

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 3:03 p.m. There were 10 members present at roll call.

Danielle Vermeer was introduced as a new staff member in OEP and she will transition into the role of primary EQSC contact moving forward.

2. Review and approval of June 8, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Colin Tetreault made a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Kelly Barr seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.

3. Public Comment

No one spoke.

4. Office of Heat Response/Mitigation and Tree and Shade Master Plan Update

Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Chief Heat Officer, Dr. David Hondula, Urban Tree Program Manager, Lora Martens, and Tree Equity Project Coordinator, Kayla Killoren gave a presentation on their office's updates. This included an update on the ARPA grant projects, tree planting efforts, and the Tree and Shade Master Plan update coming in early 2024.

Commissioner Eric Gorsegrner asked what an average grant funded project would look like and if developers can apply. Killoren responded that all projects must be in a qualified census tract per ARPA guidelines and they will target neighborhoods and school districts. The office did a tree planting event in February and are using that as a model to follow for working with community members and helping them determine the best places to plant, digging the holes, and educating on tree maintenance for a community focused event. Lora Martens responded that developers must follow new building standards and if they would like to go above and beyond they could discuss, but the grants will not fund anything that is required by code.

Chair Lobo asked how big the trees would be. Killoren responded that they are 15 gallon and would be easy to plant and grow quickly, however time would be needed before they provide lots of shade.

Commissioner Kelly Barr asked about how the trees will be maintained. Killoren responded that the Heat Office is also developing a Tree Stewards Program and will have staff to partner with on events and will be trained as part-time workers to maintain trees. They will also be providing education, hoses, and soil moisture meters as a part of the grant.

Commissioners Gorsegrner and Barr asked if they will limit tree choices and placement under powerlines similar to other programs around the valley. Killoren responded that there is a list of approved drought tolerant and low VOC trees. The program will also instruct that no tall trees may be planted under powerlines.

Commissioner Barr suggested that the Tree and Shade Master Plan focus more on shade structures rather than only tree shade. Shade is needed now and trees take time to grow before providing good shade.

Chair Lobo suggested that at community meetings for the Tree and Shade Master Plan they should ask for weak points in the neighborhood as they have lived experience and know their neighborhood best.

5. Climate Action Plan Discussion

Chair Lobo asked the Commission to review the comments that were provided by Commissioners and wanted to continue the conversation on reviewing the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Chair Lobo asked how the EQSC can help with the CAP update. Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen responded that sharing the update and encouraging comments from their networks would be helpful.

Commissioner Barr noted that most of the city's goals for energy are depended on SRP and APS goals. Chair Lobo suggested that they attend an upcoming EQSC meeting to discuss progress on those goals and sustainability plans.

Commissioner Kevin Groman asked what business has the greatest carbon footprint. Allen responded that they do not have that information by corporation but do have the information by sector. However not all corporation discloses their emissions. The county releases a greenhouse gas inventory for the county and it is separated by municipality. Transportation and industrial emissions are high across the board, while agricultural emissions are high in the county but not in the city.

Commissioner Tetreault suggested using the city's Green Business program as a resource for getting business engagement. He suggested using public available information from CDP for additional information about business emissions.

Allen mentioned the Climate Reduction Pollution Grants and the county needs to put together the plan by March 2024. This will provide access to apply for \$4.6 billion for projects. Only projects included in the plan are eligible for grant applications.

Commissioners Gorsegner, Barr, Cazarez, and Chair Lobo all discussed the impact of including Arizona Forward in CAP update engagement.

Chair Lobo asked commissioners to review the CAP comments and list of organizations provided by Commissioner Taylor. If commissioners had additional organizations or knew specific contacts at the organizations to email her and OEP to continue adding to the list.

Chair Lobo and Commissioners Barr, Taylor, Knoop, Sandweg, and Gorsegner summarized their written comments.

Chair Lobo suggested that the Commission review the CAP and look at each section with the lens of environmental justice and equity to put together examples and ideas for each section.

6. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Chair Lobo said conversations about the Climate Action Plan update and how to include businesses in engagement will continue. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2023.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist