



**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 3:16 p.m. There were 8 members present at roll call.

Commissioner Kelly Barr announced that she would be retiring at the end of the month and Chair Caroline Lobo asked about wanting a presentation on an update on the SRP Sustainability Plan at a future meeting. Commissioner Barr said she would need to find an alternate speaker within SRP.

Chief Sustainability Officer, Mark Hartman, announced that the city is applying for a \$15M grant from the Department of Energy for Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and would like a letter of support from EQSC. The application is due before the next EQSC meeting and was not ajenized for this meeting so the commission was unable to discuss or approve a collective letter. Chair Lobo congratulated the city on the application and will discuss with city staff and would write a letter on behalf of herself in support of the application and invited other commissioners to contact Hartman if they would like to submit a letter themselves.

Commissioner Kevin Groman commented that charging for e-bikes also be considered in public charging infrastructure.

**2. Review and approval of April 13, 2023 Minutes**

Commissioner Colin Tetreault made a motion to approve the April 13, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Kevin Groman seconded the motion and it carried 8:0.

**3. Public Comment**

No one spoke.

**4. Water/Wastewater Rate Increase and Water Supply**

Assistant Water Services Director, Jim Swanson, presented on the Drought Management Plan and the planned water/wastewater rate increase. This included information on water supply for Phoenix, an update on the Drought Management Plan in stage Tier 2, quarterly water reports to residents, and examples of programs available to residents for water conservation.

Commissioner Groman asked how residents are being educated on the rate increase and water conservation tips. Swanson replied that the same presentation is being shared at drought town halls across the city and that the Water Services Department works with HOAs to conduct water audits as well as share information to residents. All of the information he shared in also available online. Water Services will also be offering home water checkups for residents by the end of the year.

Commissioner Groman asked how water leaks are being addressed on the city level and how repairs are prioritized. Swanson replied that leaks are prioritized from 1 to 3. Level 1 leaks are major leaks and are repaired within 24 hours. Level 3 leaks are small leaks that run down the gutter and don't cause no property damage and work with contractors to address those leaks. The State of Arizona limits the amount of water that is allowed to leak at 10% and the city continues to operate at about 8%. Arizona is one of the few states that regulates water leaks like this.

Commissioner Anna Bettis stated that Tucson launched a storm to shade program where they use utility bill fees to fund green infrastructure projects and asked how the city could use the approach to encourage residents to water plants using stormwater rather a supplemental water use. Swanson said that overall they encourage residents to use onsite stormwater to water plants and that city code states that you must retain 100-year storm events onsite and stormwater goes into recharge basins to recharge groundwater. The city is also including green infrastructure in upcoming city code rule development.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked how equity is being addressed in the plans for engagement and base rate calculations. Swanson stated that the water rate is the same for all residents and water use choices depend on how quickly residents use the allowed water in the base rate before they are charged for additional water use. Vice Chair Torres commented that renters are unable to make choices to change landscape to reduce water use and water is often not included in rent.

Chair Lobo asked how businesses are charged for their water use and if there are incentives for a commercial turf program. Swanson stated that the same water rate is used for businesses that is used for residents. The city is developing a turf rebate program for HOAs and businesses to launch this winter and a resident program sometime next year. Commissioner Kelly Barr stated that city should consider a retroactive rebate as they may be penalizing those who make the choice to switch sooner.

Commissioner Groman asked what the current average water use for residents and how this compares to the reduced base rate allowance. Swanson stated that the average use is 8 units and the reduced allowance is changing from 6 units to 5 units in the winter and 10 units to 8 units in the summer.

Chair Lobo asked what would happen if these rate increases were not approved. Swanson said that stormwater programs are still required by permitting and will require cuts in other places to meet permit requirements and would likely mean cuts in capital improvements in favor of keeping the water running if water rate increases are not approved.

## **5. Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan**

Street Transportation Director, Kini Knudson, and Road Safety Action Plan Program Lead, Reed Henry, presented on the Road Safety Action Plan including historical fatal incident reporting, initial emphasis areas for factors that lead to fatal accidents, the High Injury Network, the Vision Zero Task Force, and how the city will track metrics in a Crash Analysis Dashboard.

Vice Chair Torres asked how areas of fatal crashes overlap with the high pedestrian corridors that will be used for Cool Corridors. Knudson stated that it would be more appropriate to overlay underserved areas and that is used at both the state and federal level to identify links.

Chair Lobo advised the commission to move forward with the agenda given limited time left in the meeting and encouraged commissioners to review presentation material and ask questions directly or potentially ask for city staff to return at a future meeting for additional discussion.

**6. Tree and Shade Master Plan**

Chief Heat Officer, David Hondula, Urban Tree Program Manager, Lora Martens, and Tree Equity Project Coordinator, Kayla Killoren, presented an update on Heat Office recent work and the update to the Tree and Shade Master Plan. This included spring 2023 planting projects, ARPA grant programs implementation, new tree canopy data to track change in tree cover from 2014 to 2020 using LiDAR, and progress on the Tree and Shade Master Plan update.

Quorum lost at 4:45 p.m. and the presentation resumed but no discussion could occur.

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

Chair Lobo asked that the Heat Office return to hold discussion on the Tree and Shade Master Plan update.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist