



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission March 18, 2019

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, March 18, 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)
Arnim Wiek
Stephanie Milam-Edwards
Gretchen Reinhardt

Serita Sulzman
Barbie Burke
Steven Russell
Sukki Jahnke
Reyna Olvey

(MEMBERS) Absent:

John F. Kane

City Staff Present:

Marilyn DeRosa, Engineering Deputy Director/City Engineer
Braden Kay, Sustainability Department Director
Jennifer Svetichan, Administrative Supervisor
Justin Bern, Environmental Services Program Supervisor
Oddvar Tviet, Environmental Quality Specialist

Guests Present:

Allie McGranaghan, ASU
Jeanne Megan, ASU
Megan Marshall, ASU, City of Tempe
Jim Moule, Sierra Club, IPL
Karen Conta, Sierra Club
Shandiin Yessilth, ASU
Ghaisani Ayuningtyas, ASU
Jake Swanson, Resident

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 February 11, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Mores Seconded.

Motion: Commissioner Russell

Second: Vice Chair Mores

Decision: Approved 10-0, all present approved

Voted to Approve:

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

All present approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Chair Update

Chair Jung reviewed the meeting agenda.

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Air Quality

Justin Bern, the City's Environmental Services Program Supervisor, introduced himself and gave a follow up presentation for the Commission as a result of the solicited questions that resulted from the presentation he gave at the January Commission meeting.

He discussed:

- Tempe air quality monitoring stations that are part of a larger network of county stations that are set up throughout Maricopa County.
- They are used as a tool for monitoring air quality in urban areas and for making decision on air quality planning, such as no burn days, controlled release of emissions and dust control measures.
- Reports are generated and reported to the Federal Government
- The City's goals to practice best management on compliance

City Engineer Marilyn DeRosa reiterated that 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.

Sustainability Director Braden Kay included that the Commission can't address changing the standards used by the county but can help with a vision for the city by providing recommendations to the council working group that is discussing on air quality.

The commission asked and commented as follows:

- If there is any information on greenhouse gases? Justin referred them to the chart that was located within his presentation and pointed out the information regarding greenhouse gases.
- Will the Air Quality PowerPoint presentation be placed on the city's website? Staff will add it.

5. Update on Climate Action Plan

Sustainability Director Braden Kay reviewed the Climate Action Plan (CAP) energy measures that will be discussed at next weeks Sustainability Commission retreat. The goal is to draft a CAP recommendation this summer and present it to Council in the fall.

Braden informed the Commission that the intent of this meeting was to review the content of the four energy actions and then at the retreat, the Commission will ultimately decide which actions of the three initiatives: Transportation, Energy and Extreme Heat to champion for the next 12 months.

The four possible energy actions are:

#1 – Create a revolving fund to support energy upgrades to businesses and schools in Tempe. Braden explained that there are 2 ways to be more renewable: Use less energy overall or become more efficient through technology and investments. The strategies to support those actions are 1) start the process of changing your behavior to use less energy (cheapest) 2) have funds available to invest in technology businesses to make them more energy efficient, and 3) change the source of energy (most expensive). The community has started a behavior change with various programs and APS and SRP have behavior change programs in place. The barrier to entry of investing in more energy efficient technology is having the available funds. Easier access to capital will lower the barrier for people investing into technology. A pilot program exists with a revolving fund with the grease co-op program with the help of the innovation fund but need to find additional funds to expand opportunities. Partnering opportunities are available with the Chamber and Local First. The important part would be identifying the best places to give the money to so that it operates appropriately and figuring out what those qualifying metrics are. This a critical factor to the success of the program.

The commission asked and commented as follows:

- How was the loan fund working with the grease co-op and if any loans had been made? Braden said he was not sure but would follow up with Environmental services and report back to the Commission.
- Other cities have done this successfully, but a majority have done them with major federal funding
- What would be the goal? The Commission will need to set the goals
- How did the City of Phoenix prioritize its projects? There are a lot of reports available at Phoenix and ASU that can dive deeper into the positive and negatives of the Phoenix.

#2 – Pilot solar electric vehicle charging to store electricity during peak sunlight for use in homes. Braden said we could make our total grid use cleaner if we can figure out how to use more daytime energy. There is an option to pilot this to see what it will take for people, residents and businesses, to charge during the day. Maybe do a study with ASU to see what would incentivize people and businesses. There are opportunities for learning what this would look like to be successful.

The commission commented as follows:

- Consider the concept of pre-cooling houses and facilities
- People are embracing this concept in homes and with vehicles

#3 – Create a centralized sustainability platform to help businesses implement energy upgrades. This effort would help businesses integrate more easily beyond the Green Building Initiative and Sustainability Pledge, the utility

companies and outreach entities. This could allow for those conversations to happen efficiently so everyone is on the same page and using the mechanisms that are available to them.

The commission asked and commented as follows:

- This is a resource that the Chamber of Commerce has for its members, but this effort would help expand that program
- The website would be the main driver of this plan and then pull it all together so to make the connection to the initiative.

#4 – Create resilient energy hubs with renewable energy and energy storage. Braden said this effort is gaining popularity not only as a backup energy source for fire and police stations but also for first refuge areas for cooling such as recreation centers, the library, schools and churches. In addition to the fossil fuel infrastructure that is already there, this will be coupling solar and battery that will act as this resilient energy back up source. This will depend on day use efforts by the community but also opens the conversations with the utilities that is important, but it needs to get messaged in the right way.

The commission asked and commented as follows:

- Battery technology is evolving, and it may be somewhere to put the Commission's focus as well.
- It is the utility policy that is blocking this, and the focus is changing that policy.

Agenda Item 6 – State of the Neighborhoods Sustainability Awards

The Commission brought forth 3 nominations for the Sustainability Awards. The Commission will vote on the nominations to recommend to Council during the retreat.

1. Commissioner Jahnke nominated Refresh Glass
2. Commissioner Miliam-Edwards nominated the Broadmor Elementary garden
3. Vice Chair Mores nominated Desert Roots Kitchen

Agenda Item 7 – Housekeeping Items

Chair Jung said the intent of the retreat is to discuss the Climate Action Plan opportunities that were reviewed at this meeting and prior meetings and decide on one item from each area to move forward as a Commission.

Vice Chair Mores reviewed the Pool of Tools document with Commission which listed out the potential tools that could be used during the retreat to assist in their decision-making process for the Climate Action Plan. It was not a necessarily a complete list and welcomed other ideas.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

None

A motion was made to adjourn.

All approved 10 – 0

Motion: Commissioner Burke

Second: Commissioner Milam-Edwards

Decision: Approved

Kendon Jung (Chair)

Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)

Arnim Wiek

Stephanie Milam-Edwards
Gretchen Reinhardt
Serita Sulzman
Barbie Burke
Steven Russell
Sukki Jahnke
Reyna Olvey

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Prepared by: Jennifer Svetichan
Reviewed by: Marilyn DeRosa