

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 8, 2021

Phoenix City Hall
Online Utilizing Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Allee Taylor, Penny via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Barr, Kelly via phone	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability (OSS)
Chapman, Darren via phone	Willa Altman-Kaough, Office of the Mayor
Franquist, Timothy	Tricia Gomes, Planning and Development Department
Groman, Kevin via phone	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Lobo, Caroline via phone	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Porter, Sarah via phone	Cindy Salazar, OEP
Ruht, Kimberly via phone	Brianna Williams, Office of Administrative Services
Sainz, Columba via phone	Alexis Yaple, Public Works Department (PW)
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Eric MacDonald (PW)
Torres, Ginger via phone	
Tetreault, Colin via phone	
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Kathy Knoop	Alyssa Lyons
Odegard-Begay, Andrea	Andie Abkarian
	Dan (No last name)
	Gabriela (No last name)
	Helen Heiden
	Jesse Westad
	Jessica Bueno
	Lisa Perez
	Neal Haddad
	Nicole Rodriguez
	Ryan Boyd
	Samantha Hirsch
	Sam Bloch
	Tabitha Myers
	Tristahn Schaub
	Vjollca Berisha
	Wayne Warrington

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 9 members present at roll call. The following commissioners arrived after the initial roll call:

- Kelly Barr at 3:03 p.m.
- Timothy Franquist at 3:10 p.m.
- Caroline Lobo at 3:03 p.m.

Chair Colin Tetreault announced that Kathy Knoop has joined the Commission. At Arizona Public Service, Kathy Knoop focuses on sustainability and the environment while working on transportation electrification.

2. Review and approval of March 11, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Caroline Lobo seconded the motion and it carried 11:0.

3. Public Comment – Eight people spoke.

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

Andie Abkarian, a downtown resident of Phoenix, is supportive of the commission's efforts and excited about the landscape text amendment. Andie Abkarian supports policies that would protect existing trees, like the inclusion of a tree protection zone (TPZ) within city ordinance.

Dan (No last name) would like to propose a new text amendment that would hold developers to higher standards regarding landscaping requirements. Dan observed that developers will "skimp or avoid" landscaping in Laveen Village. Dan would be more in favor of reducing density to provide more public or private area for greenspace, including having above ground stormwater retention basins/infrastructure rather than underground.

Lisa Perez, resident of Estrella Village, observed all kinds of developments without trees and that putting burden of planting trees on developer is difficult as a resident and would hope the city of Phoenix could implement the requirements to meet the Tree and Shade Master Plan.

Neal Haddad, Arcadia Osborne Neighborhood Association member, is interested in the text amendment update and would like to include TPZ into the text amendment. Neal Haddad was also interested in what the review process was for development and has observed a property on the northeast corner of 6th Ave and Broadway Rd. that used to have mature trees that provided shade get removed when the property was redeveloped for multi-housing development.

Nicole Rodriguez provided comments regarding the text amendment, acknowledging the language seems appropriate for utilities, but is lacking in other areas. The text amendment does not detail pruning standards for landscaping and does not include a TPZ. Nicole Rodriguez would also want the text amendment to include equity language to protect vulnerable communities.

Ryan Boyd provided comments on the text amendment and requested the final copy of the text amendment in a timely manner. As a user, Ryan Boyd can tell

when a property has trees and shade and that these provide benefits to the surrounding community.

Tabitha Myers supports adding a TPZ to the text amendment. As a resident of Willow Neighborhood, Tabitha Myers experiences the benefits of lots of trees and is concerned about development downtown that may affect the trees present there.

Tristahn Schaub, president of Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association, observed that developers will abandon trees and flood irrigation in their developments, so new trees will not get established, and would want a TPZ to be included.

4. Planning and Development Text Amendment Update

Tricia Gomes, Planning and Development Department Special Projects Administrator, provided an update regarding the Landscape Maintenance Text Amendment and so that the commission had the opportunity to provide a recommendation after further review as requested at the last EQSC meeting by Chair Tetreault. Since the last meeting, additional language was clarified so that amenities located in open spaces or community areas would be prioritized for shade. The Village Planning Committee meetings schedule was modified to allow for the staff report to be completed and is now starting on April 14, 2021 through May 13, 2021. The text amendment would then be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council in June. Special Projects Administrator Gomes reminded the commission that the scope and purpose of this text amendment, as provided by City Council, was to strengthen and codify already existing practices and that additional text amendments would be required to include new components, like a TPZ and equity considerations.

Commissioner Kevin Groman asked if there is a way for the city to facilitate the effect of increased green spaces without the city needing to create an additional ordinance, such as providing education to illustrate the benefits to developers or other private entities and indicate the demand from residents. Special Projects Administrator Gomes indicated that this effort was city-wide and this text amendment was only one component.

An extensive discussion surrounding the inclusion of a TPZ into the text amendment arose between Special Projects Administrator Gomes and Chair Colin Tetreault, Vice Chair Ginger Torres, Commissioners Kelly Barr, Columba Sainz and Sarah Porter, and Chief Sustainability Mark Hartman. Special Projects Administrator Gomes was asked how the TPZ could be included into the current text amendment, what the process would be for the TPZ to be included, and how to ensure that the TPZ would be considered in the future. Special Projects Administrator Gomes advised that in order to add a new component like the TPZ, the entire process would begin anew, as the text amendment would need to be re-advertised and all the stakeholders would need to be able to provide input again. To ensure that these topics are considered, the commission could provide recommendations of future items to be included in other text amendments, like the TPZ or equity considerations, with the process varying from six months to a year to complete. Commissioner Sainz asked how Special Projects Administrator Gomes was working with utilities to transition to solar energy and how are vulnerable communities protected against rising housing costs in neighborhoods that will receive trees. Special Projects Administrator Gomes spoke about the city's green building code and that this is a city-wide effort that includes other departments, since the Planning and Development Department only works on private areas and that the text amendment would only apply to private property. Chief Sustainability

Officer Hartman reminded the commission of the proposed new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation would be tasked with working internally and with external partners to address heat, especially in vulnerable communities. Commissioner Porter asked for a point of order as the topic, although the discussion was important, was extending beyond the item on the agenda. Chair Tetreault agreed and inquired about the public socialization process for the text amendment. Special Projects Administrator Gomes listed the various engagement with the public, including meeting with various stakeholders: the meetings with the utilities previously described in other updates, developers of commercial, multi-family housing, and single-family housing, the 15 VPC, Planning Commission, and City Council.

Chair Tetreault moved to have action on the request for recommendation to May.

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

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, serving as UHITS Chair provided an update from the most recent subcommittee meeting. During the meeting, UHITS voted to approve to send cool corridor policy recommendations to EQSC for consideration and possible inclusion into the draft climate action plan. Chair Tetreault requested that this item be added to the agenda for EQSC's May meeting. The average cost per tree to the city was also discussed during the UHITS meeting, which would stay the same. Estimates for the cost included possible need for additional water infrastructure. Vice Chair Torres announced that the UHITS has had three members recently resign, including UHITS Vice Chair Dwayne Allen. Vice Chair Torres requested that Tabitha Myers be elevated to be the UHITS Vice Chair as Tabitha Myers has contributed immensely to the subcommittee, especially with the tree administrator position that is now being considered in the City Manager's Trial Budget. Chair Tetreault appointed Tabitha Myers as UHITS Vice Chair. Vice Chair Torres indicated that the subcommittee would welcome a commissioner to be part of the subcommittee. Commissioner Columba Sainz volunteered to be a subcommittee member. Chair Tetreault appointed Commissioner Sainz to be a member of UHITS.

Chair Tetreault and Vice Chair Torres reminded the commission that it was important to participate in the trial budget process.

Chair Tetreault acknowledged the increasing speed of policy recommendations from the subcommittee.

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 timeline of producing a C40-compliant climate action plan. Dr. Potzler indicated that the timeline was accelerated due to a request from Mayor Kate Gallego to have the document presented to City Council for approval by October. The community input for the Climate Action Plan Framework were being organized along with preliminary results from a greenhouse gas reductions model, C40 Pathways, to be presented to city staff and inclusion into the draft climate action plan. The draft climate action plan is planned to be available for public comment in June.

Chair Tetreault encouraged staff to engage the community to ensure a far-wide reach that makes sure the voices of underserved populations are heard.

7. EQSC Climate Action Plan Event Planning

Chair Tetreault announced that the EQSC Climate Action Plan Event would be held in June 2021 to coincide with the release of the draft climate action plan.

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
- Cool Corridors Policy Recommendations
- Planning and Development Department Text Amendment

Chair Tetreault requested that the Planning and Development Department Text Amendment be added to the next meeting's agenda. In addition, a presentation about UHITS's policy recommendations from Vice Chair Torres and UHITS member Dr. Dave Hondula.

Vice Chair Torres asked for commissioners and subcommittee members to use the Trial Budget Hearings Sign-up document, so that there is input at all the hearings. Chair Tetreault also asked that the commissioners distribute the City Manager's Trial Budget (https://www.phoenix.gov/budgetsite/budget-books/2021-22_Trial_Budget.pdf) to their respective networks. Office of Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen requested that when commissioners, and their networks, provide input on the Trial Budget that they consider funding for the new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, climate planning, air quality, and food systems.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist