

1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. There were 6 members present at roll call.

Subcommittee member Bettis shared that the Urban Heat Leadership Academy was highlighted in a recent article and would share the link with city staff.

2. Review and approval of September 13, 2022 Minutes

ACTION:

Vice Chair Myers made a motion to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes. Subcommittee member Chandler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6:0.

3. Public Comments

No one spoke.

4. GO Bond Update

Chair Torres gave an update on the Environmental and Sustainability Subcommittee of the GO Bond process. The Executive Committee is finalizing project prioritization and will be selecting projects in the next month and a half. The environmental projects considered include water and energy conservation, fuel and oil tank replacements, city vehicle conversions, electric vehicles, heat relief, and brownfield redevelopment. The subcommittee will be recommending increased environmental budget, prioritizing heat relief and electric vehicles, and removing fuel and oil tank replacements from prioritization. Executive Committee meetings will begin next week and will continue for 6 weeks. Chair Torres suggested subcommittee members provide public comment and to encourage their networks to engage with the meetings.

Subcommittee member Halperin asked if funding included the Cool Corridor project. Chair Torres said that the funding was earmarked for heat relief, which could be for cool corridors, green infrastructure, and a heat program that will target areas of most need. Chief Heat Officer Dave Hondula confirmed this.

Subcommittee member Esposito asked what portion of the total GO Bond funding the Environmental and Sustainability section is. Chair Torres was unsure as she has only been focused on her subcommittee and suggested to look at the website for full details for the other areas. Subcommittee member Esposito expressed support for additional tree maintenance funding over tree planting funding.

5. Climate Change Community Health Workers (CHW), Community Based Organization

Tawsha Trahan, Director of Environmental Justice, Emma Viera, Executive Director, and Juana Silva and Minerva Velarde, Lead Community Health Workers, at Unlimited Potential presented on their Community Health Worker program. The program builds capacity among community members and creates leadership and advocacy driven by the community. Communities have a desire to taken action, but do not have the resources or ability and the community health workers help meet this need and provide the necessary knowledge and resources for them to be engaged.

Chair Torres thank them for their input and appreciated hearing the successes in the

community.

Chief Heat Officer Hondula asked the group for their opinion on the Maricopa County Health Department statistic that Hispanic populations die of heat exposure less than non-Hispanic. He questioned if this was a true success or if there was more to the story. Trahan also found this statistic interesting and noted that Native American and African American populations have the opposite statistic. It may be possible that through community action there is more protective action and knowledge to manage heat. Viera noted that there is a need to review this statistic as it is true that there is a strong community, but how does this impact the heat death data. Subcommittee member Chandler questioned how possible underreporting would impact this statistic.

Chair Torres asked if they had any recommendations for how the city can engage with residents more effectively. Viera noted that effective outreach is a lot of work and requires going door to door to meet people where they are at. However, the city needs to stay committed to their work and follow up with actions on the data they collect.

Vice Chair Myers and Subcommittee member Bettis thanked Unlimited Potential for presenting and requested that they contact subcommittee members in future work that they could support. Chair Torres asked that they provide their contact info and it be shared with the subcommittee.

7. Update from the Heat Office

Agenda item 7 was taken out of order before item 6.

Chief Heat Officer Hondula shared updates from the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation including an upcoming ARPA funded Heat Response Program Manager position, evaluating the 2022 heat season health data, city response plan evaluation, update on the ARPA heat programs: weatherization expansion, tree equity accelerator, and share structures, and upcoming update to the Tree and Shade Master Plan and outreach.

Chair Torres suggested that a cohesive strategy will need to be developed in addition to plans that will show where funding investments will be going and how the programs will be accomplished.

Chair Torres asked for an update on the creation of an equity office. Environmental Program Coordinator Julie Riemenschneider said that the director position has not been filled yet.

Chair Torres asked if the heat office is looking into metrics specifically for unhoused populations and how the heat office work may have reduced negative impacts. Chief Heat Officer Hondula confirmed that data analysis is in progress and there is no current understanding of how the programs impacted health statistics, but hopes that the question can be answered.

Vice Chair Myers asked about closing city park and trailheads in extreme heat. Chief Heat Officer Hondula confirmed the Piastewa Peak and Camelback Mountain close from 11 am to 5 pm on National Weather Service Extreme Heat warning days. The Fire Department has commented that rescues are occurring around noon when someone begins before the

closure so there may be a need for longer closure. The Parks Board makes the decisions for closures and this conversation is in progress.

Subcommittee member Halperin thanked the city for taking action to close select hiking trails on extreme heat warning days, however would like to see this model being used in other areas, such as schools and all city parks.

6. Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development Memo Update

Subcommittee member Halperin provided an updated version of the memo that has been shared with the working group and will be later shared with the full subcommittee after their comments. Subcommittee Halperin will be working with workgroup to finalize comments.

Chair Torres asked if there is anything the workgroup needs from the full committee to help with the memo development. Subcommittee member Halperin commented that there are many important urban design concepts that needs to be addressed beyond green infrastructure stormwater projects and would like to investigate this along with the memo. She asked that subcommittee members keep this in mind as they review.

Subcommittee member Bettis commented that a separate memo be developed later as it is important to highlight green infrastructure on its own so it doesn't get lost in the full analysis and there is limited time left before the subcommittee will end. A focused memo will allow for quicker completion.

Chair Torres asked the subcommittee to review the memo before the next meeting.

8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Ponce, Administrative Assistant I