

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call.

The following subcommittee members arrived at the times stated below:

- Tiffany Halperin at 3:15 p.m.
- Hazel Chandler at 3:27 p.m.

2. Review and approval of February 9, 2021 Minutes

Subcommittee member Bettis proved edits to staff before the meeting via tracked changes in the Word document. The changes were shared on screen and included fixing a spelling error and clarifying comments shared from Jessica Bueno.

ACTION:

Subcommittee member Myers made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes with Subcommittee member Bettis' edits. Subcommittee member Rodriguez seconded the motion, and it carried 9:0.

3. Public Comments

There were requests to speak sent to staff before the meeting from Andie Abkarian and Katherine Coles, however neither were present during the agenda item.

5. PDD Text Amendment Status

Chair Torres asked the Planning and Development Department (PDD) for an update via email, however hadn't received anything before the start of the meeting for her to share. Chair Torres attended the Planning Commission meeting in March and the text amendment was shared as an information only item and the Commissioners expressed support for the amendment. There wasn't much discussion by Commission members, however they seemed supportive. Chair Torres asked Subcommittee member Rodriguez to share her thoughts as she was also present at the meeting.

Subcommittee member Rodriguez shared that the presentation from PDD was brief and there was a question about tree protection zones. The existing language doesn't include protection for root zones. Subcommittee member Rodriguez prepared text language and notes to share with PDD and will send this and discuss with PDD outside of the subcommittee.

Chair Torres will send future meeting notices to the subcommittee and reminded the subcommittee that registration to speak is required for PDD meetings.

3. Public Comments (continued)

Subcommittee member Rodriguez noted that Katherine Coles had joined the meeting, so Chair Torres reopened the public comment agenda item and asked her to provide her comment if she wished to do so since she wasn't present earlier.

Katherine Coles didn't have a specific comment and wanted to attend to lurk and listen in. She is an advocate and wanted to listen to the meeting to be aware of discussion topics and provide comments later.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Chair Torres asked the subcommittee if they would be willing to move agenda item 7 earlier in the meeting as Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman has an announcement to share. The announcement came too late for it to be added to the agenda for discussion and potential action from the subcommittee, however Chair Torres wanted the subcommittee to be informed. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman will be presenting at the EQSC meeting later in the week if subcommittee members would like to attend to hear more details. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman's announcement is related to discussions the subcommittee has been having and might be helpful for the working session agenda item later in the meeting so Chair Torres asked if the subcommittee would be supportive of moving it up in the agenda. The subcommittee was supportive.

Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman introduced the potential Tree Equity Partnership Agreement between the City of Phoenix and American Forest. This would be a 5-year partnership and would involve working with American Forest and using their tree equity tool. The partnership would encourage the city to have a baseline tree equity score in every neighborhood. This item and more details will be shared with the EQSC at their March meeting and asked the subcommittee members to provide comments then.

Chair Torres wished the subcommittee could have sent their recommendation and support to the EQSC as it falls in line with the priorities of the subcommittee. However, she invites the subcommittee to provide their comments and support as individuals at the EQSC meeting.

Chair Torres shared that she learned Google is launching a Tree Canopy Lab starting in Los Angeles using a mapping tool similar to the tree planting vulnerability map previously shared with the subcommittee. They are aiming to use Google map software to track environmental data related to heat and population exposure. Chair Torres noted that it might be interesting to look into this and how Phoenix could a future city to use the tool and lab resources.

4. Tree and Shade Administrator Business Case Update

City staff had informed Chair Torres that she had accidentally skipped item 4 of the agenda so went back to the item.

Chair Torres informed the subcommittee that EQSC voted to send the business case memo to City Council, the Mayor's Office, and the City Manager along with a cover letter from EQSC Chair Colin Tetreault. Now that the memo has been sent council should be aware of it and subcommittee member can continue with their advocacy of the position. Chair Tetreault also asked that a response be sent to EQSC and UHITS before the release of the trial budget. The trial budget is expected to be released online on March 11th in the late afternoon and budget hearings will be scheduled for late March and early April.

6. Working Session on Initiatives from Jan/Feb UHITS

Chair Torres asked for updates from subcommittee members on the focus areas discussed in the recent meetings. This includes Streets Transportation programs and the Climate Action Plan Framework Heat Chapter.

Subcommittee member Halperin noted that Street Transportation efforts have included enhancing biking and pedestrian corridors that weave through streets that also house

cars. Paths that are separated from cars are safer and likely cooler and should be prioritized. The city already has paths through the canals like this that connect residents with destinations like schools, parks, and grocery stores. These can be built upon and enhanced through Complete Streets policies.

The subcommittee discussed Cool Corridors including how to define what Cool Corridors looks like in Phoenix, where funding could come from, and how corridors might be developed through collaboration with city resources and private development.

Subcommittee member Hondula asked staff to comment on Subcommittee member Halperin's comments and how funding may work with developing non-street areas as she mentioned and if there are boundaries to work within while developing and designing future cool corridors. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman noted that the definition of cool corridor is being defined currently and is a work in progress. The Streets Department maintains right-of-way and does not have the same jurisdiction in residential front yards and canals so their contribution would be limited. However, there are other ways to connect with other departments and organizations to cover all paths. Subcommittee Halperin mentioned that the subcommittee should support the kinds of paths that encourage trees and provide cooling to residents and not limit themselves to the current bounds that exist. There is a need to revisit older projects and add the lens of trees and built upon the existing work.

Chair Torres asked if there was a possibility to incentivize residents or developers adjacent to city right-of-way to plan trees that would benefit the corridor. Subcommittee member Spartan mentioned that Tempe has neighborhood grants available which can be used to plant trees. Phoenix could do something similar to encourage additional trees. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman added that Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department has Love Your Block grants that fund trees and developers are required to plant a certain percentage of trees on their land during development. Subcommittee member Halperin asked that the subcommittee encourage accountability for the urban forest from property owners if there is any grant funding similar to the historic preservation system. Subcommittee member Rodriguez offered that the Phoenix Block Watch Committee has grants up to \$10,000 for neighborhood beautification to reduce crime. Trees should be included in this grant and would encourage neighborhoods to prioritize tree planting.

Chair Torres asked Subcommittee member Campbell about the issue of constrained right-of-way and if SRP manages the land along the canal and any tips or ideas from what utilities are currently doing for shade. Subcommittee Campbell noted that along the canals their priorities are trees and SRP deals a lot with the issue of wrong types of trees being planted below powerlines. They have a federal obligation to trim or remove trees. They do tree maintenance every winter and need to have clearance for vehicles to perform canal maintenance. There is currently no other shade or cooling guidance.

Chair Torres mentioned that additional definitions for what a cool corridor is may include guidance from the Maricopa Association of Governments' shade coverage goals.

Chair Torres asked Subcommittee members Hondula and Spartan-Platt to begin writing up a memo summarizing their discussions on cool corridors and their support. In the interest of time the cool rooftop discussion will be pushed to next meeting and the subcommittee discussed the draft Climate Action Plan Framework and Subcommittee member Esposito's comments on the document.

Chair Torres shared her first thoughts on the Framework and noted that there is room to improve the focus on heat in the executive summary and primary goals. There is also a need for equity and engagement during the development of the plan. The subcommittee and city staff need to think about how the community is being engaged in way that they will participate, which might be more than just hosting a public meeting and expecting people to show up.

Subcommittee member Esposito provided her comments which focused on document structuring to better include all heat related items together, specific timing guidance for the short, mid, and long-term goals, and including interactive resources available to residents.

Subcommittee member Rodriguez asked if the plan was robust enough. Subcommittee member Esposito thought there was a lot of good work included, however more detail is needed. A lot of work is occurring and it is important that be included. Chair Torres noted that this document is just a framework for the full plan. The subcommittee's recommendations are for what should be included in the draft plan city staff is currently working on. Once that is released for comments during the summer there will be another opportunity to provide comments.

Chair Torres asked if "vulnerable communities" is defined in the plan and if it should be. Subcommittee member Rodriguez agreed that it should be defined and it would be a good idea for the subcommittee to give input instead of letting the city and institution define it themselves, which is typically how it's been done. Subcommittee member Hondula offered that he could provide the "off the shelf" academic conceptualization of heat and hazard vulnerability and ASU would welcome input from a group like the subcommittee to recalibrate their approach. This could be repeated as the Climate Action Plan community engagement continues over the next few years.

Subcommittee member Esposito asked where the tree inventory is tracked within parks and suggests pushing for publicly available data. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman comments that the TreeKeeper inventory hasn't been updated since 2014 and hasn't tracked missing trees or planted trees. One of the hopes for the upcoming budget is to refresh the tree inventory and to redo and maintain the inventory software in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Chair Torres asked how the subcommittee can find out what departments asked for within budget. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman said that the budget will contain approved items but may not contain everything department's desired. Council will have to decide what to include or not include in the budget.

Chair Torres noted that the meeting time is almost over and asked the subcommittee to look through Subcommittee member Esposito's document detailing comments and to email her any additional comments to review at the next meeting.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items (continued)

The next meeting date is a week earlier to align with the EQSC meeting date and will be at 3 p.m.

8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist