



APPROVED Minutes

City of Tempe Sustainability Commission September 18, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, September 18, 2023, 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)
Barbie Burke (Vice Chair)
Natalie Mendoza
Katja Brundiers
Ben Paulat

Morgan Winburn
Jake Swanson
Shawn Swisher
Erin Boyd
Taylor Conley
Joshua Randall

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present:

Eric Iwersen
Brienne Fisher
Andy Escobar
Maddie Mercer
Evelyn Brumfield
Carissa Fowler
Tom Duensing

Guests Present:

Henrietta Locklear – Raftelis
Sierra Ross
Quinton Olson
Mark Roseland

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Chair Kendon Jung called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chair welcomed new Commissioners Taylor Conley and Ben Paulat and asked them to introduce themselves to the other members of the Commission.

Chair outlined mission statement, objectives, and strategic priorities of the Commission.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Sierra Ross, a Tempe resident, made herself known to the Commission. She did not share any public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Barbie Burke called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2023.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Jake Swanson

Decision: Approved 10-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiers

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Absent:

Joshua Randall (arrived late to meeting)

Agenda Item 4 – Energy Equity Pilot Program and Energy Efficiency Proclamation

Before moving into the presentation, Chair motioned to go back to Agenda Item 2 to allow a member of the public to make a statement.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Jake Swanson

Decision: Approved 10-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung
Barbie Burke
Jake Swanson
Shawn Swisher
Erin Boyd
Morgan Winburn
Natalie Mendoza
Katja Brundiers
Ben Paulat
Taylor Conley

Absent:

Joshua Randall (arrived late to meeting)

Andy Escobar, Climate Justice and Energy Equity Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Energy Equity Program, which was funded by a one-time supplemental during the FY 2021-2022 budget cycle. Escobar initially presented on the program—which aims to educate residents on energy policy and how to make energy decisions in their homes--in May 2023 and returned to provide an update.

This program came out of the Climate Justice Agenda of the CAP Update, which outlined residents' challenges with cooling their homes, especially in frontline communities that are impacted first and worst by climate change and extreme heat. The Energy Equity Program focuses on the Alegre, Escalante, and Victory Acres neighborhoods, which were identified due to their low median income, high poverty rate, and high median land surface temperatures (which, together, result in a high level of heat vulnerability in these neighborhoods).

Phase 1 of the program involved a Home Energy Kit giveaway, in which 48 households received both energy utility stipends and items to increase the energy efficiency of their home. The kits were designed in partnership with the community, with RAIL CDC leading community outreach to identify items that households would find most helpful. Phase 2 of the program will involve developing an Energy Equity Roadmap that identifies policy, programs, and infrastructure needed to address home energy and neighborhood energy needs. The roadmap will be co-developed with a Climate Justice Advisory Group, which will take part in 8 community workshops and be comprised of residents from the Alegre, Escalante, and Victory Acres neighborhoods.

Questions:

- Chair Jung asked how many of the Home Energy kits were in use now.
 - o Escobar responded that RAIL CDC is in the process of creating a survey to ask residents who received the kits if they found them helpful and if they are currently using them. Escobar added that RAIL CDC helped to deliver and install some of the items from the kits directly in residents' homes.
- Swanson mentioned the impact and damage that extreme heat has had on the local business community, and he asked if the scope of this project addresses the impact of extreme heat on vehicles or if there's any initiatives that support businesses.
 - o Escobar emphasized that the Climate Justice Advisory Group workshops will be shaped around community needs, so if participants express the need for support relating to vehicles or businesses, then those are things that could be addressed within the workshop.
 - o Fisher added that Escobar is also working with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce to hold some listening sessions for local businesses and their needs relating to energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Paulat asked what considerations were being taken for renters to qualify for this work.
 - o Escobar added that the conversations will be driven by the residents, and there are a significant number of renters in the project area. Escobar shared that these residents will have an opportunity to discuss their experience with getting assistance with energy efficiency programs. Additionally, part of developing the roadmap will involve learning from other cities' and their programs and initiatives that they've developed to serve renters' energy efficiency and weatherization needs.
- Randall asked how involved the City of Tempe is in discussions on rate increases with utilities.
 - o Fisher shared that the Sustainability and Resilience Office (SRO) has supported Mayor and Council in providing comments to policymakers in these conversations, and she shared that SRO is in the process of hiring a Grants and Policy Coordinator who will be tasked with this policy and advocacy work.
- Paulat asked if there is a business partnership to cover any of the remaining costs that utility energy retrofit programs don't address.
 - o Escobar responded that funding from the EECBG proposal may be used to cover residents' portion of utility rebate programs, helping to make them more accessible for residents who may not have the upfront

funding available. SRO is still in conversation with utility partners about this format and will provide an update when available.

- Chair Jung mentioned the upcoming Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation, and he asked what the Commission can do to help remove any barriers that the program is facing.
 - o Escobar responded that the Commission can support this work by being advocates for the Energy Equity Roadmap to Council and other stakeholders. Escobar added that the Commission could participate in the upcoming workshops for the Climate Justice Advisory Group.
 - o Fisher added asked that the Commission review the Energy Efficiency Day proclamation and to confirm their approval of the language. Fisher also invited Commissioners to participate in the Council meeting where the Mayor will read the proclamation.

Chair made a motion to approve the Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation language as written.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Shawn Swisher

Decision: Approved 11-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiers

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Joshua Randall

Agenda Item 5- Designing Resilient Desert City Competition Update

Commissioner Shawn Swisher provided an update on the Designing Resilient Desert City Competition, which sought to raise awareness of the strategies outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update and how they can shape the built environment. The competition aimed to help people to understand how the CAP Update could be implemented and how it

would affect the look and feel of Tempe. The competition was held in partnership with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Arizona and Phoenix Metro Chapter—which has held previous design competitions-- as well as the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Arizona Chapter, with additional sponsorship from SRP.

The design competition required participants to create a design for the EnVision Center/Apache Central site on Apache Blvd/Dorsey Ln. Participants were tasked to incorporate design elements relating to resilience hubs, green stormwater infrastructure, and the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The design competition jury consisted of the following members:

- Elizabeth McLean, AIA
- Brain Farling, AIA
- Selina Martinez, ASU Indigenous Design Collaborative
- Dr. Diane Pataki, ASU School of Sustainability
- Duke Reiter, FAIA
- Josh Rutherford, City of Tempe Economic Development
- Byron Sampson, ASLA

Swisher then outlined the student and professional design winners, sharing how their designs aligned with the brief and demonstrated the strategies outlined in the CAP Update. The two student team winners are from a studio at the Kazan State University in Kazan, Russia. Architekton received the professional honorable mention, and the professional category award went to a firm called 180 Degrees. All winning designs emphasized the provision of shaded public space and the flexible use of space during the everyday and emergency modes of activation. These designs will be useful tools in educating about the strategies from the CAP Update, especially in helping both designers and developers to visualize how these strategies can shape the built environment. Future competitions could identify other sites within Tempe or within the region to continue addressing designs to address extreme heat. In this competition, there were 22 entries overall.

Questions/Comments:

- Swanson commented about emergent leadership (which is a concept designed to help address emergent problems), which involves envisioning futures and conceptualizing them. Swanson noted that design competitions like this one help policy makers, designers, developers, and the general public to envision what a sustainable, cool future could look like in Tempe.
 - o Swisher added that the intent of an ideas competition is to inspire people to think big about what the future could look like without being too confined by the current state.

Agenda Item 6- International Green Construction Code Update & Letter of Support

Chair Jung outlined the letter of support for the International Green Construction Code (IgCC), which the Commission has been supporting throughout its development and now implementation. Chair noted that the first phase of the code will be voluntary to allow for developers to pilot the new code and promote a necessary culture shift before exploring a mandatory code. The IgCC was identified in the CAP Update as a highlight action that the Commission selected to advance.

Eric Iwersen added that the dates for the formal council hearings when IgCC will be discussed are October 12th and November 30th, with the voluntary code on track to be adopted before the end of 2023. Iwersen highlighted the on-going support from Brianne Fisher and the partnership with Community Development that has been integral in moving the IgCC towards its adoption. Partnership with Community Development will especially be important in the implementation of the code.

Chair made a motion to approve the letter of support for the IgCC.

Motion: Ben Paulat

Second: Morgan Winburn

Decision: Approved 11-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiars

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Joshua Randall

Agenda Item 7 – Housekeeping

Sustainability and Resilience Director Eric Iwersen provided several staff updates for the Sustainability and Resilience Office. Iwersen shared that the SRO is nearing the end of the hiring process for the Policy and Grants Coordinator, who is set to start in the middle of October. This position will be a shared position with another department. Iwersen also shared that the SRO has a new contract employee Carissa Fowler, who will be working on extreme heat mitigation and resilience. Iwersen shared that SRO will also be hiring a shared

Management Assistant position, with interviews for this role happening within the next 4-6 weeks. Finally, Iwersen mentioned that there are some on-going conversations with other departments about some other coordinator positions that could shift over to become part of SRO.

