



APPROVED 9/21/2016 (TAC)

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES
City of Scottsdale
Environmental Quality Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2016
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E Indian School Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Alisa McMahon, Chair
Candice Gimbel, Board Member
Michel Hulst, Board Member
Dane Englert, Board Member

ABSENT: Steven Schlosser, Vice-Chair
Bruce Travers, Board Member
Arnold Siegel, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Conner, Office of Environmental Initiatives
Anthony Floyd, Office of Environmental Initiatives
Sam Brown, Office of Environmental Initiatives
Dan Worth, Director of Public Works
Rachel Smetana, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor

Call to Order:

Chair McMahon called the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) to order at 5:45 p.m.

Roll Call:

A formal roll call took place confirming the members present as stated above.

Public Comment

None, no public present

1. [Solid Waste Vision and Strategic Plan](#): Informational item provided by Dan Worth, Public Works Director, regarding a proposed process for the development of a solid waste and recycling “vision” and strategic plan as directed by the City Council at the May 17, 2016 Council meeting. EQAB’s role in this process will also be discussed – **Discussion and possible action** Dan Worth

No action was taken.

Mr. Worth began the discussion by reading Councilmember Korte's motion from the May 17, 2016 City Council meeting.

"Councilmember Korte made a motion to use the proposed suggestions from the Environmental Quality Advisory Board to: 1) Look at operational efficiencies and formulate what a solid waste vision could be for Scottsdale and that embodies Scottsdale's community values; and 2) develop a strategic plan to achieve that vision. Councilwoman Littlefield seconded the motion, which carried 5/2 with Mayor Lane and Councilwoman Klapp dissenting."

Mr. Worth also read the following Comprehensive Financial Policies and Governing Guidance that is adopted by resolution by the City Council. Item "9. Enterprise (Water, Water Reclamation, Solid Waste Management and Aviation) user fees and charges will be examined annually to ensure that they recover all direct and indirect costs of service, debt service, provide adequate funding for future capital needs and be approved by City Council. Any unfavorable balances in cost recovery will be highlighted in budget documents. Rate adjustments for enterprise operations will be developed pursuant to a multi-year financial plan that levels the impact of user rate changes." Mr. Worth went on to explain that for the past few years, the commercial program had not been recovering its costs from the fees it was charging.

Mr. Worth explained that Solid Waste and Public Works were in the process of responding to the Council motion. He stated to develop the vision for Solid Waste, he was referencing the draft 2035 General Plan. He pointed out that the only challenges to the previous ballot that denied the approval of the draft general plan were related to land use and the General Plan Major Amendment Process. There had been no public challenges to the remainder of the document. He stated that he therefore felt it was appropriate in looking forward to use the 2035 draft document to establish the vision for Solid Waste.

Mr. Worth referred to the "Our Community Values" statements in the first chapter of the General Plan. He also referred to two goals and policies that speak directly to solid waste issues, one in the Environment Chapter and one in the Public Services and Facilities Element of the Revitalization Chapter. Mr. Worth pointed out that the goals in the General Plan are intended as community goals that apply to the whole community, not just city departments. He referred to public and private solid waste service providers. Mr. Worth drew

the distinction that the Public Services and Facilities Element does pertain specifically to public services. Mr. Worth stated the strategic plan should be inclusive of these goals especially those found in the Environment Chapter.

Mr. Worth stated the staff team working on the plan is also looking at other examples such as the Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating Communities (STAR) program's waste minimization section and several other community plans.

Mr. Worth expressed he wanted the proposed plan to have public outreach and community input prior to bringing the plan to the Council. He stated he hoped EQAB would be able to assist with that public outreach component.

Mr. Worth said at this time the staff team is working on pulling together a matrix of the goals and policy objectives with associated strategies that would need to be considered. He intends to include a very broad scope of proposed policy objectives and strategies that will include the costs associated with the goals. He said the challenge will be keeping in alignment with the financial policy of the enterprise services. He went on to say he plans to provide options of other ways to pay for services that the Council may believe are important to our community, but are not able to follow the enterprise model of balanced payment by citizens receiving the direct services.

Mr. Worth hoped to return to EQAB with a draft of what the staff team has assembled in a month (September meeting) with a target of taking a draft to a City Council Study Session in the Spring of 2017.

Board Member Hulst asked if there was a reserve or rainy day fund. Mr. Worth discussed the financial policy of maintaining a 90 day operating reserve and a capital replacement reserve and how variable expenses such as fuel and overtime affect the reserve.

Board Member Englert asked about the status and future of the contract with the SRP-MIC Salt River Landfill. Mr. Worth explained the contract had been renewed this year and extends through 2035. There are separate contracts for refuse and recycling. Recycling revenues have dropped substantially due to lower market rates for the products. At this time, the recycling contract will not go negative in terms of the City having to pay to send our recycling to the

recovery center, but there are triggers to allow the landfill to request a renegotiation if market rates continue to fall.

Mr. Worth stated the new agreements require the City to take only 50% of solid waste and recycling to the Salt River Landfill. This allows the City flexibility to find other ways to use the waste stream as a resource. The new contract has a tipping fee incentive for the City to take more refuse to Salt River; there is no incentive/penalty on the recycling side.

Chair McMahon expressed a fear she had that the refuse rate increase would cause the City to lose solid waste customers and that would take the recycling program backwards since commercial customers cannot contract for recycling service alone. Mr. Worth acknowledged that Solid Waste anticipated a revenue loss of approximately 20% and that was proving to be the case. Chair McMahon asked a follow up question of what percentage of the lost commercial customers had utilized recycling services. Mr. Worth stated he did not have that figure, but acknowledged the City lost its largest recycling customer, Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD). He stated the City had not previously charged SUSD for recycling services. When the City notified SUSD that we would begin charging under the new contract, the District decided to go with Waste Management. Mr. Worth stated his understanding that SUSD is recycling with their new provider.

The Chair asked if the Solid Waste Department was working on growing recycling while we go through the strategic plan process. Mr. Worth stated that they are. On the residential side, refuse is about 60%, recycling is about 24% and brush and bulk is about 16% of the total pick-up. He said brush and bulk is an opportunity to increase diversion. If possible, he hopes to find a way to separate green waste and cardboard from non-recyclables so the entire bulk pickup does not end up in the landfill as is currently happening.

With respect to commercial recycling in the downtown area, there is a challenge with small volume businesses and physical limitations for recycling containers. The department is searching for ways to increase the efficiency of commercial recycling there. Mr. Worth further stated that more recycling can be done within City facilities.

2. [Approval of Summarized Meeting Minutes](#): Regular Meeting June 15, 2016 – **Possible action**

Chair McMahon

MOTION AND VOTE – ITEM # 2

Board Member Hulst provided a motion to approve the June 15, 2016 Regular Meeting Summarized Meeting Minutes as submitted, Board Member Englert provided a second to the motion; **MOTION APPROVED 4-0**

3. **Administrative Report: Discussion**

- Updates and opportunities – Conner
- Salt-Free Water Softener Rebate Program final update – Conner
- Vice Mayor’s recognition of the Scottsdale Water’s Solar Project and their participation in the 91st Ave. Sewage Treatment Plant Sub-regional Operating Group’s plans to sell Plant digester biogas – Conner
- *Energy-Water Nexus: Head-On Collision or Near Miss? And How Renewable Energy is Blowing Climate Change Off Course.* Articles submitted by Vice-Chair Schlosser – Board/Discussion
- Green Building Lecture update – Floyd
- The Chair shared the results of a solid waste public survey that was shared in an email with the Council. The survey was posted on the Nextdoor site.

Tim Conner,
Anthony Floyd, &
Board Members

4. **Idle Reduction Resource Packet:** Update progress of the resource packet for idle reduction during student pick up and drop off at Scottsdale schools and the Board’s Cover Memo to City Council. Discuss next steps for EQAB. – **Discussion and possible action**

Board Member
Gimbel, & Chair
McMahon

No action was taken.

The Chair provided an updated draft of the resource packet and asked the Board to send any comments to Mr. Conner.

Board Member Gimbel suggested citations be included in the packet. The Chair agreed.

5. **Scottsdale Water Future Presentation:** Update of topics and date of future Scottsdale Water Presentation to EQAB – **Discussion**

Chair McMahon
& Tim Conner

Mr. Conner shared an email from Brian Biesemeyer, Scottsdale Water Executive Director and Acting City Manager, suggesting the Board select two topics for the upcoming Scottsdale Water

presentation. He also suggested during the presentation the Scottsdale Water representative could have a more informal discussion about the additional topics the Board had provided. This would allow Scottsdale Water to return with additional related information at a future date.

After discussion, the Board generally agreed on the following two topics:

- Salinity
- North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site and the associated new reverse osmosis plant located at the Central (Thomas Road) Groundwater Treatment Facility.

6. [Environmental Achievement Recognition Program](#): Update on Hyatt award publicity efforts and results. Report on meeting between the Water Quality Association and Hyatt. – **Discussion and possible action** Chair McMahon

No action was taken.

Chair McMahon shared two articles published in response to the City's press release regarding presentation of the Environmental Achievement Recognition Award to the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale.

The Chair indicated that representatives of the Water Quality Association, Arizona Water Quality Association and the Hyatt met on August 1. The WQA plans to send the Hyatt two studies, after which there will be a second meeting.

7. [Desert Discovery Center](#): Update of EQAB's recommendation on green building aspects of the proposed Desert Discovery Center, if built – **Discussion** Chair McMahon

The Chair shared the EQAB letter sent to the Desert Discovery Center Project Team as part of public input. The letter suggested that if the Center was to be built, it should not only be a LEED Gold and possibly a LEED Platinum facility, but should also showcase its green attributes such that the facility itself provides an educational experience for how to live sustainably in the desert.

8. [White Paper for alternative water softener technologies](#): Update progress for the final draft white paper "*Scottsdale Unsalted*": A Review of Alternative Salt-Free Water Treatment Technologies for Chair McMahon, Vice-Chair Schlosser, &

Effective Salinity Management and the Board's Cover Memo to City Council. Discussion of recommendations provided by Vice-Chair Schlosser, report on status of topic within AMWUA, and an overview by Board Member Englert of Arizona Revised State Statute title 14 Article 19 Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency Standards 44-1375 – 44-1375.03 specifically related to multi-speed residential pool pump standards. – **Discussion and possible action**

Board Members
Englert, &
Gimbel

No action was taken.

Chair McMahon asked the Board to review the recommendations provided by Vice-Chair Schlosser, and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

The Chair provided a brief explanation of the AMWUA salinity survey in the packet and requested that board members review it.

9. [ASU-GIOS- SCN LID Workgroup letter of support](#): The Office of Environmental Initiatives is requesting Board support through a letter/memorandum of recommendation to City Council regarding regional participation in the development of a Regional Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual – **Discussion and possible action**

Tim Conner

No action was taken.

This item will return to a future Board meeting.

10. Board Members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items – **Discussion**

Chair McMahon,
& Board
Members

Items 4, 5, 8, and 9 will return to a future meeting. No additional future agenda items were suggested. Board Member Hulst announced that he will be unable to attend the September Board meeting.

11. Updates and reminders –

- Next EQAB Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at the Community Design Studio 5:30 p.m. – Documents related to this meeting will be due to Tim Conner – tconner@scottsdaleaz.gov by the close of business Monday September 17, 2016
- Green Building Lecture Series is on summer break until October

Chair McMahon,
& Board
Members

2016

Adjournment: Upon the departure of Board Member Hulst the meeting was adjourned due to the lack of a remaining quorum at 7:31 p.m.

Chair McMahon