



APPROVED 10/18/2023

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

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

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:32 P.M.

PRESENT: Chair Ute Brady, Vice Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr; Commission Members: Tammy Bosse (arrived 5:34 p.m.), Tony Coletta (left 8:37 p.m.), Walter Cuculic, Ryan Johnson (left 8:45 p.m.), Andrew Scheck (arrived 5:43 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager, Office of Environmental Initiatives; Cindi Eberhardt, Planning & Development Area Director; Gretchen Baumgardner, Scottsdale Water

PUBLIC COMMENT: One public comment on community choice aggregation.

1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2023

Commissioner Coletta made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2023, with Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0. All members present at the time voted for APPROVAL.

2) Dynamic modeling and simulations to predict future change in urban environments

Dr. Phil Allsopp shared an overview of his work on digital platforms that help visualize how different factors affect the future development of a city environment. He described the need to understand minutiae and to assemble data in a way that provides meaning to policymakers. He has worked with several cities to help them implement policy goals using system dynamics, AI, and synthetic data to overlay complex models based on digital twins of urban environments. He shared case studies that reveal the contribution of vehicle tires to reduced air quality, the impact of property wall heat absorption to the urban heat island effect, and how over-heated environments affect sleep and population health in general.

In response to questions, Dr. Allsopp shared that data simulations provide the foundation to run system dynamics that simulate a given urban environment and allow the testing of policy decisions to determine their potential effect over time. Experimenting with potential policy outcomes in a digital twin city environment can, therefore, better inform municipal decision-making. Additionally, digital platforms provide a place to enter and update live municipal data which not only serves to inform the "digital twin" but also facilitates the live tracking of municipal goals in real time, including, e.g., the short-term and long-term effects of sustainability policies on key variables of concern (e.g., air quality, heat index, etc.) and the energy-water nexus.

3) **Scottsdale Community Sustainability Plan**

Lisa McNeilly reviewed the items in the agenda packet that were shared with Commissioners on September 8th, which included the draft text of the introductory sections and the Air Quality and Water chapters of the Community Sustainability Plan. She highlighted the factors that will contribute to telling a compelling and easily understood story: defining the audience, the tenets of behavior science, readability and accessibility, citing trustworthy sources, and ensuring a connection to Scottsdale. She also reviewed the timeline for SEAC input on these and other sections of the plan and the written comments received from Vice Chair Chrisman Lazarr.

Commissioners in attendance shared their feedback, which will be evaluated and reviewed with staff for possible incorporation in the plan. Input on the Introduction included comments on the quotes being included in the plan and support for the changes that have been made. Most of the discussion on the Air Quality and Water chapters was focused on the proposed indicators and targets, with Commissioners offering their suggestions for changes. These options will be addressed in the next version of the draft plan, which will be posted in early October. A request was also made to show baseline data more closely linked to the targets.

4) **Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission Annual Work Plan**

Chair Brady will review and discuss ongoing updates to the 2023 Annual Work Plan for the Commission.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5) **Staff Updates**

Lisa McNeilly shared that the City Council voted to direct the City Manager to agendaize the item related to composting at city-owned venues for a future meeting. This is related to a recommendation made by SEAC at the August meeting. Tim Connor shared that the Cooler Scottsdale study received an Honorable Mention from the Arizona chapter of the American Planning Association.

6) **Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Future meetings: Energy (October/November); Water conservation and turf (December); State weatherization program (October), Design with Nature and integrated pest management (December). 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.

Lisa McNeilly shared that she is still working with the Chair to schedule a time for the Solid Waste department to present.

Adjournment 8:48 p.m.



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