

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

May 13, 2021

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Allee Taylor, Penny via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Barr, Kelly via phone	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability (OSS)
Chapman, Darren via phone	Brent Olson, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Groman, Kevin via phone	Ed Lebow, Office of Arts and Culture
Knoop, Kathy via phone	Joshua Bednarek, Planning and Development Department (PDD)
Lobo, Caroline via phone	Joe Giudice, Public Works Department (PW)
Odegard-Begay, Andrea via phone	Tony Motola, Office of the Mayor
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Tricia Gomes, PDD
Torres, Ginger via phone	Jackie Keller, PDD
Tetreault, Colin via phone	Nick Brown, OSS
	Alexis Yapple, PW
	Eric MacDonald, PW
	Matthew Potzler, OEP
	Katrina Gerster, OEP
	Cindy Salazar, OEP
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Franquist, Timothy	Alisa Lyons
Porter, Sarah	Andie Abkarian
Ruht, Kimberly	Dan (no last name)
Sainz, Columba	Dave Hondula
	Jackson Moll
	Stacy Champion
	Wayne Warrington

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 3:05 p.m. There were 8 members present at roll call. The following commissioners arrived after the initial roll call:

- Penny Allee Taylor at 3:08 p.m.
- Kelly Barr at 3:15 p.m.

There were no announcements.

2. Review and approval of March 11, 2021 Minutes

ACTION:

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Kathy Knoop seconded the motion and it carried 8:0.

3. Public Comment – Three people spoke.

Chair Colin Tetreault indicated that attendees wishing to offer comments to feel free to do so.

Dan (No last name) commented about Phoenix's worse air quality, miles without bus stops, and students baking in the sun. Dan inquired as to what the city was doing to address these issues.

Nicole Rodriguez spoke in support of tree protection zones and efforts to add them to the Planning and Development Department's Text Amendment Z-TA-5-15: Landscape Maintenance being discussed in today's meeting. The lack of representation from all districts on the commission was also commented upon.

Stacy Champion spoke in support of tree protection zone language and to include the language in the Text Amendment.

4. Text Amendment Z-TA-5-15: Landscape Maintenance

Josh Bednarek, Planning and Development Department Deputy Director, Tricia Gomes, Planning and Development Department Special Projects Administrator, and Jackie Keller, Planning and Development Principal Landscape Architect, provided an update regarding the Landscape Maintenance Text Amendment. The update was in the form of a PowerPoint presentation detailing the timeline with continued presentations and requests for action from the Village Planning Committees to conclude in May, followed by the request for action from the Planning Commission and City Council in June. The tree protection zone is being considered to be included in the current text amendment process.

Commissioner Darren Chapman inquired as to how will diversity and inclusion be tackled, specifically regarding areas of the city with hotter heat indexes. Deputy Director Bednarek remarked that there were similar concerns posed during the Village Planning Committee meetings and that the text amendment would reinforce best management practices and equity of enforcement throughout the city.

Commissioner Groman asked about the procedure to include tree protection zones into the current text amendment process. Deputy Director Bednarek indicated that the tree protection zones are being considered and that there is a level of due diligence involved that may require more time.

Commissioner Barr is very supportive of the text amendment and reiterated the importance of having language in the text amendment that considers critical infrastructure for power and water.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres also indicated support for the proposed language and thanked Planning and Development for presenting to the subcommittee.

ACTION:

Chair Colin Tetreault made a motion to approve Text Amendment Z-TA-5-15: Landscape Maintenance and to include the proposed tree protection zone language, addressing ambiguities and duplication between the two. Commissioner Penny Sanders seconded the motion. A discussion proceeded amongst the commissioners that resulted in a substitute motion:

Commissioner Groman made a substitute motion to approve Text Amendment Z-TA-5-15: Landscape Maintenance and support staff's efforts to include, where appropriate, the concept of tree protection zones. The substitute motion was seconded by Commissioner Barr. The motion carried 10:0.

5. Public Works 27th Ave MRF

Joe Giudice, Public Works Department Assistant Director, spoke about the 27th Ave Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). Using a PowerPoint presentation, Assistant Director Giudice spoke about the council approved 2050 Sustainability goals, including a goal of zero waste by 2050, the upgrades at North Gateway MRF, and the future of 27th Ave MRF. Recommendations for 27th Ave MRF were to install state-of-the-art MRF technology that would result in financial savings along with increased recycling.

Commissioner Knoop offered support to the upgrade and praised the North Gateway MRF.

Commissioner Lobo asked about the status of the partnership with Arizona State University and how the incubator concept would affect the MRF. Assistant Director Giudice said that the partnership would be re-emerging in the Fall with an interest in not only startup companies, but to also attract mid- to large-sized companies.

Chair Tetreault inquired as to the buildings and fleets also being able to be upgraded in this process to use renewable energy and alternative fuels. Assistant Director Giudice indicated that there are already transitions in progress to use more solar and transition heavy duty vehicles to natural gas.

6. Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Mark Hartman, Chief Sustainability Officer, and Karen Apple, Electric Vehicle Program Manager within the Office of Sustainability, spoke about efforts to increase electric vehicle and electric vehicle infrastructure uptake within city operations and throughout the city. Using a PowerPoint presentation, they spoke about the environmental benefits of electric vehicles, the overall strategy and vision of increasing the availability of electric vehicles, ongoing outreach and education efforts, and expected electric vehicle market growth.

Chair Tetreault spoke about the need to rapidly electrify the region and due to limited time moved to other items.

7. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee Update

This item was taken out of order and discussed after item 8.

Vice Chair Torres, serving as UHITS Chair, provided an update from the most recent subcommittee meeting. The trial budget hearings were discussed, along with the text amendment, climate action plan review of heat chapter, and starting a workgroup to discuss cool roof policy.

8. UHITS Cool Corridors Policy Recommendation

This item was taken out of order and discussed after item 6.

Vice Chair Torres and Dr. Dave Hondula, Associate Professor at Arizona State University, spoke about the subcommittee's Cool Corridors Policy Recommendations for the commission to consider and provide support to present to council for consideration. Chair Tetreault and commissioners asked that this agenda item be tabled until next month to allow time to review the policy recommendations.

This item was tabled until June's meeting.

9. EQSC Climate Action Plan Event Planning

Chair Tetreault spoke about the event details and that additional information would be provided in the future.

10. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items for Information Only

Future possible agenda items include:

- EQSC Bylaws
- Status of AZ Recycling Industry
- Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State
- Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes
- Rio Reimagined
- EQSC Branding
- Air Quality Update
- Phoenix Water Drought Pipeline Project
- Opioids in Water
- Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness
- Walkability throughout the city
- Arizona Legislature bills of interest
- Cool Corridors Policy Recommendations
- Planning and Development Department Text Amendment

Chair Tetreault requested that the UHITS Cool Corridors Policy Recommendation be added to the next meeting's agenda. Vice Chair Torres reminded the commissioners about the remaining trial budget hearings. Commissioner Odegard-Begay asked that environmental justice be integrated into the commission's work.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist