



Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission March 15, 2021

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, March 15, 2021, 4:30 p.m. at a virtual meeting on MS Teams, through City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Chair)
Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)
Barbie Burke
Sukki Jahnke
Steven Russell

Katja Brundiers
Gretchen Reinhardt
Anna Melis
Stephanie Milam-Edwards

(MEMBERS) Absent:

John Kane

City Staff Present:

Braden Kay
Grace DelMonte Kelly
Ausette Anderies
Donna Sullivan-Hancock
Dino Accardo
Paul Bentley
Craig Hayton
Levon Lamy
Shannon Reed

Guests Present:

Councilwoman Lauren Kuby
David Sokolowski
Shawn Swisher
Anthony Floyd

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:35 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 8, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minute. Commissioner Melis seconded.

Motion: Commissioner Burke

Second: Commissioner Melis

Decision: Approved 9-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung (Chair)
 Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)
 Barbie Burke
 Sukki Jahnke
 Gretchen Reinhardt
 Katja Brundiers
 Anna Melis
 Steve Russell
 Sukki Jahnke

Motion Passed 9-0.

Agenda Item 3 – EnVision Resilience Hub

Levon Lamy

- What programming is necessary?
- What does the community want to see?
- Health and wellness, health and leadership, etc.?
- Providing needed services
- Done by mid-summer or early fall

Questions/Comments

- Generally - the resilient energy hubs are putting solar generation and renewable energy storage on-site.
 - Different from a resilient energy hub
 - Partner with new energy manager
 - Emergency and resilience site
 - Solar
 - Conversation with SRP - what would it look like to add battery storage (cost issue)
 - Resilient hub with solar (waiting for the battery)
- Parking spots and Childcare during usage?
 - Yes - working with kid zones to determine what it would look like to have childcare services
- Which course is going to be offered yet to be decided?
- In house - human services sustainability programming
- Space will be available for reservation - non-profits etc.
- Financial literacy
- How would the childcare be structured?

Questions/Comments

- 1) What are the plans to mitigate extreme heat in terms of the building itself (e.g., material) and for the surroundings using e.g. green infrastructure and landscaping?

- 2) What are the plans to facilitate access through other means than cars (e.g., access through bikes, peds, urban transit);
 - Increasing insulation
 - Given the concrete building
 - Some spaces are double concrete blocks
 - Should a letter be written to the council about wanting to partner with SRP APS to make this an energy resilience hub? Battery element .

The Commission directed the Chair to draft a letter asking City Council to request partnership with SRP to make this a resilient energy hub.

Agenda Item 4 –Resilient Energy Hubs

Sustainability Director Braden Kay said:

- Been in touch with SRP about the site
- Asked for partnership - preferring to work on EV mainly
- APS too costly for battery/microgrid

Agenda Item 5 – International Green Construction Code

City of Tempe Staff Donna Sullivan-Hancock & Dino Accardo said:

- An objective preliminary review of the Green constitution code
- Analysis in early stages

Dino Accardo:

- Scottsdale adopted the 2015 IGCC
 - Voluntary adoption
 - Become mandatory as part of planning for zoning bonus
 - Amended specifically for Scottsdale
- Scottsdale Green Building program
 - Provide developers green building designation
 - It carries for the life of the building
 - Enforcement aspect
 - How to enforce something like this?
- History and development
 - IGCC for high-performance green building
 - Enhances the satisfaction and function of the building
 - 2018 first fully integrated code in larger family of codes - IECC, etc.
 - City of Tempe on the 2018 versions
 - Comprehensive - first enforceable useable and adaptable
 - 11 Chapters - minimum requirement for high performances green building
 - Applies to new buildings and parts of buildings
 - Chapters 5-10
 - Materials
 - Airflow
 - Waste material
 - Plans and operation
 - Managing third-parties review and inspection

City of Scottsdale's Anthony Floyd said:

- Process

- Started in the late 90s
 - IGCC grew from that
 - Scottsdale
 - Residential
 - Moved to commercial
 - Zoning bonuses to increase density
 - Zone pockets - mixed-use incentive (housing and commercial)
- Reason for not adopting 2015 - in 2017
 - Preparing to adopt 2021 IGCC
 - Transitioning the green building aspects into the building codes - some are mandatory in Scottsdale
 - Demand control operation etc. moved from IGCC
- Amendments
 - Sustainability sites
 - Native plant ordinance
 - Energy amendments
 - Possibly making it all mandatory - amend the existing codes or all in the IGCC
 - Going to the council by sept oct timeframe
 - EV ready infrastructure requirements
 - Solar reading zones
 - Mandatory for most provisions

Questions

- Since Scottsdale has been successful with this, what can Tempe do to get this off the ground- employee engagement?
 - Tempe is in the early stages - convey the meaning of the code to interested parties
 - Education issue - making sure the IGCC is understood
 - Right now, we permit buildings
 - Building for life
 - Maintaining as a renter with a green building
 - Strict program - needs a lot of resources
 - Scottsdale tactic
 - Including elements into zoning or adding to existing ordinances
 - Spreading it out
 - Political engagement (will)
 - If we allow sustainability to be a bonus it will not work
- Are there incentives for older businesses and buildings to update? Retrofit program?
 - Currently advocating for federal building retrofit programs
 - New systems in existing buildings
 - Does touch on existing buildings IGCC code energy code - enforced
 - Bonus program as of 2023 - mandatory in future

Commission directed Chair to draft a letter to adopt the 2018 IGCC including the code into zoning bonuses.

