

Minutes

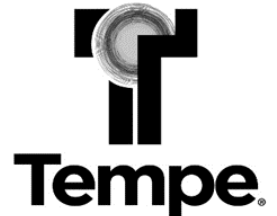
City of Tempe Sustainability & Resilience Commission August 19, 2024

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, August 19, 2024, 4:30 p.m. in person at Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Shawn Swisher (Chair)
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
Barbie Burke
Erin Boyd
Jake Swanson

Taylor Conley
Ben Paulat
Joshua Randall
Jacob Bethem



(MEMBERS) Absent:

Melissa Harlan
Morgan Winburn

City Staff Present:

Eric Iwersen
Brienne Fisher
Helen Track
Carissa Fowler
Evelyn Brumfield
Jessica Wright
Lizette Camacho
Andy Escobar
Grace Kelly

Guests Present:

David Zukowski
Matt Nalik

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and SRC Mission

Chair Swisher called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m. and read the commissions' charge and mission.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

David Zukowski, spoke about Transportation Planning. He mentioned the city assumes that 90% of reductions are going to come from EVs, but EVs can only be responsible for about 25%. He asked Tempe to adopt a more strategic approach to transportation by promoting efficient vehicles to reduce gas consumption in the short term and help facilitate a faster transition to EVs. Tempe also needs to promote multimodal transportation and significantly increased funding for reducing EMT. Other cities are implementing EMT taxes, congestion fees, investing millions of dollars, removing street parking, and promoting a 10-minute city in the hopes of achieving the 15 in the city. By comparison, Tempe isn't doing any of that. They are adding more street parking and promoting a 20-minute city. In very simple terms, EVs might cost the city \$4 million per year in repairs. This Commission has met with the Neighborhood Commission more than once. But I'm disappointed that you've never met with the Transportation Commission. There hasn't been any discussion on how we're going to adopt EVs while also reducing congestion and mitigating the risk of public safety. For example, we can reduce the speed limit citywide to compensate for additional wait. Bottom line, I want this city to stop treating EVs like a silver bullet. And when you claim 90% of reductions will come from EVs, that's exactly what you're doing.

Chair Swesh asked when was the last time we had a joint meeting with the Transportation Commission?

Brianna and Eric said they will follow up on the last they met with the Transportation Commission.

Chair Swisher introduced Matt Nalik. He just applied to become a Sustainability and Resilience Commissioner and is going through the selection process to be appointed. Matt has been a project manager and civil engineer for CDL Consultants for seven years. He worked for ASU, lives in Tempe, has a master's degree and wanted to find a way to get involved with the community.

Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager, introduced Lisette Camacho, Deputy City Manager.

Chair Swisher mentioned Melissa Harland, the new Sustainability and Resilience Commission member who couldn't join it today. Melissa Harland, owns the Drink Meat Tea Room, will be small business representative.

Agenda Item 3 – Review of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting were accepted with proposed modifications.

Motion: Commissioner Barbie Burke

Second: Commissioner Jung

Agenda Item 4 – Retreat Opening & Logistics

Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager, gave a background update on the key initiatives' priorities. The Sustainability Commission, over the past several years, has been extremely impactful and effective in how they show up and help get initiatives across the finish line, whether that's educating the residents, having discussions with council members, showing up at council meetings and more.

She explained some of the Commissioner Intervention actions and how they helped implement International Green Construction Code (IgCC) as a city policy.

Commissioner Intervention

- Council Communicator
- Social Media
- Council Aides & Councilmember monthly events
- Neighborhood Associations meetings
- Council Meetings
- Other

The year the new highlight actions for the key priorities are: Green Code and Standards, Transportation Master Plan, and Resilience Energy Hubs.

Agenda Item 5 – Highlight Action – Green Code and Standards

Brianna Fisher, Climate Action Manager, explains the IgCC goals are to address urban heat island effect and carbon neutrality, which addresses mitigation and adaptation. The green stormwater and Rain to Roots Master Plan. Since IGCC and Rain to Roots are both promoting urban cooling. Instead of going back to Council and giving separate updates, they would like to introduce an urban cooling performance measure that captures all the work they are doing with urban cooling. Later, have some policy recommendations.

Agenda Item 6 – Highlight Action – Transportation Master Plan

Lindsey Post, Senior Transportation Planner, gave an update about the Transportation Master Plan Timeline. They will have an outside consulting firm to help with the plan update. They received two statements of qualifications from local firms. that will help with the scope and public outreach early 2025. Recent studies and data like Bourbon heat islands, tree shaped canopy, crash data, Vision Zero will help with the scope of Transportation Master Plan updates. The anticipated timeline will be about 18 months. They are focusing their efforts on community-based advocacy groups, disadvantaged communities, youth, stakeholders, and large employers. MAG has tremendous data and statistics that show where people live versus where they work, and how they get to where they work. We would be able to see traffic, commute counts based, trend over the last five years.

Agenda Item 7 - Highlight Action – Resilience and Energy Hubs

Carissa Fowler, Sustainability & Resilience Program Coordinator, gave an update on the Resilience and Energy Hubs. She explained energy hubs are physical infrastructure community facilities designed to assist residents in their daily lives, respond effectively during emergencies by providing residents with safe places. There are three focus areas: everyday programs and services, community destruction response planning and resilient infrastructure investment and design.

Andy Escobar, Sustainability & Resilience Program Coordinator, talked about some important projects that are not highlight actions. The Unity EV charging site plan aims to expand publicly accessible heating charging infrastructure. The Energy Equity Roadmap is co-developing an energy equity roadmap with residents that will highlight policy, infrastructure and programs needs to meet to meet their extreme key and energy use challenges. And the Mobile Home Retrofit program will be offering energy audits, and any kind of improvements that makes the home more efficient and resilient to extreme heat.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Item and Adjournment

There are no future agenda items.

Commissioner Jung motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Burke

Second: Commissioner Jung

Decision: Approved 8-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Carla Sidi

Reviewed by: