



**APPROVED 4/16/2025 CH**

**“SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES”**

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

**5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2025**  
Community Design Studio Nave  
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale 85251

**Call to Order** 5:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Andrew Scheck (virtually), Commission Members: Alexandra Craig, Walter Cuculic, Tara Iyengar, Alisa McMahon, Siobhan Ulreich-Power

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director; Justin Suryanata, Environmental Programs Coordinator; Clayton Hults, Planning Technician

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2024**

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

**Commission Action:** Action Item

Commissioner McMahon proposed edits to the minutes. Chair Brady suggested to defer the approval of the December 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes to the February 19, 2025, regular meeting.

**2) Presentation Plastic Waste and Health**

Presenter: Jason Lowry, Director of Sustainability Initiatives, Local First Arizona

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

**Commission Action:** Information/Discussion/Possible Action

Jason Lowry, Director of Sustainability Initiatives at Local First Arizona introduced Local First Arizona as North America’s largest coalition of locally-owned businesses with over 2,000 Arizona business members. He indicated that from its inception in 2003, sustainability has been a key aspect of Local First Arizona’s work, in recognition of the link between sustainability and a thriving economy. From the beginning, waste diversion has been a key aspect of the organization’s public events.

More recently, Local First Arizona is focusing on the circular economy, looking at

opportunities to use the waste pain point to grow the economy. Mr. Lowry mentioned several examples of Arizona companies working in the circular economy space to divert waste from landfills into beneficial uses.

Mr. Lowry described several sustainability-related programs offered by Local First Arizona to locally-owned businesses. Green Loan Fund provides low-interest loans to enable businesses to adopt green practices that are good for both their bottom line and the environment. Businesses pursuing Green Business Certification are eligible for rebates for projects that reduce energy consumption. The cities of Mesa and Gilbert sponsor Green Business Certification for their locally-owned businesses.

Mr. Lowry discussed his organization's experience working with the city of Tempe in 2022 to produce an electric vehicle expo. Related to the commission's interest in reducing the use of single-use plastic, Local First Arizona would be interested in exploring the idea of an expo related to the circular economy and tools for businesses to cost-effectively reduce plastic waste.

The Commission and Mr. Lowry discussed the possibility and logistics of such an expo, including scope of work, event space, implementation timeframe, recruiting local supplier and circular economy participants, costs, sponsorships, and marketing.

City staff stated a possible expo is not currently in the city's workplan or budget and it may be advantageous to consider having a different organization produce such an event. To pursue a city-produced event, the Commission would make a recommendation to City Council, and City Council would then provide direction to the City Manager. Staff noted resource considerations such as staff time and deferring current workplan projects.

The commission noted there are action items in the General Plan that align with such an expo.

No action was taken.

### **3) Election of Officers**

Presenter: Ute Brady

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

**Commission Action:** Action item

The Commission will elect the Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

Candidates who have been nominated by the date of the meeting and have expressed willingness to serve (by position) include: Andrew Scheck (Chair) and Alisa McMahon (Vice Chair). No additional nominations were made before voting commenced.

### **MOTION AND VOTE #1 ITEM 3**

Chair Brady motioned to elect Andrew Scheck as Chair, and the motion carried with a vote of 7-0. Commissioners Brady, Scheck, Craig, Cuculic, Iyengar, McMahon and Ulreich-Power voted for APPROVAL.

### **MOTION AND VOTE #2 ITEM 3**

Commissioner Brady motioned to elect Alisa McMahon as Vice Chair, and the motion carried with a vote of 7-0. Commissioners Brady, Scheck, Craig, Cuculic, Iyengar, McMahon and Ulreich-Power voted for APPROVAL.

#### **4) 2024 SEAC Annual Report**

The Commission will review, discuss and approve the 2024 SEAC Annual Report.

Presenter: Ute Brady

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

**Commission Action:** Action item

Commissioners provided final edits to the draft Annual Report.

### **MOTION AND VOTE ITEM 4**

Commissioner Brady motioned to approve the 2024 SEAC Annual Report with the proposed edits, with commissioner Ulreich-power providing a Second for the motion, which carried with a vote of 7-0. Commissioners Brady, Scheck, Craig, Cuculic, Iyengar, McMahon and Ulreich-power voted for APPROVAL.

#### **5) Staff Updates**

Staff will present updates pertaining to Scottsdale's sustainability initiatives for commission information only. Arizona State law prohibits the Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not properly noticed on the posted agenda.

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

**Commission Action:** Information only

No Action

#### **6) Identification of Future Agenda Items**

The Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission may suggest items they wish to be placed on a future agenda. Per Arizona State law, the Commission shall not discuss, deliberate or take action on any item suggested as a future agenda item, unless the specific item is properly noticed for Commission discussion and action.

Staff Contact: Tim Conner, Environmental Policy Manager, tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov

**Commission Action:** Information only

No Action

**Adjournment** 6:31 p.m.



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**2024 Annual Report**  
**Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission**  
Prepared by Lisa McNeilly, Staff Liaison

Approved by the Environmental Advisory Commission on January 15, 2025  
[SEAC Home Page](#)

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**Number of Meetings Held: 12**

**Public Comments: 4**

**Major Topics of Discussion / Action Taken:**

- Approved Summarized Meeting Minutes: December 2022 and January – November 2023.
- Elected Ute Brady as Chair, and Andrew Scheck as Vice Chair at January meeting.
- Submitted recommendations to the Mayor and City Council related to the Community Sustainability Plan.
- Worked with Sustainability Director to provide significant input and feedback on the Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan.
- Presentations on Community Choice Aggregation, Open Meeting Law, residential and small commercial solar, food waste diversion at city venues study, heat focus groups, Blue Zones Project Scottsdale, the Shade and Tree Plan and updates from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Relunched the Sustainable Scottsdale Award Program, selected R.City as the 2024 recipient, and began selection for the 2025 Sustainable Scottsdale Awardee(s).

**Member Attendance:**

Member Name	Title	Present	Absent	Recused	Service Dates
Ute Brady	Chair	12	0	0	11/9/24 to 11/9/27*
Andrew Scheck	Vice Chair	10	2	0	11/9/24 to 11/9/27*
Natalie Chrisman Lazarr**	Member	5	0	0	5/22/21 to 5/22/24**
Anthony Coletta***	Member	3	0	0	3/2/21 to 3/2/24***
Alexandra Craig	Member	7	0	0	5/22/2024 to 05/22/27
Walter Cuculic	Member	12	0	0	3/1/22 to 3/1/25*
Tara Iyengar	Member	8	1	0	3/5/24 to 3/5/27
Ryan Johnson****	Member	11	0	0	12/7/21 to 12/7/24****
Alisa McMahan	Member	11	1	0	12/7/2023 to 12/7/26
Siobhan Ulreich-Power	Member	1	0	0	12/5/24 to 12/5/27

Note: \*Second Term

Note: \*\*Term limited; replaced by Alexandra Craig

Note: \*\*\*Term limited; replaced by Tara Iyengar

Note: \*\*\*\*Term limited; replaced by Siobhan Ulreich-Power

**Subcommittees:** None  
**Ethics Training:** Yes – Confirmed on 1/15/2025  
**Selected Officers:** Yes – Election on 1/15/2025  
**Reviewed Bylaws/City Code:** No

**Anticipated Key Issues in 2025:**

- City heat island mitigation/climate action planning including but not limited to consideration of an urban forestry program and the Shade and Tree Plan
- Plastic waste and health
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency measures for city facilities
- Drought preparation/water conservation in Scottsdale
- Environmental stewardship in waste management in Scottsdale
- Air quality improvements
- Environmental awareness and community engagement

**Future Significant Work Products:**

- Provide input on local environmental awareness, community engagement, and volunteer programs to the City’s sustainability efforts.
- Provide informed support and public engagement for the Shade and Tree Plan.
- Support community engagement including the annual Earth/Arbor Day celebration.
- Develop, recommend, and support a citizen-science based tree inventory pilot project(s).
- Support an increase in landfill waste diversion rates and opportunities to promote waste minimization in solid waste planning.
- Support pollinator protection programs such as the Monarch Pledge and Bee City, USA.
- Evaluate sources of food waste and seek effective local solutions to redistribute food and reduce the amount of food and other divertible waste streams entering the landfill.
- Evaluate municipal measures for drought preparation and water conservation measures and seek effective local solutions.
- Selection of the annual Sustainable Scottsdale Award recipient(s).
- Work toward the adoption of a city Green Purchasing Policy.
- Identify opportunities to adopt International Energy Conservation Code appendices.
- Evaluate and encourage, in the next round of code adoption, the adoption of model International Green Construction Code (IgCC) provisions that were not adopted with the 2021 IgCC.
- Support increased installation of solar on city facilities.
- Encourage implementation of organic pest management practices.
- Evaluate, encourage, and support other nature-based solutions to environmental issues.
- Evaluate and assess linking “designing with nature” principles with urban forest/tree cover project and citizens initiatives to educate the public on the importance of wildlife, including pollinators, bats, and coyotes.

**Upcoming Opportunities, Challenges, or Outcomes:**

- Evaluate municipal measures for mitigating and preparing for the effects of climate change.
- Monitor State legislation that restricts municipal authority to locally address environmental issues such as energy use, waste management, pesticide control and air quality.

**Additional Comments/Recommendations:**

n/a

Report Approved on: January 15, 2025