



APPROVED 10/19/2022

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

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

5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr; Vice Chair Anthony Coletta (virtually); Commission Members: Tammy Bosse (arrived 5:09 p.m.), Walter Cuculic (virtually; left 7:02 p.m.), Andrew Scheck (virtually)

ABSENT: Commissioners Ute Brady, Ryan Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager, Anthony Floyd and Sam Brown - Office of Environmental Initiatives; Caitlyn Gulsvig - Current Planning; Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager; Cindi Eberhardt, Acting Planning & Development Area Director; Dave Bennett, Solid Waste Director, and Gina Azima, CS and Outreach Manager – Solid Waste.

PUBLIC COMMENT: One member of the public was present. No public comments were received.

1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2022

Commissioner Scheck made a motion to approve the Summarized Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2022, with Vice Chair Coletta providing a Second for the motion, which carried 4-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL; Commissioners Bosse, Brady, and Johnson were not present at the time of the vote.

2) Update on Composting at the Community Design Studio

Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager, shared information on the new composting program at the Community Design Studio (CDS). There are new bins for landfill waste, recycling, and composting, which will have labels customized for each event. CDS was chosen to be the pilot zero waste facility for the city because of the venue's small size, the number of events held there, and the commitment by staff to run the program. Compostable products will be used as regular supplies are exhausted. Almost all of the meeting's meal is compostable, and CDS and Solid Waste staff will be tracking the weight for each event. Commissioners shared their thanks.

3) Solid Waste

Dave Bennett, Solid Waste Director, presented on initiatives related to implementation of the solid waste strategic plan, including waste reduction, waste diversion, and recycling efforts.

Only residential recycling is mandated, and Solid Waste serves over 84,000 residents, achieving a 27% diversion rate. Programs offered include move-in box collection, monthly appliance collection, electronics recycling, and household hazardous waste. Brush and bulk pickup is a popular monthly service and collects over 22,000 tons annually. The city also services over 1,300 commercial accounts, collecting 18,500 tons annually. The Solid Waste fleet is 65% compressed natural gas (CNG) including 54 collection vehicles. The department plans to test an electric rear loader that has a range of 150 miles and 6-ton capacity but would need charging capability at NCY to adopt this technology.

Director Bennett also gave an update on the elements of the Community Solid Waste and Recycling Strategic Plan. Highlights include:

- Policy 1: zero waste Canal Convergence and other green events and paper-reduction strategies
- Policy 2: having the lowest recycling contamination rate in the region (14%) and reopening the MRF in March/April 2023, education and incentives to recycle like Hello Lamp Post (conversational AI that allows people to ask questions in real time), and an upcoming rate study and a 'pay as you throw' RFP later this year
- Policy 3: recently approved building codes will require that new construction includes storage space for recycling and chutes/storage (multi-family) and working to improve contamination and overuse problems at the ten drop-off sites
- Policy 4: Old Town Recycling and Alley Refresh program that will encourage recycling to improve cleanliness.
- Policy 5: offering a community resource directory and recycling wizard on website plus tips on other types of waste reduction
- Policy 7: selling the large 300-gallon alley bins to other cities as a way to reuse this hard to recycle/manage waste streams
- Policy 8: the design of the transfer station expansion has funding for design and engineering and will provide a place for green waste and eventually food composting and also a household hazardous waste facility.

Questions and discussion followed. Commissioner Bosse asked about the possibility of a Waste Academy and about the electric loader. Solid Waste wants to continue exploring both. Commissioner Cuculic asked if Solid Waste encountered problems finding buyers of recycled products, but Solid Waste finds that the recycling markets incredibly strong right now except for glass. Commissioner Cuculic also asked about managing some waste streams by using recycled content in building materials, but there are currently no existing programs beyond a provision in the International Green Construction Code that would encourage sustainable materials. Chair Chrisman Lazarr asked if residential green waste could eventually be offered at the transfer station, and Solid Waste shared that the narrow entrance road may limit the amount of traffic. The Chair also asked how the city expects to achieve its ambitious diversion rate goals. Solid Waste is looking at lots of strategies and will be updating the plan and goals especially since markets have changed. However, adding food waste could bring a large increase in the rate. One barrier is that commercial and multi-family buildings are not required to recycle, and some don't have sufficient infrastructure and face higher prices from private collectors if there is too much contamination. The Commission discussed whether to recommend that the state law preventing cities from mandating recycling be changed, which will be added to a future meeting agenda.

4) Energy and Green Construction Code Updates

Anthony Floyd, Sr. Building Consultant, presented an update on progress on the code updates,

including the direction received from City Council at the August 23rd Work Study session. Eight of the 11 codes were adopted by Council on September 20th. A community open house has been scheduled to gather additional public input for the remaining three. Discussion by Commissioners followed. Commissioner Cuculic asked about a modification related to the orientation of roofs and about the 10% minimum of roof area for solar-ready for single family buildings. Other questions included clarifying the role of Commissioners at the open house and about making sure sufficient details were presented to the public.

5) Development of the Scottsdale Sustainability Plan

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, provided an update regarding the status of the Scottsdale Sustainability Plan. She shared some of the slides from her City Council Work Study session on September 13th as well as the direction received from councilmembers. Questions from Commissioners focused on the implementation section.

Director McNeilly also offered individual meetings with Commissioners to discuss their feedback and input on the plan and will reach out to schedule them in the coming weeks.

6) Pilot tree inventory project

Chair Chrisman Lazarr shared that Commissioners will continue to work with schools and the Mayor's Youth Council to encourage greater participation in the compilation of the inventory.

7) Staff Updates

Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director, shared the direction received from City Council about the framework and timeline for the Heat Mitigation Plan. She also noted that Public Works Director Dan Worth is preparing information for Council direction on the Net Zero Strategic Energy Plan.

Sam Brown, Environmental Planner, shared that the employee Green Team has met four times and now includes representatives from sixteen departments. At the most recent meeting, a list of major sustainability efforts was shared and discussed.

8) Identification of Future Agenda Items

The October meeting will include discussions of the building code update process and the Sustainability Plan. Both Transportation and Parks and Recreation are currently scheduled to present, but one or both may be moved to a later date. Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations, will be asked to share information on the setting the city's legislative agenda so that the Commission can discuss supporting removal of barriers to recycling in multi-family and commercial buildings.

Adjournment 7:20 p.m.