



## Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission March 20, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission held on Monday, March 20, 2017, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Garden Level, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

John F. Kane (Chair)  
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)  
Alix Monty

Gretchen Reinhardt  
Carol Hu  
Leah Gibbons

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Jessica Hauer  
Anne Gill  
Arnim Wiek

Colin Tetreault  
Corey Hawkey

**City Staff Present:**

Don Bessler, Public Works Director  
Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager  
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner  
Tony Belleau, Transportation Planner

Carla Sidi, Executive Assistant  
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner  
Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner  
Chase Walman, Transportation Planner

**Guests Present:**

Bradly Clodianos, ASU – SPER Club  
Brielle Januszewski, ASU – SPER Club

Councilmember Lauren Kuby  
Jordan Brackett, Valley Metro

Chair Kane called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance**

Vice Chair Jung asked for members of the public to introduce themselves.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Kane introduced the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kendon

**Second:** Commissioner Monty

**Decision:** Approved

### **Agenda Item 3 – Recap Previous Presentations**

Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner, recapped last meeting's 5<sup>th</sup> Street presentation. This concept reflects the collective feedback from the different Boards and Commissions sharing responsibility, the Sustainability Commission and the Transportation Commission. He explained the project funding step, if approved.

They will present to the City Council the preferred concept on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Streetcar**

Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner, gave an overview presentation of the Streetcar Project. It is part of the regional Valley Metro transportation system.

Discussion about:

- Wireless option/propulsion four difference scenarios
- Different funding sources /President budget
- It is an urban circulator that will cover three miles route, six vehicles (four operating) and 14 stops have been identified.
- Intersection Ash and 1<sup>st</sup> Street on April 17<sup>th</sup> street design feedback

### **Agenda Item 5 – Highline Canal Multi-use Path Project Presentation**

Robert Yabes, Principal Planner, gave an update on the Highline Canal Multi-use Path project along with final design concept. The path is located in the west central and south Tempe extending from Baseline Road to Knox Road for approximately four miles.

The project links directly to Phoenix, Guadalupe and Chandler and connects a diversity of neighborhoods to employment centers, parks, schools and commercial areas. The project will include lighting, landscaping, street crossings, public art and other path amenities. Project construction is estimated to start late 2017 or early 2018

Chair Kane appointed Vice Chair Jung to represent the Sustainability Commission to be part of the selection committee for the Highland Canal art installation.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Tempe Sustainability Award**

The Sustainability Commission selected the Meiny Vermaas as the residential winner project for the 2017 Tempe Sustainability Award, and Singh Meadow, as the commercial winner project for the 2017 Tempe Sustainability Award.

Braden Kay and Carla Sidi will finalize the award prize and presentation. Commissioners Monty and Hu will work on the wording ceremony.

A motion was made to approve the awards.

**Motion:** Commissioner Gibbons

**Second:** Commissioner Hu

**Decision:** Approved

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**Agenda Item 7 – Urban Forest**

Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner, gave an update on Urban Forest project. The goal of the Urban Forest Master plan is to expand Tempe's urban forest tree canopy and all the benefits trees provide.

Discussion about:

- City-wide goal of 25% tree and shade canopy through three key public spaces on which to focus the planting and maintenance of new trees over this time: parks and open spaces, streets and urban hubs that are cores of commercial and civic activity that supports the 20-minute city
- Reduce heat island – canopy over flood irrigate areas
- Private/Public Engagement – Education, Implementation and collaboration
- Partnership with Duke University, ASU, and Urban Offsets as an initiative that will add trees to our parks and improve air quality in our neighborhoods.
- Tree in the right-of-way in parks. Around 150 trees will be planted in parks in 2017 as the initial phase of this collaboration. If successful, we anticipate continuing the program in future years.
- There are approximately 19,450 city-managed trees in Tempe. Challenges to maintaining the existing canopy and expanding the urban forest include water use, pruning, infrastructure coordination, and funding.

**Agenda Item 8 – State of Neighborhoods Event**

Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager, reminded the Commission that the Sustainability Award will be presented at the State of Neighborhoods on April 22nd. The event is from 8-11am at the Tempe History Museum.

**Agenda Item 9 – Sub-Committees**

Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager, gave an update on the Subcommittee process and distributed the memos that will be submitted to the City Council. Chair Kane signed the Notification to City Council for Creation of a Subcommittee

**Agenda Item 10 – Council Referrals**

Rainwater Harvesting pilot project process  
Deferred to the next meeting

**Agenda Item 11 – Staff Updates**

Deferred to the next meeting

**Agenda Item 12 – Housekeeping items**

Deferred to the next meeting

**Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda**

2017 Retreat – April 2017  
Sustainability Subcommittees – April 2017  
State of Neighborhood– April 2017  
Urban Forest brainstorm – May 2017

Commissioner Monty made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Hu seconded.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

Prepared by: Carla Sidi  
Reviewed by: Don Bessler