

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 3:13 p.m. There were eight members present at roll call. The following members joined the meeting after roll call:

- Colin Tetreault joined at 3:21 pm and left at 3:44 pm

2. Review and approval of September 14, Minutes

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Groman seconded the motion and it carried 8-0.

Chair Lobo moved Public Comment to Item 5.

3. City of Phoenix Office of Sustainability Electric Vehicle (EV) Update

Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman gave an update on City of Phoenix EV initiatives, including assessment of community needs and next steps.

Commissioner Groman asked about reporting protocols for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids.

Mr. Hartman discussed EVs and plug-in hybrids.

Commissioner Groman asked if numbers reported referenced plug-in hybrids or just EVs.

Mr. Hartman responded numbers reported were only for EVs.

Commissioner Franquist discussed United Kingdom data on plug-in hybrids.

Commissioner Groman commented on cradle to grave.

Mr. Hartman discussed raw materials, design for deconstruction and reuse, research on battery solutions, and market capacity to drive innovation in the future.

Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen noted the Environmental Protection Agency was making positive movement in the circular economy and rare earth metals arena.

Commissioner Sandweg expressed support for involving underrepresented communities in the conversation.

Vice Chair Torres commented on equity concerns and what the City could do to help low-income residents afford EVs.

Mr. Hartman responded with a summary of possible initiatives including carshare programs, discounted Waymo rides for low-income eligible residents, increased frequency of circulator buses, free rides to cooling centers, and more.

Chair Lobo asked if residents requested increased EV infrastructure during community listening sessions.

Mr. Hartman discussed findings from community listening sessions and types of solutions that have been requested.

Vice Chair Torres asked about permitting and expansion of EV charging locations.

Mr. Hartman noted the Planning and Development Department has streamlined the EV permitting process and is in the process of working with utilities to increase capacity.

Chair Lobo asked what would happen if the City did not receive the grant.

Mr. Hartman discussed alternative funding sources and potential for more future grant opportunities.

Chair Lobo discussed Uber and EV initiatives with car rental companies.

Mr. Hartman commented on EV workforce development and apprenticeship programs.

Commissioner Taylor spoke about her experience renting an EV on a recent trip and asked if this was available in the City.

Mr. Hartman replied yes, EVs were available for rental in the valley.

4. City of Phoenix Planning and Development Department General Plan Update
Planning and Development Department (PDD) Deputy Director Tricia Gomes and PDD Acting Special Projects Administrator Joel Carrasco gave an update on the City of Phoenix General Plan.

Vice Chair Torres asked about engagement with tribal communities in the area.

Ms. Gomes responded the document needed to be transmitted to neighboring jurisdictions, including tribal communities.

Mr. Carrasco noted one road map event for the General Plan was focused on the Rio Reimagined, where some tribal communities are involved.

Chair Lobo asked about equity components and potential to integrate a goal for making disadvantaged communities whole.

Ms. Allen expressed concern about the terminology.

Chair Lobo discussed criteria for holistic communities in the planning dialogue and noted she was open to changes in language that emphasize elevating disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Carrasco commented on terms such as “compact, complete, connected” and noted the teams’ willingness to work with communities on developing their visions.

Chair Lobo spoke about resilient communities and offered using the term “resilient” as a comment for consideration.

Mr. Carrasco responded this could be considered.

Chair Lobo asked when the General Plan was going to City Council.

Ms. Gomes replied April 2024.

5. Public Comment

Chair Lobo noted the public could make comments up to two minutes long.

Environmental Quality Specialist Matthew Potzler read the rules for public comment.

Jeff Caldwell expressed opposition to EVs.

6. Climate Action Plan – Strategic Business Partnerships

Chair Lobo commented on the Boston Green Ribbon Commission and suggested some EQSC members could discuss how to engage the business community and come back to provide recommendations to the group.

Mr. Hartman replied there was not a strong connection between the business community and City operations unless it impacts them, even though there may be similar interests. He suggested using EQSC connections to explore partnership opportunities.

Chair Lobo asked if Mr. Hartman had developed relationships with the business community.

Mr. Hartman responded some relationships had been developed but not a lot and noted the Community and Economic Development Department might have more.

Commissioner Taylor suggested using Arizona Townhall as a facilitator to collect information from business interests.

Commissioner Franquist spoke about a business community roundtable at the Department of Environmental Quality and noted that could be a good model to use.

Commissioner Groman noted we are not likely to get pushback to participate.

Commissioner Franquist agreed but there needed to be an incentive.

Chair Lobo announced it would be helpful to have a touch person, or a few, to help spearhead. She suggested Commissioner Groman and Commissioner Tetreault meet with Mr. Hartman to discuss business engagement.

7. Announcements and Review

Commissioner Franquist suggested the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) as a future agenda topic. He announced that Maricopa Association of Governments had a survey up for the CPRG and encouraged commissioners to share with their networks.

Ms. Allen discussed the CPRG implementation coalition and reminded the commission that Elias Toon had previously presented to EQSC on the CPRG.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there would be a meeting in December.

Commissioner Torres asked if there was an opportunity to do an activity, volunteer, or go on a fieldtrip.

Chair Lobo noted this could be explored.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II