

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 3:01 p.m. There were 13 members present at roll call.

Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs, announced that the Arizona State legislative session would include bills related to environmental quality and sustainability. Nancy Allen then mentioned a few of the bills, which include, HB 2496 (climate change and greenhouse gases), HB 2200 (repeal of bill that had limited state agencies from regulating greenhouse gases), HB 2691 (Waters of the State program to replace the Waters of the U.S), and HB 2490 (recycling deposit for disposable containers like plastic bottles). Chair Colin Tetreault requested that this information be placed as an item on a future agenda.

Chair Tetreault then introduced Commissioner Andrea Odegard-Begay as the newest member of EQSC. Commissioner Odegard-Begay spoke about her professional experience as a civil and environmental engineer having worked in the private consulting industry for over 21 years in water supply and treatment, including working with municipalities in Arizona and throughout the U.S. Commissioner Odegard-Begay joined the commission to be more involved in the community.

2. Review and approval of January 14, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the January 14, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor seconded the motion and it carried 13:0.

3. Public Comment – No one spoke.

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

No members of the public spoke.

4. Planning and Development Text Amendment Update

Josh Bednarek, Planning and Development Deputy Director, provided an update via email on February 10, 2021. Chair Tetreault read the email to the commission and asked that the email be placed in the minutes:

“Chairman Tetreault:

Thanks so much for taking my call this evening. Tricia and I are happy to report that we were able to present at 15 village planning committees (VPCs) on the text amendment (TA) this past month. The TA was generally well received but we did receive some feedback from several VPCs that we need to address the city’s efforts to restore and provide landscaping on streets and city owned property. We have reached out to Mark Hartman for assistance in responding to this directive from the VPCs.

We have continued to have productive discussions with our utility provider partners on refinements to the language. We are really close to coming to a resolution and are grateful for the time and efforts of our utility provider partners. We are in the process of setting up what we hope to be one final discussion with them for next week.

In order to allow us just a little bit more time finalize the language and to coordinate our response to the feedback from the VPCs we respectfully ask the EQSC to defer taking action on the TA at tomorrow's meeting until March. We really appreciate the EQSC's ongoing support for this effort and look forward to returning in March.

Joshua Bednarek, LEED AP ND
Deputy Director, Planning Division"

Vice Chair Ginger Torres attended a Village Planning Committee (VPC) meeting where the Text Amendment was presented as an agenda item for information only. Vice Chair Torres advised that if one wished to speak at the VPC meeting to register with sufficient time.

Chair Tetreault then spoke about the South Mountain VPC and that efforts should be concentrated on communities that need it most and to have an equity-based approach to those communities.

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

Chair Tetreault reaffirmed and renewed the focus of the subcommittee on policy recommendations, in particular planning and implementation of cool corridors and cool roof policy development. Chair Tetreault reminded the commission and subcommittee that the subcommittee has a sunset date of December 9, 2021 and all work by the subcommittee must be concluded by the EQSC meeting that occurs on that date.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, serving as UHITS Chair, and Commissioner Allen, serving as UHITS Vice Chair, provided an update from the most recent meeting. During the subcommittee meeting, the business case for the Urban Forest Infrastructure Manager Position Justification memo was approved to be sent to the commission and next steps for advocacy were discussed. The climate action plan framework and aligning the urban heat island goals with the plan were also discussed. Commissioner Sarah Porter had spoken to the subcommittee about the different sources of water within the different communities in Phoenix and that opened discussions about the alignment of communities in South Phoenix perhaps not having the same water use limitations as other areas.

Commissioner Allen then asked about how the commission would proceed with the memo. Commissioner Columba Sainz inquired as to what will happen to low-income communities where the trees are placed and the possible repercussions for those living there. Vice Chair Torres indicated that gentrification or low-income or vulnerable communities would be under the purview of the manager position.

Chair Tetreault asked that the subcommittee bring policy recommendations to the commission's March meeting.

Discussion then proceeded on how best to approve the memo from the subcommittee. Chair Tetreault suggested drafting additional memo and to add the manager position memo as an addendum and include the voting record with each component. Commissioner Porter pointed out that some of the language will need to be tempered, especially regarding water and energy use. Vice Chair Torres agreed with Commissioner Porter's comments and that a cover memo along with the original memo would work.

ACTION:

Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor made a motion to approve the Urban Forest Infrastructure Manager Position Justification memo that was approved by the subcommittee on January 12, 2021 and as written by the UHITS Subcommittee with a cover letter to be written by Chair Tetreault to be transmitted to City Council and City Management. Vice Chair Ginger Torres seconded the motion and it carried 13:0.

6. Climate Action Plan Update

Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Air Quality and Climate Specialist in the Office of Environmental Programs, gave an update to the efforts towards producing a C40-compliant climate action plan. Dr. Potzler updated the commission on outreach being conducted for the climate action plan. A workshop was cohosted with CHISPAAZ League of Conservation Voters on January 28, 2021. Presentations were provided to the American Society of Civil Engineers Phoenix Branch and Unlimited Potential, a non-profit organization serving low-income Hispanic families in South Phoenix in areas from literacy to early childhood development. A future workshop focused on youth would be conducted on February 20, 2021 in partnership with the Sustainability Officers within Phoenix Union High School District and using Chair Tetreault's access to video conferencing software.

Commissioner Caroline Lobo asked if the youth workshop would be for other high school districts.

Vice Chair Torres asked how this was being announced in the schools. Dr. Potzler indicated that the Sustainability Officers were being asked to make the contact. Mark Hartman, Chief Sustainability Officer, and Administrator Allen remarked that contact was also being made through the Youth Education Office within the city of Phoenix.

Chair Tetreault acknowledged the several presentations being made to various community groups and suggested that commissioners reach out to staff to engage their personal and professional networks.

Vice Chair Torres also asked if private or charter schools would be included with Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman responding yes, both are included.

7. EQSC Climate Action Plan Event Planning

Chair Tetreault announced that the EQSC Climate Action Plan Event, which will include breakout sessions, would occur on March 4, 2021 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Chair Tetreault asked that the commissioners distribute the workshop invite to networks, particularly individuals in the business community who are in high-ranking positions within their respective organizations or leaders in their communities.

Vice Chair Torres asked for clarification of the ask from the commission. The ask includes being present for the event and to host a breakout room. Breakout rooms will have specific topics, e.g. Commissioner Porter could possibly host the 'water'

breakout room. Vice Chair Torres and Commissioners Darren Chapman and Andrea Odegard-Begay volunteered to participate in the event.

Chair Tetreault then relayed a personal story about when he says “I’m ready to rock” that his six-year-old responds with “I’m ready to roll.”

8. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items for Information Only

Future possible agenda items include:

- EQSC Bylaws
- Status of AZ Recycling Industry
- Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State
- Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes
- Rio Reimagined
- EQSC Branding
- Air Quality Update
- Phoenix Water Drought Pipeline Project
- Opioids in Water
- Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness
- Walkability throughout the city
- Arizona Legislature bills of interest

Chair Tetreault requested for commissioners to consider additional policy areas that they may be able to contribute to.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist