

# PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

**May 9, 2019**

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

<b>Commission Members Present</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Allee Taylor, Penny via phone	Markus Coleman, Public Transit
Allen, Dwayne via phone	Mark Hartman, Phoenix Office of Sustainability (OOS)
Guidas, Elyse	Nick Brown, OOS
Lobo, Caroline via phone	Nancy Allen, Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Michalegko, Lesley	Joseph Gibbs, OEP
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Rosanne Albright, OEP
Tetreault, Colin	Willa Altman-Kaough, Mayor's Office
Torres, Ginger	Richard Adkins, Parks and Recreation Department
<b>Commission Members Not Present</b>	<b>Community Members Present</b>
Adams, Talonya	Alexandra Gino, Shepley Bullfinch
Barr, Kelly	Tearsa Saffell, Arizona Sustainability Alliance
Bendor, Josh	Josh Mathews, Valley Metro
Nelson, John	
Porter, Sarah	
Ruht, Kimberly	

**I. Call to Order and Announcements:**

The meeting was called to order with a roll call at 3:13 p.m. There were 5 members present at roll call. At 3:20 p.m. other members joined via phone making a quorum. Call-in phone number confusion delayed a quorum.

**II. Public Comment – No Comments**

**III. Review and approval of April 11, 2019 Minutes:**

**ACTION:**

Commissioner Elyse Guidas made a motion to approve the April 11, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Ginger Torres seconded the motion and it carried 8:0.

**IV. Presentation: American Forest Urban Forestry**

Jad Daley of American Forests presented information about the non-profit organization he represents and how American Forests can partner with the city of Phoenix to improve the urban forest here. American Forests was founded in 1875 and is the oldest national conservation organization in the United States. The organization helps cities through its Releaf Change Model of advocacy and tree planting projects. The model includes building diverse partnerships, developing localized plans based on tree science and using various financing tools and carbon credits where appropriate. Mr. Daley also presented how trees and tree planting can help with Urban Heat island consequences. In a Dallas study, tree planting in the hottest areas with high density residential was found to reduce deaths by 22 percent through merely dropping temperature alone. American Forest has planted over 60 million trees in all 50 states and 45 countries since 1990 through the help of corporate sponsors, that include Eddie Bauer, Coca-Cola, and Bank of America.

Mr. Daley also informed the Commission of how American Forests considers the use of removed trees and works with artisans and furniture makers to innovate methods and market the wood from such trees. American Forests also has a human development mission in building community partnerships, career paths and involving community members in developing arboriculture skills.

In answering a question on the issue of weighing community needs of trees and shade with private property rights, Mr. Daley indicated that American Forests is currently developing a paper on that issue. Attendee Richard Adkins asked how Phoenix could receive assistance from American Forests. Generally, American Forests is best positioned when a community has a specific tree planting or tree promotion project ready to implement. Funding is available; for example, the state of Rhode Island received a two-year grant of \$720,000 to fund a position and resources to develop a state tree planting program that would become self-sustaining.

**V. Update: Tree and Shade / Urban Heat Island Subcommittee**

Chair of the Subcommittee Sarah Porter was not in attendance; therefore Vice Chair Dwayne Allen reported that the Subcommittee is currently aligning its recommendations with city department goals, authorities and procedures in an atmosphere of good communication.

**QUORUM LOST AT 4:04 P.M.**

At this time, members included Commissioners Allee-Taylor, Allen, Bendor, Guidas, Lobo, and Torres, short of the 8 members needed for a quorum. The following scheduled agenda item presentations proceeded without discussion.

**VI. Presentation: Status of Light Rail in Phoenix**

Presentation proceeded without discussion.

**VII. Discussion: Sustainability Update**

Update was presented without discussion.

**VIII. Strategic Planning**

No discussion.

**IX. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Item**

No discussion.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph Gibbs, Environmental Quality Specialist