



APPROVED 8/17/2022

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

City of Scottsdale
Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, 2022
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

Call to Order 5:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr, Vice Chair Anthony Coletta (via Teams); Commission Members: Tammy Bosse (via Teams), Ute Brady, Walter Cuculic (via Teams; joined at 5:07 p.m.), Ryan Johnson, Andrew Scheck

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McNeilly, Sustainability Director; Tim Conner, Manager, Anthony Floyd (via Teams), and Sam Brown - Office of Environmental Initiatives; Caitlyn Gulsvig, Ryan Garofalo - Current Planning; Cindi Eberhardt, Acting Planning & Development Area Director; Marissa Washington, Sustainability Intern.

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

1) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2022

Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the Summarized Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2022, with Commissioner Scheck providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0. All members present voted for APPROVAL; Commissioner Cuculic was not present.

2) Scottsdale Water

Brian Biesemeyer, Executive Director, and Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Policy Manager presented on the City of Scottsdale's water programs and their new Sustainable Water Management Principles. The presentation shared information about a recent announcement by the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) that Colorado River water users will need to identify additional cuts beyond those based on water levels in Lake Mead. The prospect of moving from a Tier I to a Tier II or III shortage adds to the uncertainty around water supply in 2023.

The city's Drought Management Plan, including a 5% water reduction request for all users, is one part of the response to this uncertainty. The Plan was activated at Stage 1 on August 17, 2021, along with a communications and messaging program. City operations are currently meeting the 5% reduction goal for calendar year 2022.

Executive Director Biesemeyer reviewed the new Sustainable Water Management Principles, which were mostly compiled from existing practices and policies. There are nine Principles, with #4 (“Water and Land Use Management”) being added to provide additional data and tools for decision-makers related to land use and development.

Commissioners asked questions about the connections between growth and the impact of future reductions in water supply and for more information how the new 2-4 million acre-feet reduction from BoR would be distributed between the states.

Gretchen Baumgardner continued the presentation by discussing existing conservation programs, which go beyond what is required by the state. Recent additions include doubling the turf removal rebates, increased pool removal rebates, a commercial turf conversion bonus, and a water efficiency technology rebate for real-time water use technology (residential) and a range of technologies like a cooling tower controller/optimizer (commercial). The WaterSmart Portal now includes ‘leak alerts’, and there has been an 800% increase in interest by HOAs and multifamily units to access the resources provided by the city.

Additional discussion by Commissioners followed. Commissioner Cuculic asked about the possibility of mandating decorative turf removal like in southern Nevada and about the possibility of offering on-bill financing options for more costly water conservation projects. Commissioner Brady asked about the provision of incentives for general use reductions and about reducing water use by golf courses. Commissioner Bosse asked about rate hikes, the impact of turf removal on the urban heat island effect, the city’s dependence on CAP water, and the possibility of working with lenders on financing for efficiency measures. On the question of building a desalinization plant, it was noted that the city already treats wastewater to a drinking water standard for its water reuse and aquifer storage programs.

Both presenters thanked the Commissioners for their feedback and questions.

3) Energy and Green Construction Code Updates

The Commission discussed text edits to the recommendations to the Mayor and City Council related to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, 2021 International Residential Code, 2021 International Plumbing Code, and the 2021 International Green Construction Code for the building code adoption process. A new version of the letter was distributed and presented to Commissioners. A discussion on the length of the letter and the need to highlight key recommendations ensued, with Anthony Floyd providing some clarification on the current timeline for the code update process and on the Council Action Report.

Proposed edits:

1. Remove “Background” section
2. Remove paragraph towards bottom of page 2 about high efficiency lighting
3. Minor changes to sentence that references staff in the Recommendations section
4. Add “water heating” to “On-Site Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation System” bullet
5. Remove “foam” from “Construction Waste Management” bullet
5. Change the subtitle on last page from “Challenge for the Future” to “Leadership for the Future”

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept the edits, with Commissioner Bosse providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. All members voted for APPROVAL.

Questions about public comment by Commissioners at Council Study Session will be clarified before the next meeting. Commissioner Brady also asked that the final, signed version of the letter

be shared with all Commissioners when complete.

4) Pilot tree inventory project

Commissioner Brady shared that there were few updates on the project beyond a meeting with city staff about updating the input form. Public engagement efforts will be postponed until the weather is cooler.

5) Staff Updates

- Sustainability updates: Lisa McNeilly shared an updated timeline for the development of the Sustainability Plan. New draft language will be reviewed at the August SEAC meeting, and a City Council Work Study session on the plan is scheduled for September 13, 2022 (tentatively 4:00 pm).
- OEI updates: Tim Conner shared that an Extreme Heat page on the Sustainable Scottsdale website is being added and that the final Cooler Scottsdale study (along with its supporting technical data) will be posted prominently. He is working with Phoenix and Tempe on a beta dashboard for public tree inventories
- Green building program: None.
- Green Team: Sam Brown shared that the Green Team has now met twice and has the support of city and agency leadership.

6) Identification of Future Agenda Items

August: Presentation on green purchasing, discuss Sustainability Plan, recommendations on building code updates

Future meetings: Presentations by Solid Waste, Transportation, and Parks and Recreation. Lisa McNeilly will contact Parks and Recreation about an earlier date for their presentation.

7) Start Time for August 17, 2022, Meeting

Commissioner Cuculic made a motion to approve changing the start time of the August 17, 2022, meeting to 5:00 p.m., with Vice Chair Coletta providing a Second for the motion, which carried 7-0. All members voted for APPROVAL.

Adjournment 6:57 p.m.