



**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 3:02 p.m. There were 10 members present at roll call.

**This item was taken up again after item 3.**

Chair Colin Tetreault announced that Nicole LaSlavic would be joining the commission. Nicole LaSlavic spoke about being a resident of Phoenix since college, working for Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association, and is looking forward to serving the city and Commission.

**2. Review and approval of June 10, 2021 Minutes**

**ACTION:**

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the June 10, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Caroline Lobo seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.

**3. Public Comment – One person spoke.**

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

An unidentified speaker provided a comment regarding starting a white pavement initiative, where not only are more trees and shade installed, but also make the pavement throughout the valley another color other than black. The individual then spoke about increasing the number of people who plant trees by having a raffle for those who plant trees, like the vaccination lottery efforts.

**4. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee (UHITS) Update**

Vice Chair Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that a meeting occurred in July, where the heat goals of the draft climate action plan were discussed, along with providing an update to the cool corridors policy recommendations. Chair Tetreault advised the Subcommittee to continue to work with the new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation when the implementation of the programs occur to ensure tree equity at large. Commissioner Lobo added that Neighborhood Services Department liaisons of those areas needing to be prioritized would be of assistance and that Street Transportation and Public Transit Departments are also integral to the conversation.

**5. Phoenix Resilient Food System Programs**

Environmental Programs Coordinator Rosanne Albright presented information regarding the Phoenix Resilient Food System using a PowerPoint presentation. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will be providing funding that will be used for community investment programs, including the Phoenix Resilient Food System. Environmental Programs Coordinator Albright spoke about the programs that would benefit from this funding, like the Feed Phoenix Initiative, Worker Cooperative Food System Business Incubator, Agri-food Technology Innovation Grants, Backyard Food Production Project, Farmland Preservation, and Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Projects. The funds would also go towards equity and inclusion programs, like the Funds to Feed Initiative, Phoenix Urban Agriculture Fellowship, and additional Council District Food Initiatives. Funds would also be used to support local food banks and support staff.

Chair Tetreault congratulated Environmental Programs Coordinator Albright on the work so far. Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked about the availability of the backyard food system project to renters. Environmental Programs Coordinator Albright indicated that as long as the landlord approves, it will be installed. The backyard food system will also be able to move with the renter or be re-distributed to others. Vice Chair Torres also asked if soil would be transported. Environmental Programs Coordinator Albright indicated that the systems will be delivered with everything that is needed, and that Assistant Public Works Director Joe Giudice offered to provide compost. Commissioner Sarah Porter asked about what metrics the city is planning to monitor for the project. Some of the metrics being considered are the use of energy, water, financial and health benefits. Chair Tetreault asked how these programs will be implemented to vulnerable populations. Environmental Programs Coordinator Albright said that food delivery would be in most COVID-impacted communities, which also happen to be in food deserts. These areas include West and South Phoenix. The urban fellowship and cooperative also have goals to include at least 50% BIPOC participants. Commissioner Kathy Knoop asked another question regarding the backyard gardening systems and the amount of support the program participants will receive. Environmental Programs Coordinator Albright detailed the program's training, ongoing support, and guidance that would be available to those with the system.

## **6. Draft Climate Action Plan Review and Discussion**

Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Air Quality and Climate Specialist, gave a brief overview of the draft climate action plan and ongoing community outreach using a PowerPoint Presentation and asked for recommendations from the Commission.

Chair Tetreault spoke about the draft climate action plan and the need of the Commission to make recommendations. Chair Tetreault thanked the city and departments for their efforts and asked that the plan be benchmarked against peer cities and that all departments participate in this endeavor. Commissioner Porter focused comments on the water sector of the draft plan. The first every water shortage is expected to be declared in August and additional shortages may be declared as soon as next year that may affect development of Pinal County. Commissioner Porter mentioned concerns about the water use involved with the Local Food System, another resiliency sector within the draft plan, and proposed that the right use for the right location and equivalent water efficiencies be maintained. Vice Chair Torres provided comments on the heat sector using those that were approved by the Subcommittee and included creating a health-based heat goal and ensuring each council district reached the tree and shade canopy goal. Commissioner Groman congratulated Dr. Potzler and the city staff for their work on the draft plan. Comments provided by Commissioner Groman included a lack of clarity on metrics and measurements, encouraged a holistic perspective by performing life cycle assessment type analysis, and to consider a business perspective of the impacts. Chair Tetreault also provided comments to include impact indicators that show progress and use the best available science, that city policy have a climate action perspective, and to align the fiscal perspective by updating the city purchasing policy and pension obligations. Commissioner Knoop mentioned that there is no mention of hydrogen within the draft plan and should be included. Commissioner Knoop also agreed that the draft plan should be compared to peer cities, including the adoption rate of electric vehicles, which can be increased.

A discussion about the origin of the goals by Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen, Commissioner Sarah Porter, and Dr. Potzler ensued,

with some of the goals deriving from market trends, city plans and programs, and City Council-approved sustainability goals. Dr. Potzler indicated that a review of climate action plans from municipalities within Arizona, the USA and C40 Cities was undertaken to ensure that the draft plan contained relevant and pertinent goals and actions.

Chair Tetreault left the meeting and Vice Chair Torres conducted the remainder of the meeting. During this time, Commissioners volunteered (indicated as “Lead”) and/or were assigned to review specific chapters of the draft climate action plan, as follows:

EQSC Commissioner Assignments for Draft CAP review:

Stationary Energy – Caroline Lobo (Lead), Kelly Barr, Nicole LaSlavic

Transportation – Kathy Knoop (Lead), Kimberly Ruht

Waste – Colin Tetreault (Lead), Bill Sandweg

Financial Sustainability Initiatives - Colin Tetreault

Air Quality – Tim Franquist (Lead), Kevin Groman

Local Food Systems. - Sarah Porter (Lead), Darren Chapman

Water – Sarah Porter (Lead), Andrea Odegard-Begay

Heat – Ginger Torres (Lead)

Equity and Environmental Justice – Penny Allee Taylor, Columba Sainz

## **7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items for Information Only**

Future possible agenda items include:

Status of AZ Recycling Industry - TBD

Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State - TBD

Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes - TBD

Rio Reimagined – TBD

EQSC Branding – TBD

Air Quality Update – TBD

Opioids in water – TBD

Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness – TBD

Walkability throughout the city – TBD

Draft Climate Action Plan Review – TBD

Clean Water Act and Waters of Arizona – TBD

Chair Tetreault asked for Water Resources Management Advisor Campbell to return to a future meeting. Chair Tetreault also asked that once the draft climate action plan is published, to discuss it as a Commission.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist