

PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

December 9, 2021

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Chapman, Darren via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Groman, Kevin via phone	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability (OSS)
Knoop, Kathy via phone	David Hondula, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM)
LaSlavic, Nicole via phone	Willa Altman-Kaough, Office of the Mayor
Odegard-Begay, Andrea via phone	Alexis Yapple, Public Works (PW)
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Cuong Dinh, Parks and Recreation
Torres, Ginger	Erik Wilson, Street Transportation
	Michelle Litwin, OSS/OHRM
	Stephen Wetherell, Law
	Matthew Potzler, OEP
	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Allee Taylor, Penny	Aimee Esposito
Barr, Kelly	Anita Snow
Franquist, Timothy	Anna Bettis
Lobo, Caroline	Nicole Rodriguez
Ruht, Kimberly	Ryan Boyd
Sainz, Columba	Stacey Champion
Tetreault, Colin	Tabitha Myers

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 3:14 p.m. There were 8 members present at roll call.

Chair Colin Tetreault was not present. Vice Chair Ginger Torres oversaw the meeting's proceedings. There were no announcements.

2. Review and approval of November 18, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Kathy Knoop seconded the motion and it carried 8:0.

3. Public Comment – Five speakers.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres indicated that attendees wishing to offer comments to feel free to do so.

Ryan Boyd requested that the Commission extend the Urban Heat Island Tree and Shade Subcommittee (UHITS) until a permanent replacement is established.

Nicole Rodriguez, UHITS member, stated that the Commission needs an overhaul with new Commissioners and that the UHITS needs to be extended.

Stacey Champion asked that UHITS be extended.

Aimee Esposito, UHITS member, acknowledged the work done by the Subcommittee and that a standing committee or commission be established.

Tabitha Myers, Vice Chair of UHITS, asked for an extension of the Subcommittee until a permanent replacement is established and to continue the work that the Subcommittee has already undertaken.

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

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that a meeting of the Subcommittee occurred on December 7. Vice Chair Torres provided copies of policy recommendations for cool rooftops and equity to the Commissioners. A memo containing accomplishments by the Subcommittee was also presented and included recommendations on the Phoenix 2010 Tree and Shade Master Plan, Phoenix City Budget Funding for Trees & Heat Resilience Programs, Zoning Code: Approved Landscape Maintenance Text Amendment, Citywide Cool Corridors, 2021 Climate Action Plan: Heat Resilience, Cool Rooftops and Citywide Heat Equity Policy. Recommendations for additional work in the area of heat and shade were also presented. The establishment of the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM) by City Staff was also mentioned as being above and beyond the original sights set by the Subcommittee. Vice Chair Ginger Torres reminded the Commissioners that the Subcommittee would be sunsetting at the end of this meeting. Vice Chair Torres expressed the interest of the Subcommittee to continue this work and that the Subcommittee voted unanimously in their interest to continue this work.

Commissioner Kathy Knoop congratulated the Subcommittee on the great recommendations being presented. Commissioner Kevin Groman also

acknowledged the impressive memos and inquired as to the purpose of the sunset date, if it was established to expedite work. Vice Chair Ginger Torres indicated that the Subcommittee only exists as long as necessary and not in perpetuity. Environmental Program Administrator Nancy Allen reminded the Commissioners that the sunset date would be 2021, about Open Meeting Law requirements, that the OHRM is being established with previous UHITS member Dr. Dave Hondula and that it may be possible to extend UHITS, while exploring the other types of commissions that would be useful in this type of work.

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to extend UHITS to resolve items remaining in the accomplishment memos as appropriate. Commissioner Andrea Odegard-Begay seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chair Ginger Torres reminded the Commissioners that EQSC is an advisory body and does not perform oversight of City activities and would ask UHITS to do the same. Vice Chair Ginger Torres suggested extending UHITS for a 90-day period to resolve the remaining items.

Commissioner Sarah Porter said most meetings have been dominated by UHITS and heat is related to sustainability, then asked if it would be appropriate for the Commission to perform this work when the Subcommittee sunsets. Commissioner Darren Chapman stated being in favor of continuing UHITS, but wanted more details on what the procedure is to accomplish this. Vice Chair Ginger Torres suggested amending the motion to extend UHITS for 90 days so that OHRM is allowed time to develop a public engagement plan.

AMENDED ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman amended the motion as follows, to extend UHITS for 90 days to accomplish work on the remaining policy recommendations.

Commissioner Sarah Porter seconded the amended motion and it carried 8:0.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres said work must be done to institutionalize public input on heat. Vice Chair Ginger Torres briefly reviewed the equity policy and requested it be placed on a future meeting's agenda.

5. Cool Roofs Memo Presentation

UHITS Vice Chair Tabitha Myers thanked the Commission for continuing UHITS for 90 days and presented a cool roofs memo to the Commission. The memo had a background on the use of cool roofs, benefits of using cool roofs, current efforts of deploying cool roofs by the City, along with recommendations. The recommendations included establishing community education and outreach programs, piloting incentive or rebate programs, launching demonstration projects, and creating a City Council workgroup. Also, a recommendation was made to create additional regulations for residential multi-family housing. UHITS Vice Chair Tabitha Myers reminded the Commission that the city's climate action plan was approved on October 12, 2021 and only spoke of Cool Roofs for City-owned buildings. UHITS Vice Chair Tabitha Myers also spoke about input provided by developers on how they follow energy efficiency regulations and how they would prefer incentives like preferred permitting. Vice Chair Ginger Torres added that it would be helpful if the demonstration projects include single-family homes. It was also mentioned that additional funding may be available from federal funding in current recovery bills along with the infrastructure bill being discussed in Congress.

Commissioner Sarah Porter and UHITS Vice Chair Tabitha Myers entered into a discussion on the source of funding for incentives and that it may be preferable to have it come from the utility or direct service provider rather than the City. Commissioner Kathy Knoop added that pilot programs include the utilities, like Arizona Public Service and the Salt River Project, as they may have to have the programs approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission and asked to look into whether the State would be provided funding for this kind of work in the federal funding bills.

6. Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Update

Office Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM) Director Dr. Dave Hondula provided an update on the hiring process for the department, the American Rescue Plan Act as a possible source of funding for heat work, and public engagement with OHRM.

Commissioner Kathy Knoop asked what kind of data is being collected regarding tree plantings, the effect on surrounding environment, like temperature mitigation, and other data. OHRM Director Dr. Dave Hondula indicated that the data collection requirements were still being developed and modeling work exists and will continue to be developed in order to meet the 25 percent canopy goal established in the 2010 Tree and Shade Master Plan and reaffirmed in the Climate Action Plan 2021 Edition.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres requested that OHRM Director Dr. Dave Hondula provide an update at the next meeting.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked that a standing item for an update from the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation be included, along with an item to discuss the UHITS Heat Equity Policy Recommendations.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, on behalf of Chair Colin Tetreault and herself, thanked the Commission for all their efforts and also thanked City Staff for all their work in this area, specifically Dr. Matthew Potzler and Katrina Gerster who perform the administrative duties for EQSC and UHITS, respectively.

Future possible agenda items include:

- Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State - TBD
- Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes - TBD
- Rio Reimagined – TBD
- Air Quality Update – TBD
- Opioids in water – TBD
- Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness – TBD
- Walkability throughout the city – TBD
- Clean Water Act and Waters of Arizona – TBD
- Office of Heat Response and Mitigation – TBD
- UHITS Heat Equity Policy Recommendation – TBD

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist