



APPROVED 12/13/2022

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

City of Scottsdale
Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission (SEAC)
Regular Meeting

5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr; Vice Chair Anthony Coletta (virtually); Commission Members: Tammy Bosse (arrived 5:21 p.m.), Ute Brady, Walter Cuculic (virtually; absent 6:24 p.m. through 6:30 p.m.), Ryan Johnson, and Andrew Scheck (virtually)

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager, Anthony Floyd and Sam Brown - Office of Environmental Initiatives; Caitlyn Gulsvig - Current Planning; Cindi Eberhardt, Acting Planning & Development Area Director; Stephanie Tippett, Parks & Recreation; Janis Bladine, City Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were received.

1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2022

Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the Summarized Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2022, with Vice Chair Coletta providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL; Commissioner Bosse was not present at the time of the vote.

2) Parks and Recreation Department

Stephanie Tippett, Parks & Recreation Manager, presented several updates on the work of her department:

- **Water conservation:** New irrigation technology has been installed with full replacement of irrigation controllers and software that allows for more granular control. The technology allows remote start and stop for irrigation and also has alarms for overflows or excess use. The Rain Clicks Technology helps adjust schedules or turn off irrigation if it has recently rained and has saved 3.84 million gallons of water.
- **Drought Management Plan:** P&R has used 7% below the Stage 1 restriction in 2021 (169M gallons saved) and is on pace in 2022 for 9% below Stage 1. The savings are due to Rain Clicks and to turf conversions to xeriscape and shade trees. Two large projects this year replaced 87,120 sq ft of turf with low water use plants and trees.
- **Indian Bend Wash lake and streams projects:** Bond funding will replace lakes, streams, and irrigation systems in several areas of the IBW.

- Tree Inventory and Plans: P&R has been working with SRP on their 'right tree, right place' program, removing 128 trees and planting 384 by end of year (2022). In 2021 they planted 137 trees, above and beyond what was lost in storms.
- Fertilizer pilot program: As previously reported to SEAC, two test plots in the summer of 2021 determined that organic fertilizer cost more money and staffing resources for same outcome, so the program was not continued.
- P&R Strategic Plan: The draft plan will be shared with the P&R Commission in January and includes a Strategic Priority of Environmental Stewardship, with goals of that priority being to conserve water, increase tree inventory, improve plant management practices, public education, and reduce waste recycling and green waste strategies.

Commissioner Brady asked for more details on the SRP program, especially about the removal of trees in Chapparral Park not directly under power lines. SRP has been working south to north on removal and then replacement and should be done by end of January. P&R also chose the type of tree from a list from SRP, who will aim to replace trees in the same place. Commissioner Brady also asked for clarification about the lake and stream replacements. The infrastructure is failing in several places, so liners are being replaced. P&R is considering non-cement linings to make the areas more bird-friendly and are working with consultants on more natural options, but there are maintenance issues with debris in irrigation system.

Commissioner Coletta noted his appreciation for P&R's water conservation efforts and asked about problems with the irrigation system at Pima Elementary School, which is actually maintained by SUSD. Commissioner Lazarr asked about rainwater harvesting for irrigation, which is currently being explored for an Ashler Hills project.

Commissioner Brady asked for more information on the organic fertilizer study: P&R continues to look for ways to reduce fertilizer use, including using more pre-emergent. Commissioner Brady also asked about the strategy to purchase small, electric utility vehicles. Fleet has said they have not researched electric workman carts. All golf carts that are in the P&R inventory are electric powered.

Commissioner Brady asked about the strategy for heat mitigation along the Greenbelt. P&R works with HOAs to maintain properties and lets trees grow as much as possible. Ms. Tippett shared that P&R does not remove shade trees unless absolutely necessary. For example, there can be issues with storm-damaged trees or for trees that are impacting surrounding infrastructure. Additional information shared after the meeting: the area mentioned by Commissioner Brady is privately-owned with repeated code-related issues for overgrown vegetation, volunteer trees impacting the flood walls, and overgrown weeds. As a result, the city removed all the plant material last year and placed a lien on the property owner for the cost of the work. Any trees that were in this area were volunteers and impacting the infrastructure of the flood plain.

3) Open Meeting Law Refresher Training

Janis Bladine, Sr. Assistant City Attorney, provided refresher training on the Open Meeting Law. Her presentation included an overview of both state and Scottsdale-specific laws and how her office advises Commissioners to err on the side of transparency. Items covered included to whom the law applied, the definition of a meeting and serial and electronic communications, rules for official and accidental meetings, and how the business of the Commission is defined.

Commissioners asked questions about subcommittees (which are not allowed unless the City Council specifically authorizes one). In response to questions about communications between

meetings, Ms. Bladine advised working through the Commission staff liaison out of an abundance of caution and offered to provide additional legal advice on any specific circumstances.

4) Development of the Scottsdale Sustainability Plan

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, shared information about the October community meetings and survey related to public feedback on the Sustainability Plan. She noted that the plan will be presented to City Council at their February 14th regular meeting for adoption. Commissioner Bosse asked for an update on key changes to the plan in December. Commissioner Johnson asked about the scope of work for the third year of the ASU IGA (which will focus on calculating greenhouse gas inventories and conducting energy analyses and modeling).

4A) Energy and Green Construction Code Updates

Anthony Floyd shared that the code updates will be presented to City Council at their December 6th regular meeting for adoption. He discussed the status of the options being presented in the Council Action Report and current ordinance language. Commissioners asked about the number of possible votes by Council, the impact of the later implementation date for the IgCC, and whether the CAR included any staff recommendations.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to authorize Chair Chrisman Lazarr to officially represent the Commission at whatever time the City Council meets on the code updates, with Commissioner Bosse providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. Commissioner made a motion to allow the Chair to designate an alternate to represent the Commission at the City Council meeting; motion was withdrawn. Commissioner Scheck made a motion to authorize Commissioner Scheck to be an alternate to Chair Chrisman Lazarr at the City Council meeting, with Vice Chair Coletta providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL; Commissioner Cuculic was not present at the time of the vote.

5) Old Town Recycling and Alley Refresh Campaign

Commissioner Scheck shared an update on the campaign that will provide recycling options and beautify the alleys in Old Town. City staff are working in specific areas to test the approach, and a survey was sent to business owners to gauge interest in participating. In February, large, painted recycling bins plus several Big Belly (self-compacting) bins will be installed. More information will be shared at a later meeting.

6) Scottsdale's Legislative Agenda

Chair Chrisman Lazarr asked Commissioners to bring possible topics to the December meeting that could be recommended as part of the city's state legislative agenda.

7) Staff Updates

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, shared a reminder about the posting of the agenda and agenda packet items. Sam Brown, Environmental Planner, shared that the Green Team meets monthly to review projects submitted by employees via an open portal and is currently working on behavior change projects.

8) Identification of Future Agenda Items

Suggested agenda items for future meetings include the 2022 Annual Report, the 2023 meeting schedule, planning for Earth Day activities, solar energy, and election of 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair (January).

Adjournment 6:52 p.m.



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