



Minutes

City of Tempe Sustainability Commission November 21, 2022

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, September 19, 2022, 4:30 p.m. at a virtual meeting on MS Teams, through City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Chair)	Meaghan Coon
Barbie Burke (Vice Chair)	Jake Swanson
Natalie Mendoza	Shawn Swisher
Katja Brundiers	Morgan Winburn
Erin Boyd	

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present:

Brianne Fisher
Braden Kay
Evelyn Brumfield
Maddie Mercer
Andrea Escobar

Guests Present:

Mauricio Juarez Leon
Mike Hoffman
Luke Ramsey

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome New Members and Mission of SRC

Chair Jung announced new member Erin Boyd from Culdesac to the Commission. Commissioner Boyd leads Government and External Affairs of Culdesac. She is excited to see be part of the Commission and looking forward to helping to make a difference.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Luke Ramsey, graduate student at ASU, brings something to the Commissions attention. City of Tempe doing forestry efforts in the Rio Salado. He works with organization that does river restoration and spends millions of dollars preserving it. He mentions that he understands that this was an emergency management tactic as there are a lot of individuals experiencing homelessness living at the river bottom. He mentions his disappointment in finding information about the decision to do this work at the river bottom and feels it is a large amount of money and resources for a solution that is not long term and, in the process, not giving thought to the biodiversity and ecological systems in the river.

Chair Jung mentions that this is not agenized but the Commission will consider placing this on the agenda for the future.

Mauricio Juarez Leon, representative a new movement called Fridays for Future which is a international organization and starting to create a Phoenix chapter. Goal of Fridays for the Future is to build movements, power diverse voices, elevate individuals stories, climate stories though art, letters of support to government. Wanted to make sure this Commission as aware and could spread the word or if anyone is interested in joining.

Mike Hoffman, Chair of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Committee states he is joining just to hear what is going on within the City and find synergies going forward.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2022.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Shawn Swisher

Decision: Approved 7-0

Agenda Item 4 – Board and Commission Annual Report to Council

Staff Liaison Brianne Fisher, states that this report was shown to the Commission at the last meeting but did not receive any comments for changes. Fisher states she made some changes but now was the opportunity for the Commission to discuss at large any additional changes.

Commissioner Swisher asks to add the AIA Phoenix-Metro design competition to the report, specifically within the future goals section.

Chair Jung mentions he likes how it is organized around the highlight actions that mimics our work done at the retreat.

Agenda Item 5 – 2022 Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Letter of Support

Chair Jung reports that this letter represents what was presented during the last meeting and this is the opportunity for the Commission to discuss the drafted letter of support.

Commissioner Swisher mentions second paragraph of the letter around equity was interesting. Swisher wants to know more about what the City can do of what the effects are of these choices. Didn't understand how higher water users are getting more equitable treatment so clarity there would be great, even if not in this letter.

Commissioner Brundiers asks to expand more on equity. Perhaps coming back to it in second paragraph about masterplan and strategies...we had a presentation about Equity urban cooling” in preparation of Climate Action Plan Update in September 2021. We could say in the letter that this continues this conversation, more tools for this analysis. There has been more progress on the heat maps. Its different but not totally uncoupled from the water conversation.

Commissioner Swanson says he feels similarly on both points of the two comments.

Fisher reminds Commissioners that the biggest shift in this rate study was from 5 tiers to 4 tiers. This has allowed more residents to enter into tier 1 – the lowest water rate. This means that more than half of Tempe residents are falling into tier 1.

Chair Jung says it is important to highlight this shift and how this advances our resiliency to drought and water conservation. Jung also asks how policy work beyond the rate studies, state and federal level, could be pushed.

Fisher states that Tempe City Council does approve of State and Federal Legislative Principles each year and can look at those as a reference point for the letter.

Agenda Item 6 – Budget Overview

Fisher provides an overview of the submittals from the Sustainability and Resilience Office for supplemental asks for fiscal year 22-23. Fisher mentioned that this document was provided and overviewed many different times. Fisher states that staff did not go over in as much detail the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. CIP budget is more of the infrastructure such as bridges and roads. Sustainability and Resilience Office (SRO) does not receive any CIP line items directly, however SRO does advocate for several programs that get funneled to Engineering and Transportation staff. Fisher provides an overview of several CIP programs including:

- Community and Workplace Charging Infrastructure
- Energy Conservation Program
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Green Infrastructure
- Resilient Energy Bubs & Microgrids
- Solar Power Partnerships and Solar in City Facilities

Member Burke asks if we are going to use the same process this upcoming budget cycle to use the same process. Preparing comments, advocating, and attending council meetings were all very successful tactics.

Chair Jung asks in the supplemental budget asks there were a few asks that didn't get funded, can you remind the Commission what did not get funded at the eleventh hour?

Director Kay states that Council was trying to push the Climate Justice and Ingenious Land Stewardship Specialist through, but it did not end up getting funded.

Chair Jung asks what percentage of growth in CIP investment have we seen over the last few years?

Director Kay states it's been a little complicated but there has definitely been an increase. This years CIP is not that much difference in last years however the year before there was an additional \$3 million investment. One thing we will be looking towards is increasing what we are asking for in 27, 28... we want to increase our ask where the bond hasn't been asked for yet. Kay continues that we want to increase our budget in EV Charging as well as Green Infrastructure. On the CIP side, the Commission will need to focus on making bigger asks and advocating for that.

Commissioner Brundiers asks how can we leverage EV charging asks to support asks for renewable provisions, which is somewhat extended outside of our focus as it relates to utilities.

Kendon Jung says it's a great comment and a good thing to integrate into our talking points about how we are educating our community so they can advocate on their own.

Agenda Item 7- Housekeeping Items

Kendon Jung says he celebrates last week that Governor Ducey announced a \$40 million gift to the Global Institute of Sustainability to do water conservation and innovation work. Want to discover ways to work with ASU for a pilot space for these unique ideas.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Please refer future items to staff and CC Chair Jung

Motion: Commissioner Burke

Second: Commissioner Boyd

Decision: Approved 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Prepared by: Henry Pearson

Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher