

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

August 11, 2022

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Andrea Odegard-Begay, via phone	Julie Riemenschneider, OEP
Bill Sandweg, via phone	Rosanne Albright, OEP
Caroline Lobo, via phone	Mark Hartman, OSS
Colin Tetreault, via phone	David Hondula, OHRM
Darren Chapman, via phone	Alicia Arauz-Orozco, OHRM
Ginger Torres, via phone	Lora Martens, OHRM
Kelly Barr, via phone	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Kevin Groman, via phone	Anita Ponce, OEP
Penny Allee Taylor, via phone	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Sarah Porter, via phone	Alexis Yaple, Public Works
	Cuong Dinh, Parks
	Kim Gathers, OHSEM
	Mailen Pankiewicz, Street Transportation
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Columba Sainz	Mark Carlisle
Kim Sax	Jack Keyser
Kathy Knoop	Larry Rock
Nicole LaSlavic	Samantha Matthews
Timothy Franquist	Kathryn Miller

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 3:07 p.m. There were 10 members present at roll call.

Chair Caroline Lobo thanked the commission for submitting the SurveyMonkey responses and briefly discussed the results.

Chair Caroline Lobo also discussed the possibility of holding hybrid meetings for EQSC.

2. Review and approval of July 14, 2022, Minutes

Commissioner Colin Tetreault made a motion to approve the July 14, 2022, minutes. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.

3. Public Comments

Jack Keyser expressed interest of becoming a member. He also informed the commission that he has expertise in working with landscaping companies.

Environmental Programs Specialist Matthew Potzler reminded the public members they could submit a request to speak by email to oeinfo@phoenix.gov

Larry Rock introduced himself and expressed interest in becoming a member. He informed the commission that he has submitted his resume and application to become a commission member.

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

Vice Chair Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, reported that the UHITS Subcommittee meeting was held on August 9, 2022. Dr. Jennifer Vanos presented on the Cool Pavement Project. Dr. Hondula gave an update on the heat response plan, American Tree Rescue Strategic Plan, ARPA Tree Planting Program, as well as masterplan updates.

Vice Chair Torres also spoke about the UHITS Subcommittee sunsetting at the end of the year. Office of Environmental Programs Coordinator Rosanne Albright stated that City Clerk would need to be consulted with should UHITS want to continue to meet. Vice Chair Torres requested consideration be taken for the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation to manage UHITS.

5. Walkability Throughout the City

Street Transportation Principal Planner, Mailen Pankiewicz presented on the Walkability Throughout the City. Mailen posed a question to the group to think about the nearest grocery store to your home as well as the accessibility to it. There are cities to minimize travel time, however the environment development is not conducive. Issues with urban design with development of corner pharmacies/stores that have built walls that have inconvenient entrances for pedestrians. Therefore, the city is making recommendations and requiring different standards to open a pedestrian path that connects to the traffic light. This will add a convenient entrance for cars, as well as people and provide an easy path for people with disabilities. Studies have been conducted where fatalities have occurred while crossing the street from a high-density apartment complex to the grocery store. Installation of hawk traffic signals have taken place for the risks associated with crossing streets in a high-speed location. Social responsibilities

and walkability in our communities brought about the “Euclidean” (use based) Zoning devised to prevent undesirable juxtapositions. During this time building designs catered to vehicles. Therefore, Form-Based Codes (FBCs) were brought about to restore time tested pedestrian forms of urbanism as a response to 50+ years of regulations.

Mailen also spoke about Transit Oriented Development (TOD) which allows for wider sidewalks, walkability, and a readily accessible merchant front door to provide a more comfortable pedestrian experience.

Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor asked about interest in TOD in other council districts. Mailen responded that it is mostly within the boundaries. Some developers have come in and borrowed TOD standards for use of walkable code. The zoning ordinance is outdated and is in use 70 years later.

Chair Caroline Lobo spoke about TOD standards and focus on vulnerable communities. There are disadvantaged communities where no right of way exists and how to acquire space to accommodate. Also, pedestrian safety in disadvantaged communities have higher rates of accidents. Chair Caroline Lobo also mentioned the Sunnyslope community as being a vulnerable area.

6. 2023 GO Bond Program

This item was taken out of order after item 6.

Office of Environmental Programs Coordinator Rosanne Albright provided an update on the 2023 GO Bond Program. The Executive and Subcommittee kickoff meeting was held on August 8. The Mayor and City Council approved the General Obligation (GO) Bond Program of 500 million every five years. The last GO Bond Program was in 2006. The program will not have a negative impact to the city’s bond rating and no increase to the property tax rate. The GO Bond Program is focused on the city’s capital study needs. Voters will decide in the November 2023 elections. Eight subcommittees have been formed with citizen involvement. Ginger Torres is serving as the Environment and Sustainability Subcommittee GO Bond Chair, and GO Bond Executive Committee member, and Colin Tetreault also serving as member of the Environment and Sustainability Subcommittee. Two categories have been identified with one being priority projects identified with the highest need, and future capital needs. A robust communications and engagement plan has been developed. The Environmental and Sustainability meeting will kick off on August 22 from 9:00 – 11:00 am. In addition, the GOPHX Tool website has been developed for community needs. Hybrid GO Bond Committee Meetings are taking place. The meeting schedule can be found by visiting: www.phoenix.gov/bond/meetings The meetings will wrap up in October and will return with findings in November. GO Bond meeting updates will be added to the UHITS and EQSC meeting agendas.

7. Community Engagement Strategy

This item was taken out of order after item 5.

Office of Environmental Programs Coordinator Rosanne Albright provided an update on the Community Engagement Strategy. An effort is being made to use social media and other ad prints to engage with the community. These efforts will provide the biggest opportunities to attend meetings. Updates to the Climate Action

Plan and General Plan start to take place in October 2022, outreach and community engagement will take place in January 2023 to the Summer of 2023. The General Plan will go to voters in November 2024.

Vice Chair Torres discussed engagement from commissioners

Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor inquired about key GO Bond dates sent via email to commissioners.

8. Announcement and Review of Future Agenda Items:

This item was taken out of order at item 1.

Chair Caroline Lobo asked Dr. Hondula to present on the ADHOC Committee for the shade and trees master plan at the next EQSC meeting in September.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita Ponce, Administrative Assistant I