



APPROVED 5/22/2024

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

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

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale 85251

Call to Order 5:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Andrew Scheck (virtually); Commission Members: Natalie Chrisman Lazarr, Walter Cuculic (virtually; left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.), Tara Iyengar, Ryan Johnson, Alisa McMahon (arrived 5:37 p.m.).

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Anthony Floyd, Manager, Office of Environmental Initiatives (virtually); Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director; Erin Perreault, Planning, Economic Development and Tourism Executive Director (virtually).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

1) Welcome New Commissioner

The Chair welcomed Tara Iyengar to the Commission. Dr. Iyengar introduced herself and shared her areas of interest and expertise.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes for January and February 2024:

- a) [Regular Meeting Minutes](#) of January 17, 2024
- b) [Special Meeting Minutes](#) of January 31, 2024
- c) [Regular Meeting Minutes](#) of February 21, 2024

Chair Brady made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024 and January 31, 2024, with Commissioner Johnson providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

Chair Brady made a motion to continue the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024 to the next meeting date, with Commissioner Chrisman Lazarr providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL.

3) **Presentation on Community Choice Aggregation**

Lyla Yango, Scottsdale resident, and Shelly Gordon, State Director of Arizonans for Community Choice, shared a presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA, sometimes called Community Choice Energy). CCAs are an alternative to both municipal utilities and traditional, investor-owned, vertically-integrated utility monopolies. Under the CCA model, CCAs buy and generate electricity on behalf of cities and counties while utilities continue to own and manage transmission and delivery, maintain the grid, repair power outages, and bill customers.

Customers are automatically opted in to a CCA, but can choose to opt out to remain with the utility. CCAs offer consumers lower rates and energy choice including opt-up plans to higher levels of renewable energy. CCAs reinvest surplus revenue into community energy programs and spur expansion of local renewable energy and economic development.

Because CCAs rapidly decarbonize the energy supply compared to traditional utilities, they are appealing to municipalities with climate action goals. Ms. Yango and Ms. Gordon shared examples of CCA successes, including in Massachusetts, California, New Hampshire, Ohio and New York.

Arizonans for Community Choice is building a coalition to advocate for enabling CCAs in Arizona. There are two pathways: rulemaking at the Arizona Corporation Commission and CCA-enabling legislation. In response to questions from Commissioners, Ms. Gordon clarified that there is not an existing Attorney General opinion on this matter; the utilities remain responsible for reliability and managing the grid; and CCAs pay utilities a departing load fee/exit fee to compensate them for stranded assets and make them whole. Ms. Gordon also shared information on the CCA/municipal power study being conducted by the City of Tucson with federal FEMA funding. Ms. McNeilly offered to contact the City of Tucson and share more information about this study at a future date.

4) **Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan**

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, shared the direction to staff from the March 19th City Council Work Study Session, including Council's support for the aspirational goals in the sustainability plan. City Council asked that staff work to finalize the plan and to be ready for Council adoption as soon as May. Ms. McNeilly also advised that staff has not yet finalized the timeline for posting the plan for public comment but will update the Commission once more details are known.

5) **EarthFest 2024**

Lisa McNeilly shared information about the Scottsdale Earth Week activities, including the Earth Fest event on April 20th (9:00-11:00, Cactus Park). The Office of Environmental Initiatives will staff a table focused on heat and with information on the Shade and Tree Plan. The Commissioners discussed details of their informational table at that event. The Chair asked Commissioners to share any ideas for activities they may have and to sign-up as volunteers at the event on a sign-up sheet that the Chair will prepare and distribute to Commissioners via the staff liaison. For more information on Earth Fest, Commissioners were directed to visit ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search "Earth Week."

6) **Sustainable Scottsdale Awards**

Lisa McNeilly shared an update on the awards program, including that five applications were received to date. Staff will be compiling the applications, checking for eligibility, and sending out for Commission review as soon as possible after the April 1st application deadline. Commissioners will be asked to share their top 3-5 applicants in rank order by April 15th. Staff will compile the input and share at the April 17th meeting for a vote on the winners. In response to a question from Commissioner McMahan regarding the commission's ability to supplement the basic application by requesting data, asking follow-up questions, or interviewing the applicants, Ms. McNeilly clarified

that the intention was a streamlined process for a quick win, to move forward with the applications as received, and no interviews, but additional data could be requested if there is time.

7) Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission Annual Work Plan

Ute Brady, SEAC Chair, reviewed the work plan document, asking for input from Commissioners. Ideas for the monthly agenda builder included an update on bond projects, pesticide use, the study on stormwater collection for irrigation, updates on implementation of the sustainability plan, International Green Construction Code progress and construction waste diversion, food waste composting, sustainable purchasing, canal-mounted solar. The work plan will continue to be updated and discussed at future meetings.

8) Staff Updates

Lisa McNeilly shared an update on the development of the Shade and Tree Plan which will be prepared by an external contractor. She mentioned that the best place to get information on the Plan would be at the upcoming Earth Fest which the contractor will be attending and where the contractor is planning to begin the community engagement process.

9) Identification of Future Agenda Items

Commissioner McMahon requested that the Commission have an opportunity to learn more about the Shade and Tree Plan and to provide input.

Adjournment 7:30 p.m.



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