



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission January 14, 2019

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, January 14, 2019, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Chair)
Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)
John F. Kane
Arnim Wiek
Stephanie Milam-Edwards

Gretchen Reinhardt
Serita Sulzman
Barbie Burke
Steven Russell
Sukki Jahnke

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Reyna Olvey

City Staff Present:

Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy Public Works Director - Engineering
Grace DelMonte Kelly, Energy Management Coordinator
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner
Vanessa Spartan, Transportation Planner

Guests Present:

Deron Lozano, Valley Metro
Lauren Withycombe-Keeler, ASU
Chloe Durfee-Sherman, ASU
Cliff Anderson, Citizen's Climate Lobby

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance

Chair Jung asked the guests to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Jung introduced the minutes of the December 10th meeting. Vice Chair Mores made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Burke Seconded.

Motion: Vice Chair Mores

Second: Commissioner Burke

Decision: Approved 10-0, all present approved

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung (Chair)

Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)

John F. Kane

Arnim Wiek

Stephanie Milam-Edwards

Gretchen Reinhardt

Serita Sulzman

Barbie Burke

Steven Russell

Sukki Jahnke

All present approved

Agenda Item 3 – Introduction of New Commissioners

Chair Jung asked new commissioner members to introduce themselves. All new and existing commissioners introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Air Quality

Justin Bern the City's Environmental Services Program Supervisor introduced himself and said his Division is responsible for making sure the city complies with regulations in all air quality activities. He discussed:

- Tempe air quality activities
- Regulatory measures
- Organizational and structure – environmental compliance ensures the city meets federal, state requirements
- Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist, is responsible for environmental compliance
- Code enforcement also assists with compliance

Environmental programs include responsibility for required permits for city operations. We comply with county and county rules. We have generators that have emissions or can have dust from over seeding grass. PM 10 readings are in our reporting to ADEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality) and Maricopa County Air Quality. We have a report that is part of a state implementation plan. We work with our partners at MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments) and Maricopa County to meet goals for air quality for PM 10.

We do inspections of city-run facilities. There are permits that are required and we make sure we are doing everything we said we will do for air quality issues and storm water issues. If we see something, we can report that.

Oddvar is a member and previous chair of the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee which coordinates information on permits for valley cities.

Justin talked about:

- City air quality involvement
- Particulate matter PM 2.5 includes fire smoke and vehicle emissions
- PM 10 – fugitive dust & over seeding, dust in a wind storm
- Focus on point control

He said they are permitted for generators at fire facilities and block dust control so that all city plans are covered. This is the basis for where we regulate.

We cooperate with Maricopa County very closely. We have a good relationship with Maricopa County:

- Clean Air Act is a Federal Directive
- Delegated to states
- In Arizona, like other states, authority is delegated to counties because everyone has a different challenge.
- Some counties are primarily farmland.
- Maricopa County regulates cities, gives us permits, regulates emissions from fire places, outdoor fire burning, etc.

Air quality monitoring is needed. There are ways to monitor it. Arizona has an air quality monitoring department to collect data and crunch it through planning. They enforce and work with cities on a regional level to make sure we are in compliance with health-based standards for people. By ADEQ an MAG, we adopt it through city ordinances to enforce on those activities covered by state implementation plan.

Open burning, with PM 2.5 is delegated to the county. They have enforcement and authority over PM 2.5. This is generators, gas resale and permits for small particulate matter. Fire places are regulated by the county. There is a burn permit. City goes to the county before the fire training center burns cars or wood for fire personnel training.

In summary, Environmental Compliance is indirectly enforcing ordinances such as storm water permits. We enforce and track out through our storm water permit, dust and dirt on road. We get good at coordinating compliance, we make sure we are operating within the law and the spirit of the law. We wanted to let you know we are here and that we are responding to calls. There is an interest in the commission to further reduce emissions. We want your input, so we can come back with a thoughtful response at future meetings.

Marilyn DeRosa said that there are a lot of issues that are inter-related. The commission uses their retreat to focus efforts for the coming year. Air quality is an issue that came before the commission and hasn't been prioritized yet. Marilyn said the commission can choose to use the retreat to further define it.

