PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

April 14, 2022

Phoenix City Hall Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Allee Taylor, Penny via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Chapman, Darren via phone	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability, (OSS)
Franquist, Tim via phone	Dave Hondula, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation
	(OHRM)
Groman, Kevin via phone	Felissa Washington Smith, Public Works (PW)
Knoop, Kathy via phone	Keith Carbajal, PW
LaSlavic, Nicole via phone	Darice Ellis, OSS
Lobo, Caroline via phone	Alexis Yaple, PW
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Lora Martens, OHRM
Sax, Kim via phone	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Torres, Ginger via phone	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Tetreault, Colin	Anita Ponce, OEP
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Barr, Kelly	Alyson Hulet
Odegard-Begay, Andrea	Cecilia Riviere
Porter, Sarah	
Sainz, Columba	

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 10 members present at roll call. The following commissioner arrived after the initial roll call:

Darren Chapman at 3:30 p.m.

2. Review and approval of March 10, 2022 Minutes ACTION:

Commissioner Caroline Lobo made a motion to approve the March 10, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.

3. Public Comment – No speakers.

There were no speakers.

4. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee (UHITS) Update Vice Chair Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that at the last meeting of the Subcommittee on March 12, 2022, UHITS had a presentation about cool pavement from Ryan Stevens, Civil Engineer in the Street Transportation Department. The Subcommittee also approved a Future Work and Timeline during the meeting.

5. UHITS Future Work and Timeline

Vice Chair Ginger Torres provided a memo to the EQSC with the UHITS 2022 Work Plan. The topics included Green Infrastructure, Cool Pavements Policy, and Artificial Shade/Building Code. If time permits, Tree Protection will be considered by UHITS. Chair Colin Tetreault and Vice Chair Ginger Torres discussed how these topics were selected. Commissioner Caroline Lobo indicated that pursuing the topic of Artificial Shade was important as trees are not possible in certain areas and that related zoning code may also need to be addressed. Chair Colin Tetreault reminded the EQSC that the City's Cool Corridor Kickoff Event would occur this Saturday at Cesar Chavez Park.

6. Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Update

Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM) Director Dr. Dave Hondula provided an update to the EQSC regarding the City Council approved Heat Response Plan, the hiring process within the Office, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) concepts, and the Cool Corridor Kickoff Event.

Chair Colin Tetreault congratulated Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Director Dr. Dave Hondula and welcomed Lora Martens, the City's new Urban Tree Program Manager. Chair Colin Tetreault then inquired as to the availability and utilization of the data available to implement and evaluate the Heat Response Plan. The Heat Response Plan will include data from the City, like emergency services calls, and other sources, like the Maricopa County Department of Health's annual heat report. The OHRM will go before City Council in the future to present the data collected along with requests for additional investments to support the effort. Commissioner Caroline Lobo then asked if the data has been shared with PHX C.A.R.E.S. and what the plan is for the unsheltered and those that use drugs. Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Director Dr. Dave Hondula indicated that experts in these areas have been consulted and that they would continue to collaborate to offer services and assistance when possible. Chair Colin Tetreault asked what the public perspective was and the response was for more and faster.

Chair Colin Tetreault and Commissioner Tim Franquist discussed regional collaboration and that the Maricopa Association of Governments Air Quality Technical Committee would be meeting this month to discuss the topic of heat. Chair Colin Tetreault then asked about the use of the ARPA funds and what is the plan for when they are all distributed. Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Director Dr. Dave Hondula indicated that the funds would be depleted, but that additional sources of funding were being looked into and that if they could show the successful implementation of these programs using ARPA funds, it may provide enough evidence to obtain more funding.

7. Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap

Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman spoke about the Draft Electric Vehicle Roadmap to 2030 that is being developed by the Office of Sustainability and the City Council EV Ad Hoc Committee, which includes Commissioner Kathy Knoop as a Committee Member. Commissioner Kathy Knoop spoke about the composition of the EV Ad Hoc Committee and Subcommittees that each focused on items like equity, outreach, and charging infrastructure. The EV Roadmap includes municipal operations goals and community-wide goals from the Climate Action Plan 2021 Edition. Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman then provided background on the current state of electric vehicles and expected growth trends. Commissioner Tim Franquist and Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman entered into a discussion on the cost and accessibility of electric vehicles and how underserved communities would be served by the EV Roadmap. Commissioner Caroline Lobo inquired as to the cost analysis of solar-powered charging stations. Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman indicated that different solutions with different energy sources would be analyzed and implemented as appropriate in different areas. Commissioner Kevin Groman and Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman then spoke about the involvement of developers and builders in the process along with commenting on the extended time frames required to obtain a permit. Commissioner Tim Franquist then spoke about the possibility of emissions offsets and the economic benefits associated with obtaining those with Commissioner Kathy Knoop mentioning other possible economic benefits that other states use, like their low carbon fuel standard credit programs. Commissioner Bill Sandweg then spoke about the difficulties of finding charging stations in Phoenix. Chair Colin Tetreault asked about the City Fleet goals and how to increase the number of electric vehicles in the Fleet. Public Works Assistant Director Felissa Washington Smith spoke about the commitment and interest to support the goals of the EV Ad Hoc Committee and their efforts in replacing the City Fleet vehicles to electric vehicles. Public Works Deputy Director Keith Carbajal then added that the analysis needed to determine the best use of the City Fleet's electric vehicles was hampered as the COVID-19 Pandemic limited the use of these vehicles. Commissioner Kathy Knoop added that many types of electric vehicles would be released by 2030, including commercial vehicles that may be appropriate replacements for current vehicles. Commissioner Kevin Groman recommended performing a life cycle assessment on the vehicles. Commissioner Caroline Lobo then spoke about currently working with developers to install charging stations. The discussion then concluded with Chair Colin Tetreault recommending to work with local suppliers and encouraged training the local workforce.

8. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Chair Tetreault asked for agenda items to be considered for future meetings and Commissioner Tim Franquist requested an air quality update.

9.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist