

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**October 14, 2021**

Phoenix City Hall  
Online Using Webex

<b>Commission Members Present</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Allee Taylor, Penny via phone	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Barr, Kelly via phone	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability
Chapman, Darren via phone	Joe Giudice, Public Works (PW)
Franquist, Timothy via phone	Chris Ewell, Street Transportation
Groman, Kevin via phone	David Hondula, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation
Knoop, Kathy via phone	Rick Peters, PW
LaSlavic, Nicole via phone	Jesse Duarte, PW
Lobo, Caroline via phone	Andrew Durket, Finance (F)
Odegard-Begay, Andrea via phone	Willa Altman-Kaough, Office of the Mayor
Sandweg, Bill via phone	Zack Wallace, F
Torres, Ginger via phone	Cassandra Smith, PW
Tetreault, Colin via phone	Cuong Dinh, Parks and Recreation
	Eduardo Rodriguez, PW
	Eric MacDonald, PW
	Jessica Yates, PW
	Alexis Yapple, PW
	Lucas Mariacher, PW
	Jeff Whitlock, PW
	Rosanne Albright, OEP
	Matthew Potzler, OEP
	Katrina Gerster, OEP
<b>Commission Members Not Present</b>	<b>Community Members Present</b>
Porter, Sarah	Wayne Warrington
Ruht, Kimberly	
Sainz, Columba	

**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. The following commissioners arrived after the initial roll call:

- Penny Allee Taylor at 3:05 p.m.
- Darren Chapman at 3:40 p.m.

Chair Colin Tetreault and Vice Chair Ginger Torres offered their congratulations to the Commission, community, and city staff on the recent passing of the city's climate action plan. Chair Tetreault also announced the appointment of Dr. Dave Hondula as the head of the new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation.

**2. Review and approval of August 12, 2021 Minutes**

**ACTION:**

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the August 12, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor seconded the motion and it carried 11:0.

**3. Public Comment – No one spoke.**

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

No one spoke.

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

Vice Chair Ginger Torres, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Commission that a meeting occurred on September 14 and the next meeting was delayed one week so that subcommittee members could participate in the policy session where the climate action plan was presented. The meeting had a presentation on cool rooftops from developers and a presentation on cool corridors from city staff. The next meeting would have a presentation from Union of Concerned Scientists to discuss heat equity.

Chair Tetreault reminded the Commission that the Subcommittee had a sunset date in December.

**5. Household Hazardous Waste Program, Recycling Program, and 27th Ave Materials Recovery Facility Update**

Public Works Department Director Joe Giudice, Deputy Director Jesse Duarte and Operations Manager Eduardo Rodriguez presented on the city's recycling infrastructure that includes the 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and North Gateway MRF. A timeline was provided for upgrades to be completed at the 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue MRF by the end of 2022 to be able to recover more material from the waste stream. There was also a brief discussion on the effect of the pandemic on the prices of commodities, like cardboard and paper, and the more stringent specifications for materials being recycled requiring advanced technology like optical sensors to separate materials efficiently and cost effectively. Commissioner Penny Allee Taylor asked about the change in residential waste as a result of being home. The city of Phoenix collects only residential waste, so as more residents are at home and home package deliveries increased, more of that material was collected by the city of Phoenix. Commissioner Kelly Barr inquired about the state of plastics recycling that led to a discussion of the advanced instrumentation installed at North Gateway MRF and what will be installed at the

27<sup>th</sup> Avenue MRF. Pricing for plastics recycling is dependent on the cost of petroleum raw materials, and since it is going up, so are prices for recovered plastic. Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked about the effect of this on the rates that residents pay for this service which led to a discussion of the current market conditions and plans from the US Plastics Pact to ensure that more products being purchased can be constructed out of recycled or recyclable materials. Chair Colin Tetreault and Commissioners Penny Allee Taylor and Timothy Franquist entered into a discussion with the presenters about providing incentives for residents to participate in recycling programs, increasing communication and participation with residents of Phoenix and other municipalities, and to take a regional approach with this issue.

Public Works Department Operations Manager Lucas Mariacher provided a presentation of the city's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. The purpose of the program is to protect health, environment and prevent operational hazards. The past program (pre-pandemic) included events where the city would collect the HHW from residents. The current (pandemic) pilot program has a contractor collect HHW from the residents at their homes. The results of the pilot program will determine if the current iteration of HHW collection will continue. Commissioner Kevin Groman congratulated the city on the great program, while other Commissioners indicated they were unaware of the program, but interested in participating and spreading the word. Commissioner Kathy Knoop also agreed that this pilot program was a terrific idea and that increasing business participation through prizes would be beneficial. Operations Manager Lucas Mariacher said that a presentation was just given to Wells Fargo employees that morning. Chair Colin Tetreault also agreed it was a great pilot and asked about the chain of custody and encouraged the city to find ways to increase the recoverability of these types of items locally.

## **6. Sustainable Finance**

Finance Department Economic Analyst Zack Wallace and Debt Manager Andrew Durket provided a presentation on the city's sustainable finance program. They spoke about the city's Sustainability and Green Bond Program, Sustainability Bond Issuance from March 2020, and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) measures from rating agencies and investors. The city's preliminary ESG scores are E-2, S-2, G-1, with the lower the number being better. This resulted in a Credit Impact Score of CIS-2. Commissioner Darren Chapman asked that the city look into the social perspective of the scores to delve into affordable housing as a great deal of people lack low-income quality housing. Chair Colin Tetreault indicated this may be a task for the incoming Equity Officer to address affordable vs. equitable housing. Economic Analyst Zack Wallace acknowledged the city's existing affordable housing plan and that highlighting this information for investors was important. Commissioner Kelly Barr stated that this kind of work needs to be paid attention and good to see the city working in this space. Chair Colin Tetreault and the presenters entered into a discussion on how to make these kinds of economic tools available for the city to be able to finance projects at lower costs that will make the city more sustainable, including considerations of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**7. EQSC Recommendations for Cool Corridors Program City Staff Memo Response**

Street Transportation Department Deputy Director Chris Ewell, Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman, and Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Director Dave Hondula discussed cool corridors with the Commission. The first year of the cool corridors program will be a pilot where the city will base installation of the trees on right of ways and need for trees with criteria similar to that provided by the commission. Community engagement will begin this year and will be a focus in future years. City staff will work across departments and community organizations with funding coming from the city budget along with grants and other funding sources. The new Office of Heat Response and Mitigation will coordinate and facilitate these connections and redefine goals and metrics accordingly. Vice Chair Ginger Torres indicated that a lot of collaboration between the city and its neighborhoods will be needed to ensure that there is shade door to door and not just in main thoroughfares, but is encouraged by the recent developments. Chair Colin Tetreault and Deputy Director Chris Ewell agreed to provide the Commission with regular updates and opportunities to provide guidance on the cool corridor program to begin with the Commission's December meeting.

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

Chair Tetreault asked for announcements and summarized the meeting's discussions.

Future possible agenda items include:

Permitting for Rooftop Solar: City and State - TBD  
Batteries / Storage & Fire Codes - TBD  
Rio Reimagined – TBD  
Air Quality Update – TBD  
Opioids in water – TBD  
Increase in population of individuals facing homelessness – TBD  
Walkability throughout the city – TBD  
Clean Water Act and Waters of Arizona – TBD

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Matthew Potzler, Environmental Quality Specialist