The commissioners discussed:

- Do we feel comfortable that the monitoring done by Maricopa County is adequate to cover the needs of Tempe? It seems there are not that many monitoring stations, but maybe there are more. It would be good to know where they are and how that impacts quality of data coming in.
- We don't do enough to educate the kids. It would be good to have this information for educators. ADEQ has a free program and gives PowerPoints, materials, flags, to develop a place so people know what the air quality is. They said a lot of schools don't do this. We have 23 elementary schools and 7 high schools and it would be good to get schools and businesses to fly the flags about poor air quality to get the word out to businesses and schools.
- Why do we monitor PM 10 and not monitor PM 2.5? What are the differences there? Depends on the regulations/requirements.

- We are interested in how the city is doing. Are we doing well? Are we being fined? What are we dealing with? What is the vision? What is good air quality? What are the challenges and what are the goals? How are we doing at achieving the goals?
- I looked at on line air quality monitoring stations. Could you provide that link to commission?
- Did you have a 5% better than compliance? Justin said it was a regional goal to reduce PM10.

Deputy Public Works Director – Engineering Marilyn DeRosa said we do not have an air quality unit that sets a vision and makes goals for air quality. We have a program that is responsible for regulations and what we need to comply with, and then we make sure that we comply with those rules. So one of the things the commission can discuss is if the commission prioritizes air qualities and you could make some recommendations to City Council. The city today does this. Vice Chair Jung said if there are additional questions, please email staff and let them know. Environmental Services Staff will come back to the commission at a future meeting and respond to the questions at that time.

5. Tempe Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study

Deron Lozano of Valley Metro presented the Tempe Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study:

- Overview
- Purpose
- Study area
- Evaluation criteria
- Process and timeline

Deron said the study began when they asked if it made sense to extend the existing street car line and where would it go? Mesa is interested in the connection to the Fiesta district, MCC(Maricopa County Community College) and Mesa Riverview. Both cities are funding this study.

We are looking at the feasibility of options and looking at next steps. Prop 400 regional sales tax expires in 2026 and so the next sales tax extension will be coming up. A streetcar is one car, it is smaller than light rail and operated shares lanes with cars. Stops are more frequent, like bus stops, they integrate with community.

Study area is just north of Rio Salado to Priest Drive to Country Club to Baseline Road. We want to use these arterials as a starting point.

We have identified key stakeholders including ASU and Novus Innovation corridor. The process is a two-tier process, a high-level process looking at ridership potential to identify where people live, where jobs are, and where activity is. One driving force is all the economic development a street car can connect to.

Tier 1 should be completed this spring. We'll do conceptual designs, engineering drawings, qualitative analysis to determine what kind of ridership we can expect. The second part is transportation network integrity, and how it would impact current traffic. Once we get buyoff on Tier 1 evaluation by summer of this year, Tier 2 will take place in fall. We will wrap up in 2020 and determine whether these corridors look feasible for streetcar.

Chandler is interested. Another area is Fiesta District alternative analysis, where Mesa is looking at other transit modes, extension of light rail, enhanced bus. Third study is the Arizona Avenue analysis, a study begun led by Chandler. Their intent is to connect a corridor to connect their downtown and air park to other transit routes.

We have a website and quarterly updates on the website valleymetro.org. Once we finish studies, it will be up to Mesa and Tempe, if Tempe would like to advance street car.

Commissioners asked:

- How can we help get the city excited? It is also a build-off of the air quality issues. How do we help this project along? Deron responded we have worked it out so that we are starting with this study and it will feed into the next studies we are coordinating.
- Students will be a lot of your ridership, getting them excited and asking a sustainability class to take the map, with the studies being completed at different times, would that affect the other studies? If the Fiesta District comes up with buses, how does that impact Tempe's streetcar feasibility study?
- Is it a pre-requisite that streetcar connects to light rail or can it be an independent system? Deron said it could be an independent system.
- What kind of feedback does public have as to where the lines will be? Deron said we're not doing a public survey for just streetcar. There are opportunities for feedback.
- Does the urban core master plan plug into this? Amanda Nelson said yes, the urban core master plan has elements of TOD for Street care and affordable housing. Vanessa Spartan said we have been looking at studies to consider high capacity transit investment. This study will get into a lot more detail than urban core plan.