Agenda Item 6– Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Community Services Deputy Director, Craig Hayton said:

- High-level performance measures
 - #3.16/ #3.17 nature benchmarks
 - Level of services
 - Population increase

- Recreation assessment
- Draft plan story map GIS
 - Online interactive plan
 - The public can interact with and explore
 - Telling a story and abbreviated text
 - Engagement in a better user experience
- Guiding principles
 - Inclusion
 - Resilience
 - Strategic
 - Sustainability
- Financial stability and vitality
- Quality of life
- Safe and secure communities
- Strong community connections
- Sustainable growth and development

Sustainability

- Parks and recreation systems and services that enrich and sustain the community, nature the environment, and contribute to the economy.

Resilience

- Parks that help communities thrive despite disruptive environmental, society, and health events
- Positive benefit to the community
- Implement forestry master plan to reduce urban heat
- Identify cool materials into the park design
- Determine green infrastructure/low

Timeline

- March/April Boards and commissions public meeting survey
- April City council work study session
- May - finalize plan
- June - Formal Plan adoption

Questions/Comments

- If you do pilot food forests for pollinators - can schools and education be incorporated into the mix?
- Do not see concrete suggestions for a ten-year plan

Agenda Item 7 - Highlight Actions Overview – Commission Assignments

- Letter for IGCC and resilient energy hubs
- Transportation demand management
- Green infrastructure - needs more action
- Work management
 - Each commissioner can take on one focus area
 - Keep tabs on the progress
- This would replace previous groups
- One person per item
- Highlight actions:
 - Resilient energy hubs,
 - TDM Steven
 - IGCC/GI
 - Stakeholder groups: youth, business, and climate justice

Commissioner Reinhardt commented, for notes, please include the content and links in the Google document that was shared. (Attached to this document.)

Agenda Item 8 – Sustainability Awards

The winners were announced:

- Sustainable Resident - Steven Klug
- Sustainable Youth – Anna Melis
- Sustainable Business – 24 Carrots
- Sustainable Non-Profit Organization – GreenLight Solutions

Agenda Item 9 - Housekeeping

Cities Race to Zero
Arizona thrives

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items

There were none.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Burke

Second: Commissioner Russell

Decision: Approved 9-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung (Chair)
Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)
Barbie Burke
Sukki Jahnke
Stephanie Milam-Edwards
Steve Russell
Gretchen Reinhardt
Katja Brundiars
Anna Melis

Motion Passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Prepared by: Ausette Anderies

Reviewed by: Grace DelMonte Kelly

Gretchen's Comments 3-15-21
Parks & Rec Master Planning Materials

FYI - Surfaced existing errors (need for updating) on Parks & Rec Website/map:
<https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-services/parks/city-park-map> - Escalante doesn't have a baseball field (it has a multi-purpose soccer/football/rectangle).

I believe there is an inverse relationship between number of households and response rate (i.e.. more households, fewer responses) ... an indicator of differences in socio-economic indicators response rates (I would offer)... How is this (likely measurable) gap being addressed?

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/9b9cf87d43f04796b63ee9b0a98bb3e5?item=6>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/9b9cf87d43f04796b63ee9b0a98bb3e5?item=3>

Parks and recreation are a part of a community's green infrastructure. A 2017 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report states that green infrastructure partnerships between park and other agencies can improve access to park lands, better manage storm water, increase community resiliency to shifting weather patterns, and provide new funding sources for parks. Green infrastructure can also help to achieve equity when carefully considered and controls are in place to prevent gentrification. The National Parks & Recreation Association (NRPA) Green Infrastructure in Parks Guide states, "Parks provide ideal opportunities for green infrastructure as they are often already highly visible, multifunctional public spaces that typically include green elements... Incorporating green infrastructure into parks can bring wide-reaching improvements to neighborhoods. Focusing green infrastructure-based park development and redevelopment efforts in underserved areas where the need is often the greatest will ensure the impact has social equity benefits as well as environmental and economic value."

THIS SOUNDS excellent - I don't see it reflected in the plans. - "linear parks" (connecting parks and long loops ... city-wide and joining regionally)

Recreation Needs Assessment - Areas For Improvement

Fails to note anything like my own personal comments which are focused on the need for connectivity of parks, the creation of "linear parks", places for extended walking and perhaps biking, and linkages into the overall transportation system (like Tempe Town Lake's up-stream bridge and the linkages into regional linear parks connecting to Mesa, Scottsdale and Phoenix, and safe "family-friendly" connectivity between parks, connecting parks so that there is a sense of "linear parks" all around and across the city.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/9b9cf87d43f04796b63ee9b0a98bb3e5?item=6>

Recreation Needs Assessment - Facility Use & Activities (just below, same link as above)

Misses the opportunity to highlight the Highest REGULAR use of parks is in that same trails and paths at 43% - clearly the highest. Why was "occasional" use preferred for highlighting? This simply doesn't make sense to me.

Did others have problems with the need to "sign in to ArcGIS online" that kept popping up?