



Approved 9/22/2021 (sb)

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

**City of Scottsdale
Environmental Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting**

5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Community Design Studio

7506 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 85251

CALL TO ORDER: 5:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Natalie Chrisman Lazarr, Vice Chair Anthony Coletta; Commission Members: David Abranovic, Tammy Bosse, Ryan Johnson, Steven Schlosser

ABSENT: Commission Member Walter Cuculic

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Conner, Manager, and Sam Brown - the Office of Environmental Initiatives; Bronte Ibsen and Amanda Willis, IT/Video Support; Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Policy Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT: Meeting was live streamed on Scottsdale You Tube channel to the public. No members of the public were present; no public comment was received.

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2021:

Commissioner Schlosser made a motion to approve the Summarized Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2021 with Commissioner Johnson providing a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0, with Chair Chrisman Lazarr, Vice Chair Coletta and Commissioners Abranovic, Bosse, Johnson and Schlosser voting for APPROVAL.



Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-7833 (if any)]. Requests should be made 24 hours in advance, or as early as possible, to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For TTY users, the Arizona Relay Service (1-800-367-8939) may contact the Office of Environmental Initiatives at 480-312-7833.

2. Update, discussion, and possible Commission recommendations to staff and/or City Council regarding the Urban Heat Island Study - *Strategies for a Cooler Scottsdale*.

Dr. David Hondula, Senior Sustainability Scientist, and Mary Wright, graduate student, from ASU's Urban Climate Research Center, presented the latest update for the study on urban heat island mitigation within three major growth areas of Scottsdale. Mr. Hondula stated that the study's overarching goals would be to assist the city in prioritizing programs and policies (e.g., planning & development standards), and in providing a better understanding of current risks and heat mitigation options. Commissioners Johnson and Abranovic questioned whether there was a difference in the "cost/benefit" ratio between natural options (e.g., trees & shrubs) and man-made structural options (e.g., solar-paneled parking shades). Chair Chrisman Lazarr stated that the final report should clearly call out the collected data that supports any such determinations. Commissioner Bosse asked if there was a way to estimate the cost for "taking no action" in the long term. Commissioner Johnson asked how the Commission could positively support the heat mitigation recommendations in the final report. Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager, clarified that any commission member may speak to the City Council's Work Study Session on September 14th either as a public citizen, or as an authorized representative of the Commission (clearly conveying the Commission's intent). Mr. Hondula will be presenting the Urban Heat Island Study - *Strategies for a Cooler Scottsdale* to the Mayor and City Council at that Work Study Session.

Commissioner Schlosser made a motion for Chair Chrisman Lazarr and one more commission member to address the September 14th City Council Work Study Session (on behalf of the Commission) with a recommendation of strong support for the content and recommendations of the ASU Urban Heat Island Study. The Chair's recommendation will include commission members' individual comments received to date. Commissioner Johnson provided a Second for the motion, which carried 6-0, with Chair Chrisman Lazarr, Vice Chair Coletta and Commissioners Abranovic, Bosse, Johnson and Schlosser voting for APPROVAL.

3. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations to staff on promoting public awareness on water conservation issues and communication of the effects of the formal drought announcement from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Gretchen Baumgardner, Scottsdale Water Policy Manager, presented slides depicting the Scottsdale Drought Management Team's planned response to the Bureau of Reclamation's declaration of "Tier 1 Colorado River Shortage". Ms. Baumgardner covered both current and planned water conservation program elements (rebates, audits, WaterSmart Portal, water efficiency checks). She stressed the importance of continuing to "engage, educate and inform" the public on the severity of the drought and the importance of individual water conservation actions. The Drought Management Team will be rolling out an enhanced messaging campaign that will include interdepartmental collaboration, amplified messaging on social media and new websites, and new videos on water conservation topics. Ms. Baumgardner also stressed the role that the Commission will play in supporting the public outreach messaging campaign. Commissioner Schlosser suggested the Hyatt Regency (Gainey Ranch) as an example of wise water use and reuse. Commissioner Bosse suggested that the facility might be a good subject for a messaging video. Commissioner Johnson asked if the City had an official position on "turf". Ms. Baumgardner mentioned that Water Resources had implemented a turf removal rebate, primarily as a water conservation measure. Heat mitigation factors were another consideration. She also indicated that they would be focusing on turf removal for the larger property entities (e.g., homeowner associations).

No Action

4. Presentation, discussion, and possible Commission recommendation letter to City Council regarding City support of, and education about, the protection of plant pollinators (e.g., bees, birds, beneficial insects).

Commissioner Johnson briefly introduced the topic and mentioned the letter to City Council he had drafted for Commission review and comment before September's meeting. Commissioner Schlosser asked if the City could publish a list of "humane bee removal" service providers. Staff liaison Tim Conner stated that the City could not recommend (or, appear to recommend) any private business interest. He called out the City of Chandler's website that simply directs people to a search engine listing of companies. Assistant City Manager Brent Stockwell pointed out how much effort the City has placed in pro-pollinator messaging (e.g., the Bee & Butterfly web page upgrade, social media) as a result of the Commission bringing the topic forward several months ago. Mr. Stockwell also stated that many of the challenges associated with humane bee removal, such as prohibitive insurance barriers and safe relocation zones, could be explored and managed in detail if the City Council accepts the Commission's letter of recommendations on the subject.

Commissioner Bosse asked whether the City could issue (right now) a Request for Quote to formally solicit humane bee removal contract services. The Commission agreed that any such suggestions should be forwarded to Mr. Conner for possible inclusion in the draft pollinator letter to City Council.

No Action

5. Discussion and possible Commission recommendations to staff on Public Outreach Strategies for sustainability topics currently under consideration by the Commission or matters of environmental concern submitted to the City or Commission through public forums.

There was no discussion; agenda item was tabled.

No Action

6. Discussion and possible Commission recommendations to staff on promoting public awareness of green events and sustainable practices during the *Canal Convergence* public art event.

Commissioner Bosse provided a brief introduction to the meeting she and Chair Chrisman Lazarr attended with Scottsdale Public Art personnel concerning how the Commission might promote public awareness of sustainable practices during this year's *Canal Convergence* event in November. The Chair suggested three available options: (1) finalizing and promoting a green event guide that is more user-friendly and adaptable to Scottsdale than the guide developed by ASU; (2) actively promoting the high school art installation at *Canal Convergence* that features "sustainability" as its theme; and (3) provide physical resources (i.e., bodies) to assist the event with the "zero waste" goal. Commissioner Schlosser asked if there would be a benefit in teaming up with the Tourism Development Commission on promoting sustainability for events; he also suggested the City offer "incentives" for green events. Mr. Stockwell provided a detailed narrative about how the City's Economic Development Department has embraced sustainability in its strategic planning and how the major impediments to the development of our own green event guide have been the loss of key personnel and the onset and duration of the Covid pandemic. He also stated that the new Sustainability Program Director would assume the leadership role for completing and rolling out Scottsdale's green event guide. Therefore, promoting the guide (option 1) has been taken off the table for this event. Commissioner Schlosser suggested having ASU sustainability undergraduates participate at *Canal Convergence* as "ambassadors" for the subject of their study and career paths. The chair agreed to take that back to the planning group.

No Action

7. Staff Updates:

- General updates – Tim Conner
- Green Building updates - Anthony Floyd
- Sustainable Scottsdale Steering Team updates – Brent Stockwell

No Action

8. Review of anticipated items for the September 2021 Commission agenda, including requests by Commission Members for items to be included on future agendas.

- **Commissioner Schlosser to address the Commission during his last meeting**
- **Protection of plant pollinators; review and approval of draft letter to Council**
- **Commission *Sunset Review* discussion & possible action**
- **Water conservation messaging campaign discussion**
- ***Canal Convergence* - public outreach discussion; green event checklist**
- **ASU update on the Scope of Work for the *Scottsdale Sustainability Plan***

Adjournment: 7:43 p.m.