Commissioners said:

- There is a part of the Tempe Chamber that thinks it would be great to have a connection for South Tempe.
- South Mesa is Gilbert. South Tempe is closer to Chandler and part of making that happen is a partnership with Chandler.
- This is an extension proposal, so this makes the future conversation with Chandler more plausible.

Chair Jung thanked Valley Metro staff and city staff for the presentation and for their time.

Agenda Item 6 – 20-Minute City

Transportation Planner Vanessa Spartan introduced herself and Principal Planner Robert Yabes. The general plan identified the concept of the 20-minute city, that a person could bike, walk or bus within 20 minutes. This will help with air quality and public health issues.

At a high level, we did a transit survey to ask people why they do or don't take transit. We've been doing this in consultation with the public forums related to the climate action plan. There were 24 attendees at public forum. We had an expert forum with MAG, adjacent cities and ASU. We had online public comment forum. We've received comments.

Out of this, one survey was related to intersection safety as intersections are the most detrimental.

Our objectives are to:

- Make intersections safer for bikes/peds to use
- Improve bike facilities – more time efficient, more convenient
- Better accessibility of daily necessity destinations

We conducted an annual transit survey.

51% say they prefer car because:

- Bus stop too far away
- Takes too long
- Doesn't go where I need it to go
- Time / convenience

The reason many are not riding a bike:

- Too hot
- My health
- Distance too far
- Have little kids
- Have a car
- Time/too busy
- Lazy

Through the public forum, we asked 4 questions:

- What is your preferred mode of transportation?
- Where do people want to go?
- Why don't you walk, bike, take transit more often?
- What investments can we do that will get you out of your car more often?

What is preferred mode? Primary 42% drive alone. Secondary mode was carpool, drive, bike and walk. Places that scored high was grocery stores.

We asked what investments would get you out of your car?

- Enhanced bike facilities (top score)
- Roadway reconfiguring
- Enhanced pedestrian realm
- First/last mile program
- Reliable info

Why don't you walk, bike, take transit or carpool more often?

- Travel time (top score)
- Proximity
- Convenience
- Safety
- stress levels
- access

We asked for open-ended comments. 8% thought there would be negative impacts on car traffic. Young families and seniors said safe and accessible biking, parking, signage. People talked about smaller EVs like e-bikes and scooters. Increased frequency and light rail lines will help. We looked at reconfiguring roadway space. The other was how to distribute roadway demand.

The commission asked and commented as follows:

- What is your method for data gathering? Vanessa said public meetings and on line forums. We have demographic questions and they are optional. 50 responses is decent, but we are getting a baseline assessment, we are trying to establish a baseline.
- A lot of young people don't have cars, they are going to be biggest users, making sure they are included. Vanessa said they are working with faculty and students at the School of Urban Geography and Planning on a studio that will conduct a baseline analysis to determine how many areas are connected by 20 minutes, and how we are going to prioritize them moving forward.
- What may be helpful at University Sustainable Practices is to examine results, and do data analysis, we could get you that data.
- The state does trip reduction survey, you may be interested in how students get to school. With the trip reduction survey, they are supposed to hit a target based on size and populations. We're trying to localize these requirements.
- How about people over 50? Did you find any info to see if they would be willing to try different modes? Vanessa said it would be great to get people to choose other things. It helps us to get the word out, the carpool/vanpool is some of our highest use, we know that through our transit survey. Biggest thing requested is grocery store.

Vanessa said they will come back to the commission in May. The baseline assessment will help us to do 2 things: prioritize transportation and tell us this area needs a grocery store, can encourage it thru economic development, character area plans, to have a better understanding of where we may be deficient.

Chair Jung thanked Vanessa and Robert for the presentation.

Agenda Item 7 – New Commissioner Orientation

Chair Jung presented to the commission and said we were charged to advise council on sustainability in 15 areas. We are trying to loop these things together to strengthen the outcomes. How do we educate outside to the broader community?

The mission and purpose of the Sustainability Commission is to provide leadership, education and guidance.

Think about these and think about how to build it into a culture. He discussed:

- 2017 strategic priorities and accomplishments
- Priority 1 water
- Priority 2 construction and infrastructure
- Priority 3 ; innovation fund projects with local first and green business

Commissions are a transparent way in which the city works with the public. There are 27 boards with over 250 residents, a lot of passionate people thank you for the item you dedicate

Powers and duties:

1. Acting in advisory capacity to the city
2. Put forward recommendations that makes sense for the duties we are charged
3. Annual process to elect chair and vice chair
4. Attendance – not missing more than 3 consecutive or 6 total meetings
5. Consult on items on the agenda of the meetings
6. Review and approve meeting minutes

7. Authority to create subcommittees. No more than 3 can sit on subcommittee, an example is the water rates study, we evaluated water rates structure and came to commission on how to move forward. No more than 2 active subcommittees per year. If this is a route we want to go, we need to consider that this

Open meeting laws – No more than 3 commissioners can meet and talk about commission work. To protect the public, want to maintain transparency. That includes on line document sharing, to access documents. Send me and staff email and we will try to disseminate the info.

Terms – Each commissioner has a slot to represent the community, business, students, subject matter experts. Our charge is to research advise and recommend to council policies and programs that advance sustainability in Tempe.

Our challenge is how to capture the ideas and keep on time.

You received an email from Grace late last week about our agenda and what we'll be working on the next several months. There may be pre-work before meetings, so you can bring comments/questions.

Ryan and I will be putting together a packet of information for new commissioners.

Commissioners said:

- There is so much information each month. I would like to have more conversation about what we want to get out of these presentations, we can always ask interesting questions.
- Let's discuss the retreat
- For those of you that have been to retreats before, this could be an opportunity to get into meat and potatoes of a project we are working on. Using retreat as a working session looking at climate action plan, referencing our calendar of meetings, how does transit and energy and extreme heat fit in?

Marilyn said there are so many programs going on in the city, community development, urban forest, water, transit, there is an opportunity with the climate action plan. There is an opportunity now, the first one the city's doing, I like the idea of commission focusing on climate action plan more specifically than the way we've been addressing other issues. You don't have time to make recommendations that are fully betted. You have to rely a lot on staff. Because this opportunity exists, once the Climate Action Plan is passed, you owe it to yourself to discuss what these things are. In two hours a month, it's hard to get to a place where everyone is comfortable with where we are.

Commissioners said:

- Maybe it would be a good idea where each person shares thoughts about what they want to commission to do.
- It would be good to dedicate to the retreat.
- At the first retreat, we created presentations of 5 minutes each. I would like to go further into the Climate Action Plan, but I would like to talk about who we are and what we are interested in.
- Marilyn said transportation has a lot of information, but in your area, you are creating that work, so you can take in almost any direction you want. There will be 11 different desires, she doesn't want anyone to feel their work is not important.
- We can work on climate action plan and then, later work on retreat. If I have an expert telling me about the 20-minute city, for 17 minutes, this is not a useful of my time.
- We could review the slides and pre-prepare questions then, review material again after it's presented and draft questions to send to experts.
- That would speak to giving our questions on 20-minute city to Grace to give to staff.
- Marilyn said part of the problem is these are things they have been working on for 3 years, mostly programs, you can use them when you're framing your ideas to how to frame the topic.

- Is there a way to get a list of programs and what they are working on?
- I got a lot out of the presentations, I think the bigger issue that those of us that have been on commission for a while, that half of us have learned, how do we create a database of all of the information we've discussed, viewed, learned over the years?
- City staff can coordinate to get the information to help you advance the agenda.
- Our role in the community is individuals with insight, to be a catalyst for a healthy community –I'd like to talk about how well we are doing at that, better informing the way the city does it. How do we share documents and how we engage on these specific topics? How do we use things the city is already doing, reach into communities?
- City council members hold forums – they got back to people.
- We have had joint meetings.
- Do we know best practices of other sustainability commissions? There is a sustainability director network they may be able to share.

The retreat will be an extended meeting. Chair Jung said we'll have staff send an email to ask when you are available for the retreat.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Reinhardt requested information from Maricopa County Air quality Collation.
Commissioner Burke said water is an important issue, would like to discuss it.

A motion was made to adjourn.
All approved 10 – 0

Motion: Commissioner Kane
Second: Commissioner Mores
Decision: Approved

Kendon Jung (Chair)
Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)
John F. Kane
Arnim Wiek
Stephanie Milam-Edwards
Gretchen Reinhardt
Serita Sulzman
Barbie Burke
Steven Russell
Sukki Jahnke

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly
Reviewed by: Marilyn DeRosa