



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission May 15, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission held on Monday, May 15, 2017, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Garden Level, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

John F. Kane (Chair)
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
Alix Monty
Colin Tetreault – phone

Gretchen Reinhardt
Anne Gill
Corey Hawkey
Leah Gibbons

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Carol Hu

Arnim Wiek

City Staff Present:

Don Bessler, Public Works Director
Carla Sidi, Executive Assistant
Jennifer Svetichan, PW Supervisor

Grace DelMonte Kelly, PW Supervisor
Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy PW Director Engineering
Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager

Guests Present:

Councilmember Lauren Kuby
Ashley Camhi, Stronger Together AZ
Sheila Scanlau, Stronger Together AZ

Linda Ruehlman, Stronger Together AZ
Danae Presler, Chandler Resident
Mick Dalrymple, University Sustainability Practices Director

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance

Don introduced a few new City of Tempe staff that will be working on a more regular basis with the commission. Marilyn DeRosa is the new Deputy PW Director Engineering. She used to be the Deputy PW Director Water Utilities. Grace DelMonte Kelly, PW Supervisor will start reporting to Marilyn DeRosa in the Engineering Division. This restructure will be very beneficial since Grace works with energy conservation projects and can rely on Engineering to support her in managing solar projects. Jennifer Svetichan, PW Supervisor, is also the new to Engineering. Jennifer works very closely with Marilyn DeRosa and will be assisting the Commission.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Jung introduced the minutes of the April 17, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion.

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Tetreault

Second: Commissioner Monty

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Recap Previous Presentations

None

Agenda Item 4 – ASU Climate Initiative

Commissioner Hawkey introduced Mick Dalrymple, University Sustainability Practices Director. Mick gave an overall view how sustainability programs are organized at ASU.

- The role of University Sustainability Practices and Global Institute of Sustainability
 - ✓ Global Institute of Sustainability – Focus on education, research, outreach, solutions, community engagement, and impact solution in the community and global. Walton Solutions is also part of the Global Institute
 - ✓ University Sustainability Practices – It reports to the Vice President of Business Services, Nicole Luoma. Focus on coordination, engagement, practices and measurement. Coordination to help the university to reach the four sustainability goals.
- He explained the advantages of being housed under the Business Services and the pros of interfacing with services that are key to sustainability and helping with their sustainability metrics and goals.
- In the process of finishing the first fiscal year project report in sustainability
 - ✓ Greenhouse inventory yearly
 - ✓ Learning more about facilities, construction, procurement process
- Zero Waste and Energy Innovation. In Energy Innovation reduce carbon footprint and improve energy savings. In Zero Waste recycling programs and improved diversion rate, 7% a year. Between 2022 and 2025 get zero waste improved by 9% a year. Divert things to a higher value possible besides recycling.
- Working on updating the Climate Carbon plan- what is the next big idea?
 - ✓ Portfolio approach on energy savings – energy efficiency
 - ✓ Ranking carbon initiatives based on potential impact and cost per ton. Discussion about cost per ton
 - ✓ Tree planting – carbon offset
 - ✓ Retrofitting Buildings - opportunity in energy and water efficiency

Agenda Item 5 – Commission 2017 Retreat

Commissioners discussed the 2017 retreat format, content and different date ranges. Commissioners would like to brainstorm more to determine their tangible outcomes. A facilitator is desired. Braden will bring facilitator options to the next Commission meeting.

Carla will look for a few different weekends during the month of September at the Eisendrath House and send out to the Commissioners.

Agenda Item 6 – State of the Neighborhood & Sustainability Award

Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager, mentioned the award recipients and how excited and appreciative they were for getting the awards. He highlighted some parts of the event and the impact of the speakers on the community. The content of the event will be available at the end of the summer for the community.

Braden will send the winners' pictures to Carla to be posted on the Commission website

Agenda Item 7 – Water Subcommittee

Commissioner Monty gave an update on the Water Subcommittee's first meeting. They outlined a few topics and prioritized some projects they foresee as valuable:

- ✓ Water Rates
- ✓ Water Harvesting – codes and regulatory
- ✓ Climate and Water

Agenda Item 8 – Urban Core Subcommittee

Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager, gave an update on the Urban Core Subcommittee meeting. Braden talked about the Urban Core plan that is currently out for RFP. They talked about downtown, streetcar project, land use and affordable housing created to support the streetcar project.

Discussion about climate action plan and heat island and how to incorporate those into the Urban Core plan.

Agenda Item 9 – Staff Updates

Don gave an update about the current rate studies for Water/ Waste Water and Solid Waste. . The city combined these two utilities in the same rate study cycle to allow improved transparency and engagement.

Don explained the incline block rate structure for water and the four tiers for single family residential customers, based on water usage/consumption. The tiered rates encourage water conservation and benefit all residential customers by charging lower rates for water used in the lower tiers. All customers in this class pay the same rate per structure, regardless of their total usage. With Council direction, this year's rate study is re-evaluating the incline block structure, multipliers, number of tiers and wastewater return flow rate.

City Council directed staff to reach out to the highest tier users and flood irrigation customers to encourage an understanding of conservation programs and provide education. The city hired Six Degrees Consultants to help collecting a more comprehensive understanding opinions of these two customer types identified by City Council – high use single family residential users and flood irrigation customers. Residents have been attending workshops addressing solid waste, water rates, conservation, how people feel about water as a resource, and other issues related to these topics.

The City Council Water Working Group has been meeting with staff to talk about outreach, high user residents, flood irrigation customers, how we define customer classes, different demands, peak time and cost assignments.

The Sustainability Commission can help with policy recommendations and staff will consider how to appropriately incorporate those recommendations into the rate study.

The Utility Rate Study Recommendation will be presented to City Council on September 7th.

Don gave an update on the McClintock Road project. He talked about the importance of the upcoming Transportation and Sustainability Commission meetings, as an opportunity for the public to express their opinions, for the Commissions to consider in their respective recommendations to the City Council.

The McClintock Bike Lane will be presented next month to the Commission and will be presented to City Council on June 29th.

Agenda Item 10 – Housekeeping Items

Commissioner Hauer has resigned and City Council will be appointing a new Commissioner for the Tempe Public High School Teacher vacancy.

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda

2017 Retreat – June 2017
Fire Station #7 – June 2017
Greenhouse Gas Inventory – June 2017
McClintock Update – June 2017
Utility Rates – August 2017
Country Club alignment – July 2017

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

Prepared by: Carla Sidi
Reviewed by: Don Bessler