



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission May 21, 2018

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, May 21, 2018, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Corey Hawkey (Chair)
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
John F. Kane
Reyna Olvey

Gretchen Reinhardt
Alix Monty
Anne Gill

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Arnim Wiek
Laura Medina
Stephanie Milam-Edwards

City Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Nancy Buell, Escalante Community Garden
Sandy Whitley, Citizens Climate Lobby
Ted Zislis, Citizens Climate Lobby
Miguel Ortega

Chair Hawkey called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance

Chair Hawkey asked members of the public to introduce themselves. Nancy Buell, Sandy Whitley, Ted Zislis, and Miguel Ortega introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Hawkey introduced the minutes of the April 16th meeting. Commissioner Monty made a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Jung

Second: Commissioner Monty

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Introduction of New Commissioner

Chair Hawkey introduced new Commissioner Reyna Olvey. The commission welcomed Commissioner Olvey.

Agenda Item 4 – Office of Sustainability Update

Sustainability Manager Braden Kay said the Office of Sustainability has received several grants. He sent the commission a memo with an overview of the USDN extreme heat outreach grant, a grant from Canada that includes funds for temporary staff, and other grants.

Braden said the first public hearing for the budget will be on June 7th and the second public hearing will be held on June 28th. There is a position for a sustainability director and there will be a competitive process. Braden said internship notices went out for two positions to help with the climate action plan and sustainable buildings & infrastructure. An intern from the University of Wisconsin is helping us this summer.

Braden said we got an offer from APS to be included in their 400 MW – 800 MW utility scale solar project. We would go from 10% to 20% solar in city facilities. We will move forward to put in a bid given our close partnership with APS. We put out an energy consultant RFP, received 10 bids, and will review applicants.

In the proposed city budget, the following items are funded: increased funding for living infrastructure including an urban forester, water efficiency efforts, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and a remodel of council chambers. The 5th Street streetscape project did not make it into the budget.

Agenda Item 5 – Presentation by Anthony Kamson

Anthony Kamson said he is a managing member of Kamson Financial investment company. He raises capital from communities to fund projects and cooperatives. He said income disparity is increasing and with larger corporations in the system, there are less people needed to do the work. The cooperative business model is the most sustainable and the family farm is centered on food production. Incentives are needed to encourage small food producers. It is important to do capacity building so that people have an understanding of what the food cooperative is about. There is a need for capacity building.

Commissioners asked if he is requesting funding. Anthony said he is looking for more than funding. He needs interns, workspace and other resources. The commissioners recommended that Braden Kay connect Anthony with city staff in Economic Development where this may be a better fit.

Agenda Item 6 – Innovation Fund Presentation

Sustainability Manager Braden Kay said there was \$500K set aside for organizations or staff to ask for an innovation fund grant. The City Council listened to 3-minute presentations by a number of groups and ended up funding the following:

- (1) Grease cooperative grease trap assistance program
- (2) Career ready Tempe
- (3) Equity in Action
- (4) Local First green business local certification program
- (5) Mobile recreation program
- (6) Seleh Park floating island

(7) Wastewater study relating to opioid use

Agenda Item 7 – Solid Waste Innovation (SMART and Marketing in Action)

Sustainability Manager Braden Kay introduced Dawn Ratcliffe, Recycling Coordinator, and said that there are two efforts in the city focusing on trash and recycling. One is the SMART program, or “Save Money and Recycle Tempe”, which incentivizes reducing the size of the trash can. The other is a USDN grant to encourage behavior change to reduce contamination in recycling.

Recycling Coordinator Dawn Ratcliffe presented the SMART program and talked about how the program is set up and that a 96-gallon bin would cost more monthly for residential customer pickup than the 48-gallon bin. Other cities noticed this effort can reduce waste over time. They are doing public outreach and communicating the program through:

- Door hangers
- Mailings
- NextDoor
- Tempe Today
- Events
- Banner
- Wrangler News
- AZ Republic
- Neighborhood events at the lakes

Dawn said they have over 1,350 people signed up. This is for residential curbside only. Just over 13,000 customers are curbside. Commissioners asked what they are doing with old bins and Dawn said they are keeping them in case customers request to go back to the larger bins. Deputy Public Works Director – Engineering Marilyn DeRosa said that once the program rolls out in July, data will be collected to see how people are using the cans, how much is collected, etc. Chair Hawkey thanked Dawn and Braden for the presentation and for their work on this.

Agenda Item 8 – Carbon Fee and Dividend

Sandy Whitley, State Co-coordinator and a volunteer with the Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) presented on several national, revenue-neutral, carbon fee and dividend proposals. CCL’s goal is to have the commission endorse a national-level, revenue-neutral, carbon fee and dividend approach to addressing climate change.

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is a 10-year-old volunteer organization that believes a revenue-neutral, carbon fee and dividend assessed at the national level is the fastest, most effective and most transparent way to reduce carbon emissions in the needed time-frame and at the required scale.

The three pillars of the CCL plan are: (1) Carbon fee at source of extraction (mine, well, port of entry) – starting at \$15 per ton CO₂ equivalent and increases annually by \$10 (2) 100% net fees are returned to American households on an equal basis, and (3) a border tariff adjustment is placed on goods imported from or exported to, countries without an equivalent price on carbon.

Climate mitigation is thought to be a global issue, but when incidents happen, they happen at a local level. The Citizens’ Climate Lobby meets regularly with all members of Congress to build relationships and educate elected officials on the details of a revenue-neutral carbon fee & dividend approach. Elected officials are more inclined to support a specific climate mitigation action if there is local support, and that’s why CCL is asking for the Sustainability Commission’s support.

Commissioners asked how the proposed re-distribution would be returned to households and who would manage the program. Sandy said 100% of the fees would be returned to households, resulting in 2/3 of all households breaking even or receiving more in their dividend checks than they would pay in higher prices due to the fee (thereby protecting the middle class and lower-income households). The IRS would administer the program. REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) estimates that during the first 20 years 2.8 million new jobs above baseline would be created, 230,000 premature deaths would be avoided, and there would be a 50% reduction of carbon emissions below 1990 levels.

Commissioners asked if renters or homeowners would get a different amount. Sandy replied it is per individual in the household. Children would be included in the household until age 19. It would be the same amount per 4-person household regardless of income level. Commissioners asked why the price per ton is \$15 the first year (then increases by \$10/year). Sandy said because it is business friendly and predictable. Commissioners asked if the lobby is recommending council have a resolution. Braden said council has not passed any non-binding resolutions. Another option would be a letter coming from Mayor and Council. He recommended CCL speaking with the vice mayor.

The commission discussed their priorities from the fall retreat and said they are working on water, energy and sustainable infrastructure in their workplan. They discussed whether this topic would fit in with subcommittees or the climate action plan. Braden said as part of the climate action plan there are things they can put into the next CIP budget. He said they could have Intel come to a future commission meeting and talk about carbon pricing. Commission took no action but agreed to continue to discuss this as a future agenda item

Agenda Item 9- Sustainable Construction & Infrastructure

Sustainability Manager Braden Kay said he put out a notice to hire an intern to look at policies around new municipal buildings and said city staff is looking for guidance for infrastructure policy including heat mitigation and urban cooling. They are looking at rating systems, and sustainable materials. He asked the commission to think about sustainable infrastructure and help him prioritize what the intern should be working on. There was no action on this item.

Agenda Item 10 – Housekeeping Items

There were none.

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items:

Climate Action Plan

Sustainable Communication Strategy

Future presentation of wastewater research to make health decisions on opioids

Phoenix High School district participation of soliciting ideas for student's sustainability projects

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Monty

Second: Commissioner Reinhardt

Decision: Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly

Reviewed by: Marilyn DeRosa & Braden Kay