

Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission August 21, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission held on Monday, August 21, 2017, 4:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Garden Level, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

John F. Kane (Chair)
Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
Alix Monty
Colin Tetreault – phone
Arnim Wiek

Gretchen Reinhardt
Anne Gill
Leah Gibbons
Corey Hawkey

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Carol Hu
Stephanie Milam-Edwards

City Staff Present:

Don Bessler, Public Works Director
Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy PW Director Engineering
Tony Miano, Deputy PW Director Field Operations
Julie Hietter, PW Administration Manager
Grace DelMonte Kelly, PW Energy Management Coordinator
Shannon Reed, PIO

Carla Sidi, Executive Assistant
Jennifer Svetichan, PW Supervisor
Jerry Hart, Deputy Internal Services Director
Stephen White, PW Planning Resource Analyst
Laura Kajfez, Neighbor Services Specialist

Guests Present:

Ashley Camhi, Stronger Together AZ
Jim Moule, Citizen Climate Lobby

Joel Guy, Resident
Karen Contos, ASU

Chair Kane called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance

No members of the public spoke.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Kane introduced the minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion.

A motion was made to approve the minutes with a change to Item 6.

Motion: Commissioner Hawkey

Second: Commissioner Wiek

Decision: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – Recap Previous Presentations

There was no presentation to be recapped or that needs clarification.

Agenda Item 4 – Utility Rate Study Recommendation

Deputy PW Director Engineering Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy PW Director Field Operations Tony Miano, Deputy Internal Services Director Jerry Hart, PW Planning Resources Analyst Stephen White and PW Administration Manager Julie Hietter presented highlights of the Tempe multi-year utility rate study and staff recommendations identified through the process.

The presentation included:

- Outreach and education for the solid waste, water and wastewater rate study included meetings with focus groups, City Council water conservation working group, public meetings, small group meetings with Mayor/Council, and HOA meetings
- Solid Waste Study:
 - Cost of service allocation
 - Solid waste residential study objectives; goal 40% diversion by 2020
 - Pricing parity for multifamily accounts
 - Save Money and Recycle Tempe (SMART) pricing model and program rates
 - Commercial rates
- Water and Wastewater Study:
 - Single family residential
 - Flood irrigation
 - Cost of service and existing single family rate structure
 - Monthly single family residential tier sizing
 - Peak usage and system peaking factors
 - Proposed single family residential tier pricing
 - Proposed flood irrigation cost recovery

Staff will present at City Council's work study session on September 7th and there will be City Council public hearings in October with an anticipated adoption date of January 2018.

Public Works Director Don Bessler said there is a city water conservation goal and there should be a slide in the PowerPoint that shows the goal; Don re-affirmed that the proposed rate plan still messages the importance of water conservation while honoring the notion that wise water use does not always equate to xeric landscaping.

Commissioner Jung asked if the commission should make a formal recommendation. Public Works Director Don Bessler said the Commission will have time to provide comments before the Council's adoption public hearings and that the Water Sub-committee could provide comments to the commission and the commission could pass comments and recommendations forward to City Council after hearing the sub-committees' thoughts. In general, the commission supported the approach.

Agenda Item 5 – Water Subcommittee Updates

Public Works Director Don Bessler said the city does not have a multi-family water conservation goal and that the subcommittee should feel comfortable making a policy recommendation to council. The subcommittee could also review if the single-family conservation goal is adequate; and provide comments to Council for the rate study.

Commissioner Monty said the next Water subcommittee meeting is September 5th and that the subcommittee is coming up with framework of goals and objectives for the group.

Agenda Item 6 – Retreat 2017

Chair Kane introduced the item. Carla Sidi recommended dates in September and all present agreed on Saturday, September 30th between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Eisendrath House

Potential topics for the retreat include:

- 2017 Report to Council
- What the commission hopes to achieve
- Subcommittees: what the group wants them to achieve; how long subcommittees last
- Commission attendance requirements
- Green infrastructure and green buildings

The group will discuss retreat topics at next sustainability commission meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Council Referrals

None.

Agenda Item 8 – Staff Updates/McClintock Bike Lane

This issue will be discussed at the Council Work Study session on September 7th.

Agenda Item 9 – Housekeeping Items

Carla asked commissioners whose terms are set to expire if they wish to be re-appointed. All present except Commissioner Gibbons said yes, they wish to be re-appointed.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda

Add Urban Core Subcommittee update as a standing agenda item

Water Subcommittee update as a standing agenda item

Urban Food update by Commissioner Wiek as a standing agenda item

Commissioner Wiek said he and his students are working on urban food this year and he could present an update to the group. Chair Kane recommended a standing agenda item for urban food and that Commissioner Wiek could provide an update to the commission each month.

Objectives and Topics for Retreat 2017

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Hawkey

Second: Commissioner Monty

Decision: Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly

Reviewed by: Don Bessler & Carla Sidi