Iwersen provided an update on the Commission composition timeline, a process for changing the requirements to become part of the SRC. To make changes to the commission requirements, two Council hearings are required. These changes will be presented at the October 26th and November 30th council meetings, which will be adopted by the new year.

Chair Jung shared that his term as Chair is ending, and that there will be elections for the position of Chair in December 2023. Commissioners interested in running for Chair or Vice Chair will make their intentions known, and the new Chair and Vice Chair will be selected via majority vote.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Chair Jung asked Commissioners to send ideas for future meetings via email.

Commissioner Swanson motions to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Motion: Jake Swanson

Second: Taylor Conley

Decision: Approved 11-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiars

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Joshua Randall

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Prepared by: Maddie Mercer
Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher

Addendum:

[9/18 5:06 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

So would a non-single-family home owner refer to whoever owns the property and is renting it out to different individuals? Or would it refer to the people who are renting the apartments?

[9/18 5:06 PM] Morgan Winburn

aye

[9/18 5:07 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Natalie - we categorize types of housing by the type of zoning. Single family residential is describing the type of zoning (think homes on a culdesac). The other type of housing is "multi-family" think of condos, apartments.

[9/18 5:09 PM] Fisher, Brianne

It usually refers to the property owner. Typically we need permission from the property owner when we want to do any kind of improvements

like 1

[9/18 5:10 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

Thank you, Brianne. That was what I wasn't understanding. I didn't realize that we'd shifted from talking about the people living in those areas to the property owners who own property in those areas.

[9/18 5:14 PM] Fisher, Brianne

For the energy kits, all the items would be totally fine for a renter to use so we absolutely did not count them out! It does get more difficult and complex when we think about serious upgrades to AC or insulation. The issue is that property owners often then raise rates for renters because we have improved their homes/units.

[9/18 5:19 PM] Fisher, Brianne

All of the designs also really captured the emergency response needs for a resilience hub which was very cool to see!

heart 4

[9/18 5:23 PM] Barbie Burke (Guest)

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Thanks Shawn as it was a great competition and event!

[9/18 5:23 PM] Fisher, Brianne

HUGE lift from Shawn and major kudos to his work on this competition!

clappinghands 2 like 2

[9/18 5:26 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Well said Jake!

like 1

[9/18 5:27 PM] Jake Swanson (Guest)

For sure, thanks for building that space to explore.

[9/18 5:30 PM] Barbie Burke (Guest)

Getting this to this point for IGCC is a good first step.

[9/18 5:30 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

I notice that it says that there is an assurance of advancing towards a mandatory adoption in 2025. If the point of starting with a voluntary adoption is to allow for a culture shift, will a year to two years be enough time for a culture shift to occur? I think that when people aren't actively on a commission or aware of different city policies, it takes longer for people to realize that the world is changing.

[9/18 5:30 PM] Jake Swanson (Guest)

Tempe's success should not solely look at policies on the book, but consider the social and cultural shifts being made that will impact our built environment. < solid sentence, Kendon and Barbie!

like 1

[9/18 5:32 PM] Barbie Burke (Guest)

Thanks to Brianne for helping on this IgCC to get us to this point!

heart 1

[9/18 5:32 PM] Jake Swanson (Guest)

Natalie, I believe that Scottsdale had it voluntary from 2021 to 2023 and mandatory in 2023 as of July.

like 2

[9/18 5:33 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

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Jake: Thanks for the info. Its good to know that people are able to move and adapt quicker than my perceptions would have me believe.

[9/18 5:34 PM] Fisher, Brianne

We will be emailing you all when it is in front of Council for your awareness

[9/18 5:35 PM]

Sierra Ross (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:40 PM] Katja Brundiers

Thank you for your long-term committed tenure as chair, Kendon!

heart 2

[9/18 5:41 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Meeting adjourned at 5:41

[9/18 5:41 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

Thank you. I hope everyone enjoys their evening.

[9/18 5:41 PM] Mercer, Madeline

Thanks, all!

[9/18 5:42 PM] Ben Paulat (Guest)

Thanks all!

[9/18 5:42 PM] Brumfield, Evelyn

thank you!

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Morgan Winburn left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Quinton Olson (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM] Ben Paulat (Guest)

looking forward to working with you all

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Shawn Swisher (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM] Katja Brundiers

Thanks all!

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[9/18 5:42 PM]

Natalie Mendoza (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM] Katja Brundiers

Thank you, Maddy!

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Jake Swanson (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:45 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Please take some time to check our 2022 Climate Action Plan Update that is driving our work

like 1

[9/18 5:45 PM]

Barbie Burke (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:45 PM] Fisher, Brianne

<https://www.tempe.gov/home/showdocument?id=101145&t=638144662252390363>