



APPROVED 6/21/2023

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

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

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr; Commission Members: Tammy Bosse, Tony Coletta (virtually), Walter Cuculic (left 7:15 p.m.), Ryan Johnson

ABSENT: Commissioner Andrew Scheck

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager; Madison Harris, Intern (virtually) -- Office of Environmental Initiatives; Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director

PUBLIC COMMENT: One member of the public was present.

1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2023

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2023, with Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

2) Scottsdale Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Richard Rushforth, NAU, presented the preliminary results of the City of Scottsdale Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory and Macro-Trend Energy Scenario Model which was done in collaboration with Ross Priehs (NAU; joined the meeting virtually). The presentation included an overview of how an inventory is calculated and what city activities emit greenhouse gases. Emissions are calculated by source and grouped into three scopes, per a standard protocol. Commissioners asked questions about industrial processes and the kinds of data collected, including cost data.

Dr. Rushforth then moved to share findings from the draft study, including that 2022 emissions are down 5.2% from a 2018 baseline, a period of population and economic growth and two years affected by the SARS-COVID-19 pandemic. Electricity emissions dropped the most (13.6%), while transportation emissions rose. Increased efficiency, less GHG-intensive electricity, and increased distributed solar contributed to the decreases. Currently, stationary energy emissions are evenly split between commercial/industrial and residential buildings, but commercial electricity

consumption may rebound in the future. The trend for transportation is up but vehicle efficiency improvements have dampened emissions growth. Emissions for municipal operations are down over 10%. Final results and more detailed findings will be included in the inventory report. Commissioners asked questions about the electricity emissions reductions, data availability, granularity of results, and Airpark emissions.

Dr. Rushforth also described the four planned scenarios for a forecast model out to 2050. Preliminary results show that the two biggest factors of future energy use and GHG emissions are the retirement of coal plants and deployment of grid-scale renewable energy and the rate of residential rooftop solar growth. Future electricity emissions are also expected to be sensitive to electric vehicle adoption rates. Commissioners asked about including commercial solar adoption, the possibility of including emissions and energy use in other cities, connection to ozone, and capturing where energy use is high in the city.

3) Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, shared an update on the sustainability plan framework and indicators. The current draft list of indicators reflects last month's discussion, other input, and data availability, and may still change moving forward. It is expected that targets will be connected to indicators, with strategies and actions contributing to achieving targets. Commissioner Johnson asked that more indicators be tracked per capita. Commissioner Bosse asked about the status of the recommendation to City Council to establish a task force and about using Commission meetings to provide more detailed input. The item will be agendaized for the June meeting, including the possibility of making recommendations to Council. Commissioners were asked to share any input with the staff liaison in advance.

4) Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission Annual Work Plan

This item was deferred, and Commissioners were asked to send any comments to the SEAC chair and staff liaison.

5) Staff Updates

Lisa McNeilly shared that work has begun on the city's submission for LEED for Cities certification.

6) Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meetings: Presentation on legislative priorities and federal funding sources, as well as updates on sustainability indicators and sustainability plan (June); Solid Waste (July, August) Water conservation and turf (September, October); Presentation on integrated pest management and designing with nature (November, December), Environmental Achievement Recognition program, presentation on the tourism and events strategic plan, tree inventory updates, recycling and waste diversion.

In addition to previously identified topics, Commissioners asked for an update on the Colorado River situation. Commissioners were asked to share names of suggested speakers on topics in the workplan.

Adjournment 7:37 p.m.



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