



Minutes

City of Tempe Sustainability and Resilience Commission May 20, 2024

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, May 20, 2024, 4:30 p.m. hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Shawn Swisher (Chair)	Taylor Conley
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)	Ben Paulat
Barbie Burke	Joshua Randall
Erin Boyd	Jacob Bethem
Jake Swanson	

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Morgan Winburn
Taylor Conley

City Staff Present:

Eric Iwersen
Brienne Fisher
David Tavares
Helen Track
Dawn Ratcliffe
Maddie Mercer
Carissa Fowler
Evelyn Brumfield

Guests Present:

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and SRC Mission

Chair Swisher called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. and read the commissions' charge and mission.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

No public comments were shared.

Agenda Item 3 – Review of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting were accepted.

Motion: Commissioner

Second: Commissioner

Voted to Approve: 9-0

Agenda Item 4 – Diversion Program Updates

David Tavares, Deputy Municipal Utilities Director, gave an update about the city Diversion Program. The current program target for residential is 25% and 15% for commercial. Commingled and Green Waste Recycling are the two largest contribution categories in the diversion program. and to help reach these goals, a pilot green organic collection program is being offered to specific areas.

Commingled Recycling provides 10,467 tons of materials to the program with paper and cardboard being the most recycled components making 29% and 27% respectively. Green Waste Recycling gives 2,774 tons, approximately 20%, and an expansion of green organic collection is in place and nearby areas of the current pilot will also have this option.

In May of this year, after the IgCC guideline adoption, Inter Recycling was launched for residential and commercial purpose since the city must follow the IGCC guidelines by collecting concrete, cardboard, and other commodities to repurpose to a certain standard. Communication is one of their biggest challenges with the contractors since the criteria for the recycled content of these materials are very specific.

The Household Products Collection Center provides opportunities for zero waste day events and household Hazardous Wates (HHW). Since its opening in 2002, it has collected more than 6,991,167 tons, with 150,000 drop off and less than 1% of asbestos material. Recycling efforts were also extended to special events by adding composting as part of it.

Commissioner comments and questions included:

? - Have you done landfill repertorization for material in the landfill stream?

They did waste characterization in 2016 and found the number are different from the city of Phoenix. City of Tempe recoverable were 40%, and composable 30% which was very similar.

?- How could Tempe increase the collection of recycling materials?

A: David Tavares said increasing outreach campaigns and focus on the education piece of the different types of the material that can be recycled. Also, having outreach campaigns tailored to the needs of each area since they are different.

? - What is the current status of the recycling accessibility for multifamily?

A: David explained that multifamily recycling is not necessary provided by the city. The city price is very competitive since there is no profit. They are planning on going back to the Multi-family complexes that are getting the city service, addressing the service and fee provided to them versus the city 's service and fee.

? - Is there a city ordinance with recycling requirements?

A: David said there is not one.

? - What tools does the city use to address contamination stream?

A: David The city of Tempe can require recycling but cannot mandate the usage of the city recycle services, specifically cannot say you have to recycle xyz. The biggest challenge is to have the resources to be able to advocate.

? - Is there a plan to meet the 2025/2026 fiscal year goals?

A: David explained the residential goal for sure, but the commercial side is more difficult since they are competing with the private sector. The commercial doesn't recycle as much as they should it. They are expanding programs and reach out business to try to meet the goals.

Agenda Item 5 – Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Letter of Support

The ADU draft letter of support from the Sustainability & Resilience Commission was reviewed by the commissioners. Brienne Fisher, Climate Action Manager, gave an overview of the State Legislature Bill HB2720 that mandates that municipalities in Arizona with populations over 75,000 must adopt regulations to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on lots zoned for single-family homes. It requires that these lots permit at least one attached and one detached ADU, with an additional detached ADU allowed on lots over one acre if it is designated as affordable housing. The bill sets size limits for ADUs, removes certain restrictions such as additional parking or design matching requirements, and exempts specific lands from ADU regulations. Chair Swisher emphasized the benefits and opportunities the pre-approved plans will have in conjunction with the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) inclusion.

Suggestion to replace commend to support, and desire to intention, in the Additional and Diverse Appropriately Scale Density paragraph.

Chair Swisher asked Community Development to provide any ADU policy changes or adjustments based on the new State Bill before the June 5, NAC meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Sustainability and Resilience Commission Vice Chair

Commissioner Kendon Jung, current Sustainability and Resilience Commission Vice Chair, due to unforeseen career opportunities will serve as a Vice Chair Until September 2024. Chair Swisher explained the new Vice Chair term will start at the October 21, 2024, meeting and it would serve until December. In January of 2025, there will be a new vice chair election to serve another term.

SRC Member Motion: Chair Swisher made a motion to appoint Erin Boyd as the new Sustainability and Resilience Commission Vice Chair.

Second: Commissioner Jung seconded the motion

Result: The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of those present, 9 ayes and 0 nays

Agenda Item 7 – Joint Meeting with Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

Brianna Fisher, Climate Action Manager, went over the agenda items that will be discussed during the June 5 Joint Meeting with Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

- Valley Metro Streetcar Extension Study
- ADUs Policy and Letter from SRC
- Rain Roots Masterplan

This meeting will take place of the June's SRC meeting. It will be in person at the Don Cassano Conference Room.

Agenda Item 8 – Sustainability and Resilience Commission Dates of Interest

Brianna Fisher, Climate Action Manager, shared the calendar events with the Commission. She highlighted some upcoming events the Commission should attend it.

Chair Swisher asked if there will be time for any updates or actions that the Commission will need to be involved in. Brianna said that in the joint meeting there will be no time, and if any updates are needed, she will follow up virtually. Brianna will confirm if the Council has the ADU proposal at the June 20 meeting, and encouraged commissioners to attend it. Chair Swisher suggested the ADUs letter of support be issued before the June 20 meeting.

Commissioner comments and questions included:

Commissioner Jung reminded the legislative bill that was approved last year which cities are no longer allowed to collect rental taxes. Tempe is impacted the most of any other city in Arizona since it is a residential rental city.

? - Since there are some budget constraints, will the programs be funded by grants?

A: Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager, explained the grant position is helping with the grant management system, supporting the Transportation and Sustainability department, and helping other departments finding certain grants. The position is not a grant writer. There are a lot of federal funds available, and the department is constantly looking for them. Eric Iwersen added that the merger of the Transportation and Sustainability divisions, ended up creating funding allocation strategies benefiting both divisions equally.

? - Are you getting any support or partnership from faculty within the University?

The largest program, Growing Together, was created through this opportunity and there is an APA grant they are working with ASU as well.

Agenda Item 9 – Sustainability and Resilience Office Updates and Housekeeping

Eric Iwersen, Transportation and Resilience Director updated the commission on the new Budget Director, Ben Beutler. Ben has more than 15 years of experience and was the City of Peoria Budget Manager. He starts on June 3rd. Tom Duesing, CFO - Chief Deputy City Manager, is retiring and his last day will be in the beginning of July. There interview process for this position started this week.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Item

Bicycle Infrastructure

Climate Resilience and Capital projects

Update status of the international green construction code (IgCC) program and the impact on developers.

Green Building and Energy Conservation Specialist position update

Invite Anthony Floyd, City of Scottsdale Sr Building Consultant, to the October meeting.

Chair Swisher motions to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Motion: Chair Swisher

Second: Commissioner Kendon

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm.

Prepared by: Carla Sidi

Reviewed by: