



APPROVED 9/20/2023

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES
City of Scottsdale
Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission (SEAC)
Regular Meeting

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 16, 2023
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr; Commission Members: Tammy Bosse (virtually; arrived 6:02 p.m.), Tony Coletta (virtually; left 8:17 p.m.), Walter Cuculic (left 8:17 p.m.), Andrew Scheck

ABSENT: Commissioner Ryan Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager, Office of Environmental Initiatives; Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director; Gina Azima, Solid Waste Department (virtually); Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

1) Approve [Regular Meeting Minutes](#) for June 21, 2023

Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2023, with Commissioner Cuculic providing a Second for the motion, which carried 5-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

2) Approve [Regular Meeting Minutes](#) for July 19, 2023

Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr made a motion to approve of the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2023, with Commissioner Cuculic providing a Second for the motion, which carried 5-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

**** 3) [Presentation and discussion on solid waste, recycling, and composting](#)**

Eduardo Rodriguez (Deputy Public Works Director), Alexis Yaple (Zero Waste Coordinator), and Amanda Jordan (Circular Economy Project Manager), presented about the City of Phoenix's zero waste and circular economy journey. Phoenix's current waste diversion rate is 36%, and their goal is to reach 50% by 2030 and zero waste by 2050. Mr. Rodriguez shared about their efforts to increase the diversion of organic materials, the North Gateway Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and the work to add opticals and robotics to their 27th Avenue MRF. Ms. Yaple discussed the effectiveness of the city's zero waste education program, tours of the MRF, and the Green

Business Leader and Master Recycler programs. Ms. Jordan talked about the ways Phoenix is working toward a circular economy, including the Resource Innovation and Solutions Network, the Resource Innovation Campus, a plastic waste micro-factory pilot, and workforce development.

Commissioners asked a wide range of questions. Mr. Rodriguez responded to Commissioner Scheck with information on the economic model and incentives for composting and ways to reduce contamination. In response to Commissioner Cuculic's question about mandates to improve composting, Mr. Rodriguez clarified that their program is voluntary, with commercial landscapers able to drop off green waste at transfer stations, but that their pricing structure helps reduce contamination as well. Ms. Jordan also shared with Commission Cuculic that the Resource Innovation Campus may be testing how to use waste glass in construction or other ways.

Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr asked to clarify that the 36% diversion rate was only for residential waste and how the benefits were calculated. Mr. Rodriguez discussed how ASU helped Phoenix with the estimates. In response to Chair Brady's question about why the target date for zero waste was 2050, Mr. Rodriguez said that it was benchmarked to other cities and was a realistic timeline, since Phoenix defines zero waste as achieving 90% diversion. The Phoenix staff also shared that they hope to collaborate with private sector to better engage commercial and multi-family entities.

Chair Brady read Commissioner Johnson's written comments about the draft letter of recommendation on diverting food waste at city-owned public venues, starting a discussion about a cost analysis of the proposal and about proposed edits (removing "as soon as possible" text).

Commissioner Bosse made a motion to approve the letter of recommendation to City Council about diversion of food waste at city-owned public venues (with the discussed minor edits), with Commissioner Scheck providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

4) [Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan](#)

Lisa McNeilly reviewed the current framework for the plan and the schedule for SEAC input. Work will continue with a section-by-section review of the plan, and the next milestone will be a draft of the plan introduction and the Air Quality and Water priorities to be shared with Commissioners by September 8th. Her remaining slides covered the agenda packet shared with Commissioners on August 4 to solicit feedback on a revised outline for the plan and baseline data, strategies and actions, and potential targets.

Ms. McNeilly reviewed Commissioner Johnson's written comments, received in advance of the meeting. Commissioners in attendance shared their feedback, which will all be evaluated and reviewed with staff for possible incorporation in the plan. Input on the Introduction included text and topics to be added (e.g., water reuse as part of city leadership, stewardship as a community value, and how the city has committed to make life better for people). There was a discussion on which graphics best conveyed the underlying air quality graphics, with interest in the Scottsdale-specific data and federal air quality index. Several actions to improve air quality were referenced and questions were raised about revisiting elimination of some sections from previous drafts of the plan. Possible air quality targets were also discussed. Similarly, water actions and targets were also discussed.

5) Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission Annual Work Plan

Commissioners discussed when to reschedule a presentation on solid waste by the City of Mesa and about focusing the September meeting solely on the sustainability plan.

6) Staff Updates

Lisa McNeilly requested Commissioners to send her milestones for a timeline of sustainability in Scottsdale and reminded Commissioners about the opportunity to participate in the fall Water Academy.

7) Identification of Future Agenda Items

Possible future meetings: Solid Waste (TBD); Water conservation and turf (December); Energy (October), State weatherization program (October), Design with Nature and integrated pest management (November). Other topics: discussion on possible updates to residential building and energy codes, Environmental Achievement Recognition program, presentation on the tourism and events strategic plan, tree inventory updates, and an update on the Colorado River situation.

Commissioners discussed when to reschedule a presentation by Dr. Allsopp.

Adjournment 8:51 p.m.



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