

- 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 9 members present at roll call. The following commissioner arrived after the initial roll call:

- Kelly Barr

- 2. Review and approval of September 10, 2020 Minutes:**

ACTION:

Commissioner Park Howell made a motion to approve the September 10, 2020 minutes. Vice Chair Ginger Torres seconded the motion and it carried 9:0.

- 3. Public Comment – Two people spoke:**

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

Stacey Champion spoke and reminded the Commission that the Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee next month would be three years since the “debacle” that ultimately led to the formation of the Subcommittee. Stacey Champion recommended that no new action from the new Subcommittee take place until the recommendations from the old Subcommittee are accomplished. Stacey Champion added that public comment should be made a part of the meeting in the future. Stacey Champion asked Chair Tetreault to remind staff that meeting minutes are not being posted in a timely fashion.

Tabitha Myers agreed with the comments made by Stacey Champion. Tabitha Myers expressed frustration with the pace that the tree and shade recommendations were being moved forward.

Stacey Champion then asked to speak again. Stacey Champion added that there is a lack of transparency and leadership. Also asked to look at attendance of members at meetings.

- 4. Planning and Development Text Amendment Update**

Josh Bednarek, Deputy Director from Planning and Development Department, and Tricia Gomes, Special Projects Administrator from Planning and Development Department, updated the Commission on the Planning and Development Landscape Text Amendment (TA) as a response to the recommendations made by the Commission. Deputy Director Bednarek indicated that the (TA) is not at the stage that was originally planned and understood the frustration expressed during the public comment period. Deputy Director Bednarek said that the process had been extended due to the operational demands caused by the pandemic. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Deputy Director Bednarek described the TA. Deputy Director Bednarek included that there are three core concepts as a result of the TA: trees are infrastructure, trees provide benefits when appropriately planted and that trees should be kept in place in a healthy and living condition. These would be accomplished by reinforcing existing best practices and procedures, reconciling inconsistencies with Zoning Ordinance and the establishment of new standards and procedures for maintenance, removal and replacement of trees. Deputy Director Bednarek then proposed a schedule to have the TA be incorporated into city ordinance. The TA will be reviewed by staff, technical leads and other stakeholders with the finalized TA brought back to the Commission for final review and request for action by the end of calendar year 2020. The TA will then be presented to the Village Planning Committees and for recommendation for

approval in Spring 2021. TA will then be presented to City Council and a request for action by April 2021. Commissioner Timothy Franquist inquired as to how the “right trees” get planted in the “right place” with Deputy Director Bednarek responding that the concept would need to be incorporated and will come back to the Commission. Commissioner Dwayne Allen asked about the change to the speed at which the TA is being approved and what further review is necessary. Special Projects Administrator Tricia Gomes responded that it is a fairly aggressive schedule to get to public hearing process and that review would be necessary to ensure that the law would not create additional language. Commissioner Allen then asked if this is the first time legal is looking at this and how it would complicate the process. Deputy Director Bednarek responded that legal within the department has reviewed it and the next step would be a committee of lawyers that would review the TA from different departments and viewpoints. Commissioner Kevin Groman commented that the TA is crucial for the city’s future and the process takes a lot of time, it does not happen fast enough. Commissioner Groman then inquired as to what other support can the Commission provide other than outreach and review of TA with Deputy Director Bednarek responding that would be helpful along with having other connections review the TA before the public hearings. Vice Chair Torres remarked that the members of public were discouraged at the delay of the TA with Deputy Director Bednarek describing the operational changes made as a result of the pandemic. Vice Chair Torres then asked how the Tree and Shade Recommendations were incorporated into the TA with Deputy Director Bednarek committing to provide a comparison at a future meeting. Commissioner Kelly Barr asked about the public hearing process and if it was optimistic or normal with Special Projects Administrator Tricia Gomes responding that the Village Planning Committees are normally scheduled monthly and that outside of significant issues, the schedule presented is typical. Vice Chair Torres requested an opportunity for the Commission to provide feedback to the TA. Chair Tetreault requested that the Urban Heat and Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee be informed as to when the TA is available. Chair Tetreault also requested that the Commission be updated in November with a request for action in December. Chair Tetreault also requested that Commissioners attend Village Planning Committees as residents to show support for the TA. Deputy Director Bednarek indicated that he would be willing to be on the agenda every month until the end of the year.

5. Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee Update

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee Chair, and Commissioner Dwayne Allen, Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee Vice Chair, gave an update as to the most recent meeting of the Subcommittee and covered information in the minutes from that meeting. Vice Chair Torres indicated that the meeting time for the Subcommittee would change in the future to accommodate the members as well as make the meeting more accessible to the public. Commissioner Allen echoed the comments made the public earlier in this meeting to wrap up prior business before beginning new business. Vice Chair Torres indicated that the Subcommittee would follow through with prior business as well as taking on new issues. Chair Tetreault counseled that the Subcommittee should consider the ability and availability of the Subcommittee members when deciding on which issues to consider, whether previous business or novel. Chair Tetreault asked if the Subcommittee discussed the tree administrator position. Commissioner Allen replied that a discussion had taken place to take all the work being performed in “silos” by the city and have the tree administrator act as a liaison and assist in the effort. Chair Tetreault recommended building a business case for the tree administrator position as part of the

Subcommittee's work with Commissioners Torres and Allen agreeing to take on that task. Chair Tetreault announced that the Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee would have a sunset date of 2021.

Chair Tetreault requested that an additional member be added to the Subcommittee.

ACTION:

Commissioner Dwayne Allen made a motion to approve the expansion of the Subcommittee by one member. Commissioner Barr seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.

6. Climate Action Plan Update

Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs Administrator, and Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Air Quality and Climate Specialist in the Office of Environmental Programs, gave an update to the efforts towards producing a C40-compliant climate action plan. Administrator Allen stated that the climate action plan was modified into a "framework" which was presented to council members this week. Administrator Allen indicated that Dr. Potzler would be performing work on modeling a pathway to zero using a tool provided by C40 with information available at the end of the year. Chair Tetreault asked about the deadline extension from C40 with Administrator Allen affirming the extension to the climate action plan deadline to the end of 2021. Chair Tetreault then inquired as to the schedule for the completion of the climate action plan. Administrator Allen suggested an optimistic schedule may have the climate action plan approved by summer, but more likely after, due to the budget possibly overtaking the city council meetings. Chair Tetreault asked what further support the Commission could provide. Administrator Allen indicated that providing comment cards during the Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation Subcommittee meeting and recommendations to the framework itself would be beneficial along with continuing to obtain business and community-based organization support as requested by the Mayor. Chair Tetreault asked how will community engagement happen with Administrator Allen responding that it would happen through webinars, workshops, surveys and include discussion of which actions will result in the greatest emissions reductions using the C40 model. Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman added that the extended deadline allowed for the climate action plan process to be combined into one step. Previously, the community engagement would have come after the plan had been approved by council, but now it will happen before then. The framework provides goals for 2050 along with "quickstart" actions that would be completed by 2025. These actions are already occurring and the framework will allow for residents and businesses to provide recommendations on additional goals and actions to include into the climate action plan.

7. EQSC Mayoral Business Engagement Request Update

Chair Tetreault reminded the Commission of the deadline of October 20, 2020 for businesses and community-based organizations to provide support for the plan through oeinfo@phoenix.gov or hand delivered. The support will included in the presentation of materials to the Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation Subcommittee. Commissioners then updated the Commission as to the progress of their outreach efforts. Chair Tetreault reminded the Commission that they are able to sign up to provide a comment as residents or interested parties during the Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation Subcommittee meeting.

8. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Future possible agenda items include:

Status of AZ Recycling Industry
Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State
Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes
Mayor Kate Gallego
Rio Reimagined
EQSC Branding
Heat and Trees/Shade
Air Quality Update
Phoenix Water Drought Pipeline Project
Opioids in Water
Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness
Walkability throughout the city

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist