



## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call.

Chair Torres announced that the American Forest MOU was discussed and supported by the EQSC. EQSC will be writing a letter of support to provide to council.

Chair Torres reminded subcommittee members that Planning and Development provided a revised schedule for the Village Planning Committee text amendment which was sent out via email earlier in the day. She asked that subcommittee members review the date and encouraged subcommittee members to sign up to speak at the meetings if they are interested. Planning and Development will be also be presenting on the text amendment at the next EQSC meeting if subcommittee members wished to attend and speak then as well.

Chair Torres announced membership changes in the subcommittee. Vice Chair Allen resigned effective March 11, 2021 due to personal business that required more time and attention. Chair Torres thanked him for his service. Selection for a new Vice Chair will be appointed by the EQSC. Subcommittee members Vanessa Spartan-Platt and CJ Hager have resigned due to new professional positions that include relocating outside of the city of Phoenix. This will be Spartan-Platt's last meeting as the subcommittee finalized the cool corridors work later in this meeting. Chair Torres thanked them both for their service on the subcommittee.

## 2. Review and approval of March 9, 2021 Minutes

### **ACTION:**

Subcommittee member Myers made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes. Subcommittee member Campbell seconded the motion, and it carried 9:0.

## 3. Public Comments

There were requests to speak sent to staff before the meeting from Dan Penton, Dani Prasad, and Andie Abkarian.

Dan Penton is a resident of Laveen and spoke about resident complaints of tree removal in their neighborhood. He suggests the subcommittee supports a text amendment that requires a permit for tree removal or a requirement to replace any removed trees. He also mentioned that there is only one heat relief center in his neighborhood and there is a need for additional centers and shading at transit stops. He also commented on the energy requirements of city electric billboards and asks that the city reconsider use or ensure they are solar powered to better align with city sustainability goals.

Dani Prasad expressed support of the trial budget and the heat mitigation additions. Urban heat is an increasing problem in Phoenix and these items will help reduce the effects.

Andie Abkarian is a downtown resident and stakeholder and spoke on behalf of the Downtown Voices Coalition (DVC). DVC sent a letter to the Transportation, Innovation, and Infrastructure subcommittee supporting the American Forest MOU. DVC would like to support the subcommittee's efforts to further sustainability goals, including an update to the TreeKeeper inventory.

Subcommittee member Rodriguez asked Dan Penton for the crossroads of the tree removal so she could look into it and follow up. The crossroads were between 41<sup>st</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave south of Baseline Rd.

#### **4. City Manager's Trial Budget and Budget Hearings**

Budget and Research Director Amber Williamson presented a PowerPoint detailing an overview of the budget surplus and proposed additions. \$2.8 millions is proposed for Climate Change and Heat Readiness including a new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation and funding for the Parks and Streets Transportation Departments to continue work on the Tree and Shade Master Plan. From now until the end of June the budget will be revised and receive final approval from council.

Subcommittee member Rodriguez asked if council members were engaging with staff and have asked questions specifically about trees and heat mitigation. Director Williamson said that they have not asked any specific question to her knowledge, but they are being informed on the budget overview similar to the presentation she just gave to this subcommittee.

Chair Torres asked how the new councilmembers-elect are included in the process and if they will be the voting to approve the budget. Director Williamson confirmed that the councilmembers will be inaugurated on April 19<sup>th</sup> and are being briefed on budget comments already and will vote in June.

Subcommittee member Esposito asked about the cost per tree information sent by Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman via email. Hartman explained that his email describes the cool corridors budget based on typical costs of \$500 per tree plus the cost for water and additional infrastructure needed to target specific neighborhoods and streets that may need additional construction costs, such as installing irrigation systems. Cool corridors will also include other cooling features in addition to trees.

Subcommittee member Myers asked about the Chief Heat Response Officer and what that position will entail. Deputy City Manager Karen Peters said that the position will head the new office to coordinate all heat responses throughout the city departments. This will include aiding and improving the We're Cool cooling and hydration center program, overseeing city tree plantings to follow the Tree and Shade Master Plan, and enhancing the build environment through updating the building codes and materials management to mitigate urban heat. Subcommittee member Myers asked if the new office will be seeking grants to offset their costs. Deputy City Manager Peters confirmed that grants will be a part of the office's responsibilities to help fund tree planting, outreach, and education on heat. Subcommittee member Hondula commented that some of these grant efforts are already in progress with Arizona State University research grants.

Subcommittee member Rodriguez thanked Director Williamson and Deputy City Manager Peters for their time and for coming to the subcommittee meeting. A lot of work is being done by subcommittee members during meetings, but also outside of meetings. It is encouraging that they are present, and she hopes they continue to attend these meetings.

Chair Torres encouraged subcommittee members to attend budget hearings and to reference their participation in the subcommittee in their comment using the business case memo talking points as a guide. Chair Torres and subcommittee members Esposito and Hondula offered to put together a list of additional talking points and resources for

subcommittee members to reference in their comments. Budget hearing and online comments are open until April 20, 2021.

Chair Torres asked if the funding included for the Parks department includes updating the tree inventory. Director Williamson and Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman confirmed funding is included for a full update including tree diameter and health, analysis of missing trees, and opportunities and need for new trees. Subcommittee member Rodriguez asked if palm trees will be included in the inventory as they do not provide much shade. Chief Sustainability Officer Hartman confirmed they will be included for maintenance purposes, but new palm trees are not being planted for shade purposes.

## **5. Working Session on Initiatives**

Chair Torres asked for updates from subcommittee members Spartan-Platt and Hondula on the cool corridors recommendations and for them to share the document they put together. If all subcommittee members approve of the draft document they can vote to send it to EQSC and Chair Torres will clean up the document from its current draft form before sending.

Subcommittee member Hondula shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the recommendations focused on what a cool corridor would be, how to prioritize locations, and how to assess progress. Subcommittee member Spartan-Platt walked through the draft recommendation document and how it is structured. It includes an introduction, background on how Streets currently identifies corridors, and recommendations from the subcommittee on how to define, identify, and prioritize corridors and what community and stakeholder engagement would look like. The first effort of cool corridors may come from the Streets Department initially, but in the future cool corridors ideally will involve many more departments, such as Planning and Development to ensure private developers are involved, or neighborhood grant programs. Cool corridors will not only be trees, but cool pavement, misers, public art, etc.

Chair Torres asked how the vulnerability data sets included in the document intersect with the Streets Department vulnerability mapping tool. Subcommittee member Hondula noted that they very much overlap and the vulnerability index scores are in the process of being included in the map or are already included. The scores have been a part of the discussions but haven't made it into the mapping tool just yet.

### **ACTION:**

Subcommittee member Chandler made a motion to approve the recommendations document and to send it to EQSC by Thursday after final edits to remove draft comments and highlights. Subcommittee member Rodriguez seconded the motion, and it carried 9:0.

## **6. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items**

The next tentative UHITS meeting date will be held on May 11, 2021 at 3 p.m.

## **7. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist