waters of Arizona – TBD

Office of Heat Response and Mitigation – TBD

UHITS Heat Equity Policy Recommendation – TBD

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist