



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission November 20, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission held on Monday, November 20, 2017, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

John F. Kane (Chair)	Gretchen Reinhardt
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)	Arnim Wiek
Stephanie Milam-Edwards	Anne Gill
Colin Tetreault (phone)	Corey Hawkey

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Alix Monty	Leah Gibbons
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City Staff Present:

Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy Public Works Director - Engineering
Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager
Grace DelMonte Kelly, Energy Management Coordinator

Guests Present:

Lauren Kuby, Councilmember
Kolby Granville, Councilmember
Sukki Jahnke, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Arlinda Bajrami, Arizona Sustainability Alliance
Kimber Lanning, Local First Arizona
Helene Tack, Local First Arizona

Chair Kane called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Kane introduced the minutes of the October 16 meeting and asked for a motion.

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Tetrault

Second: Commissioner Gill

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Recap Previous Presentations

There were no presentations to be recapped or that needed clarification.

Agenda Item 4 – Sustainable Business Opportunities

Commissioner Gill introduced Sukki Jahnke of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce who presented the Sustainability pledge. The pledge is a program which has a comprehensive online resource to help create a more sustainable workplace. The City sponsored \$5,000 last year and the Chamber is asking for a re-commitment.

There is a pledge directory and there has been a lot of traffic on the website. The Chamber hopes to host workshops, events, and get additional sponsors. The sponsorship is in alignment with council priorities, charter of the commission, and the city manager's strategic planning initiatives.

The website will show where there are programs in place, goals, and highlights of businesses and their sustainability initiatives. Sukki said sponsorship benefits the companies and continued sponsorship from larger agencies and businesses can help smaller companies.

Kimber Lanning of Local First Arizona said she is interested in starting a green certification program. California is looking for a state to partner with and they would like to work with them and start a program with two cities, Phoenix and Tempe. Helene Tack of Local First Arizona said they started to look at sustainability and they have a lot of members from small businesses to large businesses in agriculture/farmers. They want to promote them and inspire others to improve practices so they wish to recognize business with the green certification program. They would lease the website with California. They need a minimum of \$40,000. Businesses would apply for green certification. They have to go in to the site and provide information on process and the Local First Arizona team would audit/visit businesses. A site visit is required to verify.

The fees would be low cost to participate. They will charge larger amounts for larger businesses. Businesses could tell the story of waste diversion, for example. It's important to encourage and incentivize new behavior. They requested \$12,500 commitment for each year for the next 3 years, with Tempe and Phoenix splitting the cost of the website.

There was no action on this item. The item was continued to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Urban Food

Commissioner Wiek presented the work that he and his students have been doing on urban food.

His students are trying to address issues with local economy and health:

- 40% of food in country is wasted from consumed food in Maricopa County
- 1% is produced locally
- European cities are at 50%
- Carbon footprint from food distribution system

To move toward more locally produced food, they are sorting out who is doing anything. They have ideas about teaching about what a food cooperative is. They hosted a meeting to move the local food economy forward.

There are 2500 farms in Arizona. Only a small fraction are production foods. 40 came to Singh meadows. There are opportunities to present them 18 solutions to say here are examples of how to distribute and process.

There are 20 students and grad students. In January, they will do another activity. Commissioners discussed partnering with high schools.

There are local examples: Edible Phoenix, Farmer's market, and Phoenix Children's Hospital does workshops. They would love to do it in Tempe. There are opportunities to draft and email to Mayor and Council and Economic development to make these projects real and move them forward faster.

Agenda Item 6 – Water Subcommittee Updates

Sustainability Manager Braden Kay introduced council member Granville and said there are 3 things the Water Subcommittee has been working on:

1. Overall set of values to recommend to Council
2. Recommendation letter to Council to approve utility rate recommendations
3. Recommendation letter on rainwater harvesting

Councilmember Granville thanked the commission for their work on this. He requested that the group move forward rainwater harvesting recommendations. There was a Council working group last year that looked at collecting water around buildings and they settled on moving forward on rainwater initiatives instead of gray water. He would like something to take to Council to say they are moving the program forward. What things will move the program forward?

Deputy Public Works Director Marilyn DeRosa said about 1-1/2 years ago, they pledged funds for the Sustainable Cities Network with other cities who pledged funding to develop a Light Impact Development (LID) handbook. Scottsdale will secure an on-call consultant, the handbook will be developed and then they will put the standards into city codes. Staff knows Council is interested in moving this forward.

Commissioner Kane said the two projects they are working on, 5th Street and Fire Station #7 are projects that will demonstrate rainwater harvesting concepts.

Commissioner Jung presented the values, vision and guiding principles of the water subcommittee as a roadmap. . The letter introduced the goals and values. Individuals on the Commission can go to Council on November 30th in support of the water rates. When you speak on the 30th, you are speaking in support of the memo you already sent to Council. The recommendation letter is a guidance for the next rate study.

The Water Subcommittee will meet and in January and the whole commission can discuss this with Holly Rosenthal, the new Public Works Deputy Director – Water.

Agenda Item 7 – Urban Core Subcommittee Updates

No update.

Agenda Item 8 – Housekeeping Items

For future presentations, staff needs to add time allotted for each presentation and each agenda item. Need to get bios for new members. Also, if there are items to review, commissioners request to have the presentations in advance.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda

Sustainable Business Opportunities – Need a proposal in writing from Chamber and Local First Arizona
For January Sustainability Commission meeting, invite Holly Rosenthal, new Deputy PW Director Water to January
Sustainability Commission meeting so the commission can share their work with Holly.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Jung

Second: Commissioner Milam-Edwards

Decision: Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly

Reviewed by: Carla Sidi