

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

June 8, 2023

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Penny Allee Taylor	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Kelly Barr, via WebEx	Julie Riemenschneider, OEP
Anna Bettis, via WebEx	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Orlando Cazarez	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Darren Chapman, via WebEx	Joshua Uebelherr, OEP
Eric Gorseger	Nicole Witt, Office of Public Health
Kevin Groman	Yanitza Soto, Office of Public Health
Kathy Knoop, via WebEx	
Andrea Odegard-Begay	
Sarah Porter	
Bill Sandweg, via WebEx	
Colin Tetreault, via WebEx	
Ginger Torres	
Caroline Lobo, via WebEx	
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Timothy Franquist	Tiffani Mayes-McGilvery

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 3:02 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call. Vice Chair Ginger Torres was leading the meeting as Chair Caroline Lobo was unable to be present in person and had a potentially unreliable internet connection.

The following commissioners arrived after roll call:

- Penny Allee Taylor
- Kelly Barr
- Eric Gorsegner
- Sarah Porter
- Colin Tetreault

Nancy Allen, Environmental Programs Administrator, announced that a drought and water status update would be presented at the next City Council Policy Session.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked the new Commissioner Orlando Cazarez to introduce himself as it was his first meeting. Commissioner Cazarez is the CEO of the Arizona Sustainability Alliance and has experience with tree planting, low-income neighborhood and schools engagement, Rio Salado and North Mountain Preserve cleanup efforts, and would like to be more informed on how to partner with the city on initiatives.

Vice Chair Torres then asked all commissioners to introduce themselves and provide a brief review of their interests and expertise since there have been a few new members over the last year.

2. Review and approval of May 11, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the May 11, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Kathy Knoop seconded the motion and it carried 9:0.

3. Public Comment

No one spoke.

4. City of Phoenix Public Health Update

Public Health Advisor, Nicole Witt, and Special Projects Administrator Yantiza Soto, presented on the new Office of Public Health and the recent work they have been doing for community health needs assessments, opioid response planning, and supporting department needs for public health.

Vice Chair Torres thanked Witt for her presentation and was unaware this office existed. She stated that the Commission is tied to public health as well as the environment and health suffer together.

Chair Lobo asked if there was any connections being made with homeless solutions. Witt stated that there is and the office would like to get a profile for where strategies would be most helpful and for who needs the help

Commissioner Gorsegner asked if there is another city that could serve a model as this new office creates something new from scratch. Witt and Soto responded that their office is unique as many public health offices don't lead from the city level,

however Boston, many east coast cities, and some cities in Canada have some ideas and strategies they would like to bring to their office, especially with their public health neighborhood approaches.

Commissioner Groman asked about their work with air quality. Witt stated that air quality is obviously a public health concern and the health office is looking at health outcomes associated with air quality. The community health profiles and mapping will be helpful to address the local impacts of air quality.

Commissioner Bettis asked about their involvement with community groups and offered that Unlimited Potential has community health workers who could be a good resource. Soto is familiar with their work and there has not been direct involvement yet, but working with nonprofits and external advisory groups will be developed.

Vice Chair Torres thanked them again and asked that they return if there are requests or any help the Commission can provide to their office. Witt said when they develop their community health profiles and healthy cities plan they will also do community engagement which can be brought to the Commission.

5. Climate Action Plan and General Plan Discussion

Chair Lobo asked the Commission to review the 2015 General Plan and 2021 Climate Action Plan to prepare for the upcoming drafts later this year. The Climate Action plan draft is expected to be published in late summer and the General Plan draft is expected to go to City Council in March 2024 with a vote by residents in November 2024.

Vice Chair Torres asked if the drafts were coordinated together and how they align with the GO Bond work. Environmental Programs Administrator Allen stated that the documents were going to be developed alongside one another in the early stages, however that is not the case anymore. The documents are similar in that they nest together other plans and projects and cover what the city is working on. The General Plan is required to be updated every 10 years and will go to voters for approval. The Climate Action Plan is required as a part of C40 Cities and will be approved by City Council. The GO Bond work is a separate project.

The Commission discussed and assigned topics in the Climate Action Plan as follows:

- Penny Allee Taylor – Community Engagement Opportunities, Public Health, Vision of CAP
- Kelly Barr – Stationary Energy, Transportation, Water
- Anna Bettis – Environmental Justice, Heat
- Orlando Cazarez – Heat, Financial Sustainability Initiatives, Environmental Justice
- Darren Chapman – Local Food Systems
- Eric Gorsegrner – Water, Air Quality
- Kevin Groman – Environmental Justice, Financial Sustainability Initiatives
- Kathy Knoop – Transportation, Stationary Energy
- Andrea Odegard-Begay – Water, Heat, Air Quality
- Sarah Porter – Heat, Water, Local Food Systems
- Bill Sandweg – Local Food Systems, Air Quality, Waste

- Colin Tetreault – Financial Sustainability Initiatives, Waste, Stationary Energy
- Ginger Torres – Local Food Systems, Heat, Public Health, Land Acknowledgement
- Caroline Lobo – Environmental Justice, Waste

Chair Lobo asked Commissioners to work on reviewing the Climate Action Plan and submit any comments or thoughts via email to Caroline or OEP to be discussed at the July meeting.

The Commission also discussed how to have business engagement with the upcoming draft Climate Action Plan. The Commission is welcome to engage their own circles and invite the business community to city hosted workshops on various topics or plan their own workshop to facilitate discussion. The Commission brainstormed potential invitees to the workshop and set a tentative plan to host in September so comments can be reviewed by EQSC at a meeting and included in the public engagement for the draft.

6. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Torres thanked the Commission for their time and looks forward to the Climate Action Plan review. She reminded Commissioners to submit their comments before the meeting so Caroline can compile and send it out before the meeting and to continue thinking about how to structure an EQSC business workshop.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist