



## Minutes City of Tempe Sustainability Commission November 18, 2019

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, November 18, 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)  
Ryan Mores (Vice Chair)  
Barbie Burke  
Stephanie Milam-Edwards (phone)  
Katja Brundiers (phone)

Serita Sulzman  
Steven Russell  
Sukki Jahnke (phone)  
Gretchen Reinhardt (phone)

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

John Kane

**City Staff Present:**

Braden Kay, Sustainability Director  
Grace DelMonte Kelly, Energy Management Coordinator  
Andrew Ching, City Manager  
Steven Methvin, Deputy City Manager  
Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director - Parks

**Guests Present:**

Daniel Boswell, resident  
Linsey Boswell, resident  
Hana Callahan, ASU student  
Ryan Johnson, ASU & City of Scottsdale  
Riley Bowker, ASU Student

Dyandra Jackson LoBrie, ASU Student  
Vanessa Ray, ASU Student  
Drew Alnas  
Katelyn Corning, ASU Student  
Lauren Kuby, Vice Mayor

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:35 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 October 23, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Mayor Mores seconded.

**Motion:** Commissioner Burke

**Second:** Vice Mayor Mores

**Decision:** Approved 9-0

Voted to Approve:

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

### **Agenda Item 3 – Integrated Pest Management**

Deputy Community Services Director Craig Hayton said he will let the commission know what is new and give the presentation he is going to give the council to update them on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Green Organics.

He said he will talk about:

- Update on IPM
- Update on organics
- Next Steps
- Q & A

Understanding the council priority of Integrated Pest Management and performance measure #4.12. for compost use in the city is critical.

- Managing pests is a decision-making process
- Focused on triple-bottom line
- Uses a holistic approach
- If risk reduction is destination, IPM is a vehicle to get there
- If we spend time on proactive measures, chemicals should be infrequent/least often used

In September 2019, we presented to Council at Work Study Session. We are learning from other organizations that have done IPM program well. We want to identify inorganic pesticides. We want to find a way to pull reports. For Organics, at the end of the fiscal year, we eclipsed the 2000 yards per year by 2020 goal, to achieve a cumulative composting usage across city parks, and met the goal.

We are looking at:

- Local and National Research
- Local approach
- Formalized IPM program

Tucson has an IPM program, but nothing formalized. We have a good network. Tucson and Tempe have these programs. A lot of other organizations have IPM programs.

We found there are four main approaches folks are using:

- Individual bans on pesticide

- Organic pesticide – Tucson is following Portland's lead
- Reduced risk pesticide list
- Pesticide hazard and exposure reduction

We want to make sure we continue to implement the plan and amend it as needed; identify which is the best fit and make recommendations from multiple players at the city.

Glyphosate is an active ingredient in a larger group of herbicides. There are 3 levels of caution:

- Caution is lowest
- Warning is next
- Danger is high risk

We found in our landscape areas, we used it mixed in water for spot treatment in weeds and on stumps.

Our next steps with IPM:

- Review glyphosate alternative
- Evaluate pesticide reduction approach
- With compost/continue
- Few parks will be in herbicide-free parks
- Implement pesticide-free park program

Commissioners commented and asked:

- What is the interest level in communities to clean up parks? Craig said we have neighborhood support; we are looking into working with north and south neighborhoods. Could help with pulling weeds, picking up litter.
- Have you approached high schools about adopting a park or helping to clean up? Craig said Marcos de Niza Key Club has helped. Most of Tempe parks border elementary schools. Pulling weeds is mostly helpful to us.
- We've seen different perspectives. What is the impact of health on humans and pets? Craig said we are having the conversations and looking to the Technical Advisory Committee when and where we use pesticides. We care about the residents not coming into contact with the applicators.
- What is your approach to pesticide reduction? How do you evaluate? Craig said the Technical Advisory Committee met in October and will meet again in December. They are a big part of the conservation.

Chair Jung thanked Craig Hayton and asked commissioners to send additional questions to staff.

Chair Jung thanked the Commission for passing the State's second Climate Action Plan. The Chair said he was particularly proud of this group that was willing to step into an active role, he appreciated the extra work they have done.

Chair Jung and the commission recognized Sustainability Director Braden Kay for all his work and effort on the Climate Action Plan. All applauded. Chair Jung and the commission recognized Vice Mayor Kuby for championing Climate action in Tempe. The Commission celebrated the passing of the climate action plan.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Climate Action Plan – Highlight Actions**

Chair Jung said that the commission is taking on three actions from Climate action plan to make them into a reality.

- Commissioner Burke said she, Katja, and Gretchen met their goal to create a city-wide network to discuss current policies about limiting storage and they reached out to SRP board, they talked with city staff and Sierra Club and SRP.
- We found out there are two different ways to approach SRP. We are going to approach the board first
- Fire station #7 has solar panels. We are looking into this site and doing research on solar with battery storage.
- We are going to meet with SRP management and ask for success with battery storage.
- We are looking at building selection, size of battery and safety issues.
- We will identify a building to start with. We will put a list of 5 to 10 buildings together.
- We will have a meeting with them and identify next steps.

Vice Chair Mores said they are looking at green infrastructure and green building code.

- Green infrastructure uses passive stormwater solutions; there are a couple of examples at Hardy and Rio Salado. The idea is to get council to adopt a green infrastructure policy.
- Commissioner Kane is knowledgeable about the green building code and LEED.
- These actions are under the category of resilience to extreme heat.
- Looking to continue in the coming months.
- Scottsdale green building program as an example.
- Talking through timeline for implementation.
- Working on a process to identify pilot projects for these pieces.

Chair Jung said we will talk about Transportation Demand Management next month. We are eager to speak with the Transportation Commission and the Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Sustainability Awards**

Sustainability Director Braden Kay said this is the third year of sustainability awards. We have had sustainability awards for businesses, residents and groups/nonprofits.

We have discussed how many categories. We could continue with the three categories and add another category. A commissioner recommended youth award. All agreed.

Braden said we will work with Neighborhood program manager and neighborhood advisory committee chair to get the word out and solicit invitations.

We can do outreach to former recipients, a press release and post card.

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

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

Future agenda items include the following:

- Awards on next 3 agendas
- Bus shelters
- Neighborhood outreach
- Community engagement for next CAP
- Water department talk about the Nature Conservancy
- GLOCULL

A motion was made to adjourn.  
All approved 9 – 0

**Motion:** Commissioner Mores  
**Second:** Commissioner Burke  
**Decision:** Approved

Voted to Approve:

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

All present approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Prepared by: Grace DelMonte Kelly  
Reviewed by: Braden Kay