



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission February 21, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission held on Monday, February 17, 2017, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Garden Level, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
Alix Monty
Anne Gill
Colin Tetreault – by phone

Corey Hawkey
Gretchen Reinhardt

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Jessica Hauer
Carol Hu
Arnim Wiek

John F. Kane (Chair)
Leah Gibbons

City Staff Present:

Don Bessler, Public Works Director
Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner

Carla Sidi, Executive Assistant
Shannon Warner, Neighborhood Manager
Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner

Guests Present:

Elba Brown, Stronger Together AZ
Ashley Camhi, Stronger Together AZ
Mary Reinhart, Stronger Together AZ
David Morrison, Stronger Together AZ

Councilmember Lauren Kuby
Linda Ruehlman, Stronger Together AZ
Julie Allen, Stronger Together AZ

Vice Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance

Vice Chair Jung asked for members of the public to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Jung introduced the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Hawkey

Second: Commissioner Monty

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Recap Previous Presentations

There was no presentation to be recapped or that needs clarification.

Agenda Item 4 – NGO – Stronger Together AZ

Ashley Camhi introduced Stronger Together AZ Environment & Sustainability Committee to the Commission. She explained that they are an action and advocacy based group that fosters community service and civic engagement with over 8,000 residents throughout Arizona.

Their primary goal is to increase awareness of legislation at all levels of government. They would like to have more community involvement by partnering with school organizations, helping with government programs like adopt-a-park and outreach opportunities with the community.

Agenda Item 5 – Hayden Butte Project

Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner, gave an update on the Hayden Butte Preserve Management Plan, and shared some of the challenges and recommendations identified through the process. This is Tempe's first preserve management plan. Discussion about:

- Definition, education, maintenance and enforcement preserves
- Management plan will be created to provide a blueprint for :
 - Addressing the unsolicited requests the city receives for use of the Butte
 - Defining and controlling appropriate level of activities
 - Identifying improvements
 - Addressing challenges – erosion, off trails activities, urban camping, graffiti and others
- This first preserve management plan may be followed by subsequent plans for:
 - Papago Butte
 - Bell Butte
 - Papago Regional Park (Tempe)
- Community Outreach was discussed
 - Stakeholder meeting March/April
 - Public open house – April

Agenda Item 6 – 5th Street

Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner, gave an update on the draft concept of the 5th Street Streetscape Plan. This concept reflects the collective feedback from the different Boards and Commissions sharing responsibility, the Sustainability Commission and the Transportation Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding the design, streetscape, low impact development techniques and traffic impact.

Next Public meeting is April 4th. Staff will present the concept to the City Council on April 6th.

Agenda Item 7 – State of Neighborhoods Event

Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager, reminded the Commission that the Sustainability Award will be presented at the State of Neighborhoods on April 22nd. Deadline for the application award was February 15th and Commission will go through all applications at the next meeting. The event will spark a series of sustainability topics. There will be a series of efforts that residents can do on their own at home. Each session will last between three to five minutes, in different topics like energy upgrades, composting, water conservation, edible landscape, backyard chickens and how to activate your neighborhood.

Braden asked the Commission to send him any other suggestions.

Agenda Item 8 – Effort for Earth Week

Vice Chair Jung asked if the city could provide a list of efforts and events for Earth Week. He would like to share the city and ASU events to help the Commission support this effort. He also asked if the Commissioners could send Carla ideas of how each of them would like to explore promoting Earth Week in their area of expertise.

Agenda Item 9 – Sub-Committees

Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager, gave an update on the Subcommittee process. He will finalize the memos and send it to the City Clerk.

Agenda Item 10 – Council Referrals

Rainwater Harvesting pilot project process
Deferred to the next meeting

Agenda Item 11 – Staff Updates

Deferred to the next meeting

Agenda Item 12 – Housekeeping items

Deferred to the next meeting

A motion was made to re-agendize items 10, 11, 12 to the March meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Monty

Second: Commissioner Gill

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda

2017 Retreat – April 2017
Sustainability Subcommittees – March 2017
Urban Forest – March 2017
5th Street short version presentation – March 2017
Efforts for Earth Week–February 2017
State of Neighborhoods– February 2017

Commissioner Hawkey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Gill seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

Prepared by: Carla Sidi

Reviewed by: Don Bessler