



## Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission Retreat September 30, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission held on Saturday, September 30, 2017, 8:00 a.m., at the Eisendrath Annex, 255 E. Marigold Lane, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

John F. Kane (Chair)  
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)  
Alix Monty  
Anne Gill

Gretchen Reinhardt  
Arnim Wiek  
Colin Tetreault  
Corey Hawkey

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Carol Hu  
Leah Gibbons  
Stephanie Milam-Edwards

**City Staff Present:**

Don Bessler, Public Works Director  
Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager  
Carla Sidi, Executive Assistant  
Grace DelMonte Kelly, Energy Management Coordinator

Chair Kane called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance**

None.

**Agenda Item 2 – Audacity Activity**

Dr. Lauren Keeler facilitated a workshop activity on sustainability goals and potential actions that can be taken to make Tempe sustainable.

**Agenda Item 3 – Presentation on Council Priorities**

Dr. Braden Kay presented the Council priorities, reviewed commission mandate and related city council sustainability performance measures.

**Agenda Item 4 – Sustainability Review**

Commissioners reviewed sustainability performance measures and looked at focus areas for the 2018 Sustainability Commission workplan.

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### Agenda Item 5 – Sustainability Strategy Building

City Council priority #4 "Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by actively seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community."

Commissioners in breakout groups discussed three focus areas: water, energy and land use & built environment. They focused on developing a process to:

- 1) Recommend policy,
- 2) Recommend performance measures
- 3) Pursue pilot projects

to work on over the next year as part of the Commission workplan.

Summary of three main topics is as follows:

#### Water – Policy Recommendation

The group recommended:

- Comprehensive review of city codes to determine alignment with water goals/metrics
- Performance metrics can be progressive over time so that aspirational goals can be achieved
- Goal is not to change water rates reactively, but proactively

Policy Recommendation process:

- Establish subcommittee
- Create and adopt guiding principles
- Access existing policy
- Find evidence, data for recommendations
- Involve stakeholders and educate stakeholders; bring in experts and educators
- Connect to other cities
- Draft and present policy:

Creating Policy recommendations:

- Bring policy recommendation to commission
- Commission determines if it will be taken up
- Commission assigns to subcommittee
- Subcommittee develops policy recommendation by engaging experts and public as necessary
- Sub-committee brings back to commission
- Commission votes
- Commission determines how to take to council

#### Energy – Performance Measures

The group recommended:

- To revise the two existing performance measures to increase the renewable energy measure and to rewrite the reduction measure; and to add two community energy performance measures.
- Include transportation (fleet, vehicle emissions) into municipal renewable energy target
- Need evidence to determine the ultimate goal, year and target
- Add community energy reduction goal
- Add community renewable energy goal, include transit

Energy Performance measure revision process:

- Establish targets with research
- Look into other cities with carbon neutrality to see what they did.
- New subcommittee?
- Participate in Council Energy working group meetings
- Identify other stakeholder groups to help us advocate

### Land Use – Pilot Project

The group discussed:

- Satisfaction with infrastructure
- Conditions of street
  - PQI streets
  - Urban tree canopy
  - Parks and public spaces
  - shade
- Conditions of multi modal transport
  - Water distribution System
  - Fiber connectivity
  - accessibility
- Multi modal transport
- Beyond ADA
  - Revised 10 year plan and spending goal
  - Facilities Condition Index (FCI) – revise water, energy, ADA measure, pilot project remodel city hall

The group recommended:

- City Hall and land remodel that incorporates four existing performance measures that relate to buildings and green infrastructure
- Determine how commission can be part of the project
- Determine measures and ROI
- Help inform the RFP
- Identify measurement before and after development to determine energy and water savings.  
Create a template for future projects; include revisions to performance measures about facilities condition index.

### Agenda Item 6 –Big Goals for Sustainability Commission and 2017 Report to Council

Council Priority: Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by actively seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community.

### Sustainability Commission Accomplishments for 2017 as they relate to the above-mentioned Council Priority:

- Supported Sustainability Manager and endorsing their work plan
- Created Water Subcommittee to support water rate study, water conservation and rainwater harvesting
- Created Urban Core subcommittee which reviewed the RFP for the urban core master plan

- Commission created Sustainability Award categories for Residents and Businesses at the 2017 Mayor's State of the Neighborhood Awards and Workshop
- Supported progress on Climate Action Plan and submittal of a Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory as part of Compact of Mayor's Commitment
- Initiate collaboration with the Tempe Transportation Commission on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Beautification project that met the urban forestry performance measure and the water capture performance measure
- Used networks and communications platforms to communicate to Tempe businesses, organizations, and residents about sustainability issues and programs.
- Held annual retreat to assure the commission's workplan is in alignment with City Council's strategies, priorities and performance measures
- The commission reviewed multiple city projects and programs, made comments, and wrote letters of recommendation to City Council to support sustainability efforts in the city.

### **Goals Related to City Council Strategic Priorities (Next 12 Months):**

Council Priority: Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by actively seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community.

- Commission will study water issues and form water policy recommendations to forward to City Council. The commission will make recommendations on revising conservation targets, adding additional programs, and adopting new rates, codes, and polices.
- Commission will recommend revisions to the existing performance measures focused on energy. The commission will research potential targets, look at other cities with carbon neutrality to see what they did, participate in Council energy working group meetings and identify other stakeholder groups to help advocate for a clean energy transition. The revised performance measures should be a part of the development of the Climate Action Plan and include transportation (fleet, vehicle emissions) in the municipal renewable energy goal and include a community-wide renewable energy goal.
- Commission will engage in a Land Use Pilot Project for City Hall & land remodel that incorporates four existing performance measures that relate to buildings and green infrastructure. The Commission will review measures and ROI, help inform the RFP for the City Hall renovation, and identify metrics to determine energy and water savings. This process will be used to recommend changes to engineering policies on new municipal buildings, and changes to city code to support transformative sustainability outcomes for all buildings in Tempe.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Attendance requirement and success factors for the Commission**

The commissioners discussed absences and Dr. Keeler facilitated. The commission is concerned about not having a quorum and commissioners need to call in advance to let the Chair know if they are not coming to the meeting. The commission agreed to keep this item open until resolved.

### **Agenda Item 8 - Conclusion**

Commissioner Hawkey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Monty seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly

Reviewed by: Don Bessler