

1. Call to Order 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. The following Commissioners arrived at the times stated below:

- Josh Bendor at 3:03 p.m.
- Caroline Lobo at 3:09 p.m.

Talonya Adams will be leaving EQSC as her term has concluded. Kevin Groman will join as a new commissioner. Commission Chair Colin Tetreault spoke about Camp Colley, a program for inner-city youth to have access to the outdoors and will send out a flyer with further information about this program.

2. Review and approval of September 12, 2019 Minutes:

ACTION:

Commissioner Kimberly Ruht made a motion to approve the September 12, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Park Howell seconded the motion and it carried 11:0.

3. Public Comment – One person spoke:

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

Laurie Fitzhugh from Neighborhood Wire, was curious to learn more about the commission and had no further comment.

4. Process for Submittal to City Council: Recommendations of the Urban Heat Island / Tree and Shade Subcommittee

Nancy Allen spoke about the next step in the process for the recommendations and which City Council Subcommittees they may go to next. She presented two documents: a City Council Subcommittee Structure and the City Manager's department structure. She suggested that the Commission sit down with the Mayor and Council per recommendations from Karen Peters, Deputy City Manager.

Chair Colin Tetreault included both draft versions of the Recommendations from the Subcommittee and a memo describing the process that led to both versions to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager. He then spoke about the future of the Urban Heat Island / Tree and Shade Subcommittee. The membership may change or be augmented, as Trees and Shade are a subset of Urban Heat Island.

5. Strategic Planning

Chair Tetreault designated November's meeting as the Strategic Planning meeting. Dr. Lauren Withycombe Keeler, assistant research professor at ASU, will be invited. The Chair suggested Burton Barr Library as the location for the meeting. He also mentioned possible topics of discussion, including air quality, urban heat island and economic development/innovation. Chair Tetreault then opened up the floor to other commission members for possible topics.

Commissioner Ruht suggested recycling and solid waste management as possible topics. Chair Tetreault then suggested receiving an update from the Solid Waste Advisory Board about current standings. Nancy Allen spoke about a cost of services report that is in process from Public Works and that November may be too

soon to extend an invitation. She also stated that ADEQ is revisiting the definition of solid waste and stakeholder meetings would begin in January. Commission members then inquired as to the best way to obtain more information and were informed to sign up for updates from the different regulatory agencies. Commissioner Dwayne then advocated for a greater recycling program to include the private sector. He stated that residences produce a fraction of what a business produces. He said the Commission should champion recycling in an expedient manner.

Chair Tetreault and Commissioner Park next discussed about the importance of branding. Commissioner Park spoke about finding the common thread between all these sustainability goals and looking for a way to communicate these goals to the general public without utilizing the terms sustainability and global warming. He also discussed high temperatures and high pollution ozone events that now occur routinely and its impact on the livability of the City. Chair Tetreault suggested building additional subcommittees to create a branding policy that would inform on how to communicate the goals to public, Council and management. Commissioner Allen then spoke of temperatures in summer and how the City is not comprehensive in its efforts to promote multimodal transportation, like including bike lanes.

Commissioner Ruht suggested that during the Strategic Planning meeting that the first hour should be updates at the City level and the second hour can be a working hour.

Commissioner Torres inquired as to when a resilience plan was last developed, with concerns as to urban heat island and water issues. Chair Tetreault requested that staff provide information related to the topics discussed before the next meeting. Mark Hartman spoke about how trees are a part of that plan. He also stated that the City recently began a partnership with ASU to come up with a climate mitigation plan to include urban heat island and a “heat ready” plan. Commissioner Torres and Chair Tetreault offered the support of the commission in this endeavor.

6. Update: Green Finance

Denise Olson spoke about the green bond initiative. She updated the commission as to the state of the bond economy. The City will be issuing a couple large bonds for Aviation and Water. She indicated that although green bonds may have lower rates, they require a significant amount of documentation in order to be classified as a green bond. She indicated that there are possible projects, such as the MRF utilizing bonds to increase capacity or water line installations, may be good candidates for green bonds. She indicated that the cost of disclosure requirements will need to be considered and larger bonds may be more appropriate candidates for green bonds to cover that cost. Chair Tetreault mentioned private companies utilizing green bonds to increase recycling, such as PepsiCo floating a billion-dollar bond to recycle. Commissioner Allen inquired as to whether the City has an economic guiding principle. Denise Olson stated that there is no policy regarding green bonds, only that the investment must sound. Commissioners agreed that it may be in the City’s interest to begin to issue green bonds. Nick Brown inquired as to the difference between a green bond and a sustainable bond. Denise Olson was unsure, but emphasized the importance of these bonds is the story told to investors and the associated disclosures.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Future possible agenda items include:

TBD:

Status of AZ Recycling Industry
Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State
Working Together: Trees and Green
Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes
Mayor Kate Gallego
Rio Reimagined

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist