



## Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission September 16, 2019

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, September 16, 2019, 4:30 p.m., at the Engineering & Transportation Conference Room, City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Kendon Jung (Chair)  
Barbie Burke  
Steven Russell  
Sukki Jahnke  
John Kane

Stephanie Milam-Edwards  
Serita Sulzman  
Katja Brundiers  
Gretchen Reinhardt

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)

**City Staff Present:**

Braden Kay, Sustainability Director  
Grace DelMonte Kelly, Energy Management Coordinator  
Parrish Spisz, Senior Management Assistant  
Tanya Chavez, Interim Deputy Director of Municipal Utilities  
Steve White, Municipal Utilities Planning Resource Analyst  
Tony Miano, Solid Waste Manager

**Guests Present:**

Jennifer Stroud  
Daniel Boswell  
Linsey Boswell  
Frances Burnuel  
Patricia Hillman  
Keith Hillman  
Connor Franklin Rey

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearance**

Chair Jung asked the guests to introduce themselves.

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

Chair Jung introduced the minutes of the August 19, 2019 meeting. Commissioners Jahnke and Reinhardt recommended edits to the meeting minutes. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes with recommended edits. Commissioner Russell seconded.

**Motion:** Commissioner Burke

**Second:** Commissioner Russell

**Decision:** Approved 9-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung (Chair)  
Barbie Burke  
Steven Russell  
Stephanie Milam-Edwards  
Serita Sulzman  
Katja Brundiers  
Gretchen Reinhardt  
Sukki Jahnke  
John Kane

### **Agenda Item 3 – Solid Waste Rate Study Update**

Interim Deputy Director of Municipal Utilities Department Tanya Chavez said solid waste is working with Stantec Consulting on a solid waste rate study. Tanya said they are going to city council on Thursday night to look at rates for the next two fiscal years. She said the presentation will focus on:

- Tempe's commitment to the recycle program
- Change in trash collection days
- Green organics program – collect organics
- Alley maintenance program
- Solid waste rate study
- In relation to Council priority #4 :
  - performance measure #4.04, Achieve or exceed diversion rate by 2020. The diversion rate goal is 40% for residential and 25% for commercial
  - They are currently at 22.8% for residential and 24.2 % for commercial
- They will show Council how rates compare. Tempe is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the valley with a monthly solid waste fee of \$25.60, after Mesa and Phoenix, and in comparison, to cities providing similar services
- Tempe is one of the only cities that collects green waste to both use in our parks and give out to residents

Solid Waste Manager Tony Miano said there was a recycling crash and we used to collect \$600,000 in revenue. Now, the cost is \$500,000 for recycling. It is currently 69\$ per ton to recycle material and \$25.56 per ton to send it to the landfill. Casa Grande and some other cities are choosing to landfill instead. Tucson changed collection to every other week. We have a mandate in Maricopa County to collect every other week.

- We went to council. They supported us. We are working on “top 10 in the bin”. The more people contaminate the container, the higher the costs to recycle so we are educating residents on what can be recycled
- The average 1 lb. container has 14% contamination
- SMART (Save Money and Recycle Tempe) program has been successful in its first year
- We are looking at re-routing city for collection and moving collection dates to reduce fuel use in trucks and we are in the process of switching trucks to CNG to reduce our carbon footprint.

#### Why change the rate?

- Improve customer service
- Improve efficiencies
- Reduce mileage
- Reduce costs

#### Alley Maintenance Program Challenges

- Schedule not being followed
- Material is thrown in alley
- Trees and bushes are not trimmed
- Truck takes up most of alley

There are nearly 200 miles of alleys, we would like to see 50 miles/ year cleaned up.

#### Re-use of diverted materials:

- We collaborate with Parks, Golf, Water Utilities, Engineering
- We take recycled asphalt, grind with palm fronds and mix it together
- We are going to change the way we landfill material and find ways to re-purpose it
- From 2009- 2015, we didn't ask for higher rates
- Performance Measure #4.04 helps us to solidify our programs
  - Bulk green organics
  - Compost
  - Recycling
  - SMART
  - Rate study

#### Timeline is:

- Council review - September 19
- Public comment period -September 23 – October 7
- 1<sup>st</sup> draft of 20/21 rates – October 1
- Public meeting – October 3
- Public meeting – October 5
- Council adoption – Council adoption

#### Commissioners commented and asked:

- Is the city doing anything to incentivize getting jobs and recycling plants here? Tony said we are working with RISN, Phoenix and cities in the valley. ASU is facilitating to determine what we can do.
- What caused the changes in diversion rates in FY15/16? Tony said we had 1 truck with 100 containers when we started. Now we have a lot more trucks and more containers out there.
- ASU is working on a 2000 toilet retrofit and reusing porcelain to make concrete. Tony said they are using sand from parks for sandbags and are re-purposing any material they can.
- Do you anticipate in public participation process there will be a question of equity? Rate increases may affect some more than others. Tony said they went out to the public and are trying different programs to address equity. The SMART program offers smaller families an opportunity to save.
- Any thoughts on closing alleys? Tony said we went to Council and we heard an absolute no.

Chair Jung thanked Tony, Tanya and Steve and said if any staff have more questions for Solid Waste staff to send them to staff.

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#### **Agenda Item 4 – Climate Action Plan Approval Timeline**

Sustainability Director Braden Kay said we presented the Climate Action Plan to council on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Council gave instructions including incorporating equity with the Climate Action Plan. Council said the proposed equity section for Climate Action Plan 2.0 wasn't enough.

Council gave staff direction to move forward on carbon reduction goal of

- 80% of 2015 community GHG emissions by 2050 and 100% carbon neutral by 2060.

We are doing another Climate Action Plan event, a heat walk at Kiwanis Park on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We will give an overview of the plan and then walk with residents to measure the temperature and collect data with ASU researchers. This is a hands-on opportunity, researchers are convinced there are not a lot of people doing this research.

Chair Jung said this is also helping us with 20-minute city and multi-modal city. This is one of the reasons this is so important.

Commissioners commented and asked:

- You had over 90 people at the climate action plan public meeting. Did you review the comments? Braden said yes there as a lot of energy and excitement about the plan and how we are turning that into policy
- One couple from Gilbert travelled and said they want to duplicate in their city
- There were no negative comments
- There were a wide range of ages and background which is good to see

#### **Agenda Item 5 - Climate Action Plan 1.0 - Highlighted Actions**

Chair Kendon Jung said all council members were receptive to the Climate Action Plan. This shifts our work on how we will engage council members. We need to formalize our support for the plan and staff drafted a memo and we would like to get your thoughts on it. We are hoping to start the highlighted actions with this letter.

The commission reviewed the draft letter to Council, discussed some potential revisions and provided written comments to staff.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the letter with recommended edits to be reviewed by the Chair and then forwarded from the commission to the City Council. Commissioner Burke seconded.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kane

**Second:** Commissioner Burke

**Decision:** Approved 9-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung (Chair)  
Barbie Burke  
Steven Russell  
Stephanie Milam-Edwards  
Serita Sulzman  
Katja Brundiers  
Gretchen Reinhardt  
Sukki Jahnke  
John Kane

The letter of support for the Climate Action Plan will be sent to council. Braden said if a councilmember wants to talk Chair Jung will coordinate meetings with the council members.

Sustainability Director Braden Kay said the last 12 months have been exclusively about the climate action plan and thanked Chair Jung, Ryan Mores and the commissioners for being so focused. The next 3 to 6 months is all about the highlighted action and how to move them forward.

Chair said we are going to work in teams to decide what we can do to discuss the actions with stakeholders. He will connect with SRP to look into the currently policy and think about those pieces.

Commissioners discussed the TDM and said is a complicated framework. Braden said it will be about listening to the chamber and stakeholders and coming back to the commission after hearing their comments.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Housekeeping Items**

Chair Jung reminded commissioners of the heat walk on September 21<sup>st</sup> and the next commission meeting is on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Burke recognized Braden Kay for receiving the Gabe Zimmerman emerging leaders award in Tucson last month. The commissioners congratulated Braden and he thanked the commission.

There was discussion of the solid waste presentation and a request of suggestions to solid waste staff. Braden said the agenda items are focused on the climate action plan and commissioners can request an item in a future meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

Highlighted actions

A motion was made to adjourn.

All approved 7 – 0

**Motion:** Commissioner Jahnke

**Second:** Commissioner Milam-Edwards

**Decision:** Approved

Kendon Jung (Chair)

Barbie Burke

Steven Russell

Stephanie Milam-Edwards

Serita Sulzman

Katja Brundiers

Gretchen Reinhardt

Sukki Jahnke

John Kane

All present approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly

Reviewed by: Braden Kay