

PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION MINUTES

December 12, 2019

Phoenix City Hall  
Room 12 Central  
200 West Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

<b>Commission Members Present</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Allen, Dwayne via phone	Karen Peters, City Manager’s Office
Bendor, Josh via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Chapman, Darren	Mark Hartman, Phoenix Office of Sustainability (OOS)
Guidas, Elyse	Joe Giudice, Public Works
Howell, Park	Lucas Mariacher, Public Works
Lobo, Caroline	Cindy Salazar, OEP
Porter, Sarah via phone	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Tetreault, Colin	Shannon Wright, City of Phoenix
Torres, Ginger	Adrian Keller, Mayor’s Office
	Cuong Dinh, Parks
	Elizabeth Planas, OOS
<b>Commission Members Not Present</b>	<b>Community Members Present</b>
Allee Taylor, Penny	Aimee Esposito, Trees Matter
Barr, Kelly	Trevor Root, HDR
Groman, Kevin	
Nelson, John	
Ruht, Kimberly	

**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 3:04 p.m. There were 8 members present at roll call. The following Commissioners arrived at the times stated below:

- Dwayne Allen at 3:16 p.m.
- Darren Chapman at 3:21 p.m.

Chair Colin Tetreault called for announcements from commissioners and staff. No one had announcements.

**2. Review and approval of November 14, 2019 Minutes:**

**ACTION:**

Vice-chair Elyse Guidas made a motion to approve the November 14, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Park Howell seconded the motion and it carried 8:0.

**3. Public Comment – No one spoke:**

Commission Chair Tetreault indicated that attendees wishing to offer comments to feel free to do so. There were no public comments.

**4. Tree and Shade: Tree Donation Portal status and Tree plantings in 2019**

Mark Hartman, Chief Sustainability Officer, presented information updating the Commission on Tree and Shade activities being conducted by the City of Phoenix. He announced that the recommendations made by the Commission would be presented to Council Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation (TII) Subcommittee on January 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., chaired by Councilwoman Thelda Williams. A text amendment to the City Code is also being formed to be able to keep track of trees that are in development plans, which would affect large, commercial developers. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman spoke about the previous actions of the City, which include having a complete Community Forest Assessment, Adoption of a Walkable Urban Code and increased education and awareness on the importance of trees. He demonstrated the use of different software to inventory trees and donate trees: TreeKeeper Software ([phoenixaz.treekeepersoftware.com](http://phoenixaz.treekeepersoftware.com)) to document the location, size and species of trees on a map and the Tree Donation Portal ([phoenix.gov/plantatree](http://phoenix.gov/plantatree)). He is also working on community-wide tree planting activities, including Regional Urban Forestry Roundtable, the Citizen Forester Program, where citizens are trained how to plant trees to increase the survival rates with the help of AmeriCorps VISTA Elizabeth Planas, and the UFIT tree planting program, which has helped to plant almost 4,000 trees.

Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman spoke about a walkshed tool being developed by ASU to predict the routes most frequently taken by pedestrians in order to place trees in those areas. The Tree Canopy Map displayed a map highlighting the percentage of trees with the smallest degree of canopy in south and west Phoenix at 6%.

Chair Tetreault and various commissioners discussed with Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman the survivability of the trees being planted, along with placement, cost, and return on investment. They also inquired about donations from the private sector along with tax incentives and interactivity between different donation portals.

**5. Tree and Shade: Confirm the EQSC version of Tree and Shade Recommendations to be sent forward to Council Subcommittee**

Chair Tetreault stated that Councilwoman Williams requested a singular text of recommendations from the EQSC for the TII Subcommittee making this item more of an administrative update.

**6. Solid Waste Rate Increase Update**

Joe Giudice, Assistant Director for Public Works, Solid Waste Division, presented an update to the possible rate increase being proposed by Public Works.

Before the update, Asst. Director Giudice spoke about deconstruction or the disassembling of a property to retrieve products of value instead of complete demolition that results in more waste going to the landfill. Lucas Mariacher, Zero Waste Coordinator for Public Works, showed a YouTube video about deconstruction on the Phoenix Public Works Department YouTube page with the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ImKKJo1rNo>  
Asst. Director Giudice described a partnership with Stardust, a local non-profit, where contractors requesting demolition permits would be directed to contacting this group to divert waste to the landfill.

The public meetings began recently and over a thousand surveys were collected. The early indication is that there is public interest in Options 1 or 3, which would maintain services, including recycling and composting. Asst. Director Giudice handed out a Rate Options Face Sheet describing the rate options. (It can be found on [phoenix.gov/publicworkssite/Documents/Rate\\_Options\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_English.pdf](http://phoenix.gov/publicworkssite/Documents/Rate_Options_Fact_Sheet_English.pdf) for the version in English and [phoenix.gov/publicworkssite/Documents/Rate\\_Options\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_Spanish.pdf](http://phoenix.gov/publicworkssite/Documents/Rate_Options_Fact_Sheet_Spanish.pdf) for the version in Spanish.) After meetings with Council and other parties, there may be further changes to the Options, including a phased-in rate adjustment, among other cost-saving strategies, like changing alley service customers to curbside pickup when possible.

Chair Tetreault and other commissioners discussed the need for more public feedback (through surveys, meetings, etc.) to see where the citizens' interests lie. Commissioner Chapman suggested being provided with a narrative to be able to discuss this information with citizens not familiar with the economic situation at Solid Waste. Chair Tetreault clarified that the recommendation being sent to Mayor and Council would endorse maintaining current services, and not be option specific. Chair Tetreault and other commissioners spoke about not only trying to maintain current levels of waste diversion, but increasing it in order to make Phoenix a "future ready" city.

**7. EQSC Brand and Commission Impact**

Commissioner Howell led a discussion about what the other commissioner's thoughts about the role of EQSC. Commissioners and Staff mentioned that the ordinance (referring to Ordinance G-6292) establishing EQSC is the guiding document. Commissioners also remarked upon the importance of having different voices and ability to connect with all members of the community, perhaps by holding the EQSC meeting at different locations throughout the districts. The commissioners will hold more discussion on this topic in future meetings, which may include the presence of Mayor Kate Gallego, as she was a former EQSC Chair.

**8. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items**

Future possible agenda items include:

Vice-chair Guidas proposed stepping down as vice-chair and holding an election

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

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist