

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**October 12, 2023**

Phoenix City Hall  
Online Using Webex

<b>Commission Members Present</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Kelly Barr, via Webex	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Anna Bettis, via Webex	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Andrea Odegard-Begay, via Webex	Kayla Killoren, OHRM
Orlando Cazarez, via WebEx	Julia Marturano, OHRM
Darren Chapman, via WebEx	Alicia Arauz-Orozco, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM)
Kevin Groman, via WebEx	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Kathy Knoop, Webex	Julie Riemenschneider, OEP
Caroline Lobo	Danielle Vermeer, OEP
Bill Sandweg, via WebEx	Mary Wright OHRM
Colin Tetreault, Webex	Joshua Uebelherr, OEP
<b>Commission Members Not Present</b>	<b>Community Members Present</b>
Timothy Franquist	Nadia Neimanas
Eric Gorseger	
Sarah Porter	
Penny Allee Taylor	
Ginger Torres	

**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 3:07 p.m. There were eight members present at roll call. The following members joined the meeting after roll call:

- Commissioner Chapman at 3:09 p.m.
- Commissioner Groman at 3:09 p.m.

**2. Review and approval of September 14, Minutes**

Commissioner Tetreault made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Bettis seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

**3. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

**4. Working Session – ‘Climate Action Plan – Strategic Business Partnerships**

Chair Lobo introduced the working session and gave an overview of the City of Boston Green Ribbon Commission. She opened the floor for discussion from Commissioners.

Commissioner Chapman expressed support for the Green Ribbon Commission’s ability to bring together different stakeholders and noted climate is tied to important socioeconomic themes such as homelessness, diminishing middle class, and more. He advocated for diverse stakeholders to be brought to the table.

Chair Lobo asked what kind of engagement level Commissioner Chapman envisioned for stakeholders who need to be included.

Commissioner Chapman replied an advisory perspective would be an appropriate role and solutions needed to be inclusive of underrepresented voices.

Chair Lobo thanked Commissioner Chapman and asked for other comments from the group.

Commissioner Tetreault expressed support for bringing the business community together and commented on framing factors for the City to consider. He also discussed examples of possible groups that should be brought together to gather feedback.

Chair Lobo asked Office of Environmental Programs Administrator, Nancy Allen, what the City would like to see as feedback to the Climate Action Plan and asked what engagement might look like.

Ms. Allen responded this was at the discretion of the Commission and noted the City needs partners and stakeholders to be an active part of the solution. She recommended the Commission leverage their networks to find active participants for reducing emissions, building resiliency, providing feedback and helping engage communities.

Commissioner Tetreault stated he could help connect with a variety of different organizations (e.g., Greater Phoenix Economic Council), to request specific feedback and participation in the Climate Action Plan.

Chair Lobo thanked Commissioner Tetreault.

Commissioner Cazarez commented on a potential scorecard pilot program to employ with businesses for tracking and reducing their impact. He noted this could be a way to engage corporations by using a structured standard.

Chair Lobo asked if the City has collected any data from larger business.

Ms. Allen replied the City had access to greenhouse gas-related data, but not specific to any particular industry. She added the City has limited data, and the Commission would have to leverage other data sources.

Chair Lobo asked Commissioner Cazarez for details on data metrics.

Commissioner Cazarez discussed building a metric that is self-reported by companies to understand their impact (e.g., indirect and direct emissions, energy consumed, waste produced, etc.).

Ms. Allen invited Commissioner Tetreault to talk about CDP.

Commissioner Tetreault gave an overview of CDP, including its ties to the capital markets and companies that report to the organization.

Commissioner Barr noted it would be a big ask for the Commission to take on outreach to businesses and asked if there would be opportunities to build on the State and County outreach for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG).

Ms. Allen responded there was a tight deadline for the CPRG and it is unclear at this time how robust outreach will be. She suggested the Commission narrow the scope (e.g., look at one sector).

Chair Lobo asked for clarification on the community ask.

Ms. Allen replied the ask is for stakeholders to be active participants, not on the sidelines.

Chair Lobo noted this was outside of her wheelhouse and spoke about the commercial real estate agency. She added this market sector could be interesting to bring into the conversation.

Commissioner Groman prompted the Commission to think about the structure and reason for seeking participation, for example, "what would be in it for them?"

Commissioner Cazarez asked if participants would be recognized as Commissioners or if they would be contributors on behalf of the corporate community to the Commission.

Chair Lobo responded it could be structured many ways. For example, it could be a subcommittee, ad hoc committee, etc.

Commissioner Chapman commented on the scorecard pilot idea and proposed a sub-advisory group structure to the Commission.

Commissioner Tetreault discussed potential tactical asks the Commission could ask to the enterprise community.

Commissioner Cazarez asked why a corporation would provide emissions data and what would be the purpose of those transparencies.

Commissioner Tetreault replied with a discussion of CDP and its role interacting with capital markets to inform risk evaluation.

Chair Lobo commended the ask needed to be a short-term ask and long-term vision.

Commissioner Tetreault asked when the City was looking to have an update on the Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Allen responded the City was behind and will be executing a progress report. She added the greenhouse gas inventory will be out next summer and then the City will look at doing a complete update of the Climate Action Plan with modeling.

Commissioner Tetreault emphasized the need for the Commission to finalize the request (e.g., what the Commission wants businesses to act on, think about, or consider).

Chair Lobo asked Commissioner Tetreault what his recommendation would be to engage the business community.

Commissioner Tetreault recommended soliciting feedback from keystone enterprise stakeholders and inviting them to a Commission meeting to provide a briefing. However, he emphasized the Commission needs to determine a structure and outcome.

Ms. Allen noted that action was an important component of the outcome.

Commissioner Tetreault responded feedback could be requested from companies with concurrent action based on the Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner Chapman summarized potential actions discussed from the conversation.

Commissioner Groman added an Arizona State University class could potentially compare the Climate Action Plan with business goals to assess opportunities for collaboration.

Commissioner Barr expressed support for Commissioner Groman's idea.

Commissioner Knoop said the Commission should set clear expectations for what they want when sharing plans.

Commissioner Sandweg agreed.

Commissioner Bettis agreed with what other Commissioners have said.

Chair Lobo responded the next logical step would be to have business stakeholders review the Climate Action Plan, give feedback and invite them to an EQSC meeting.

Commissioner Tetreault added the Commission needed to identify stakeholders to provide the letter to and develop specific prompts (e.g., do the goals resonate, are they doable, etc.).

Commissioner Bettis recommended seeking guidance on how the Climate Action Plan impacts the business community and how to develop a harmonious vision.

Chair Lobo requested the Commission send recommendations of who should be brought to the table to Office of Environmental Programs Administrative Assistant II Danielle Vermeer. Chair Lobo added she would draft a letter and if Commissioners have personal connections, a personal ask would be helpful for distribution.

## **5. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items**

Chair Lobo commented on potential future agenda items including an electric vehicle, General Plan, water, and green businesses update.

Commissioner Cazarez suggested a presentation from the Rio Reimagined folks.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II