



**The Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.**

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:31 PM

2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Billy Vaughan; Vice Chair Paul Lemmon; Commissioners Litzy Hernandez, Daniel Schuh, and Elizabeth Valencia. Commissioner Bernadette Barba arrived at 6:34 PM and Commissioner Alejandro Arreguin arrived at 6:37 PM.

Members Absent: Commissioner Kim Avila (excused), Thomas Albrigo (unexcused), and Rebecca Forstner (unexcused)

Municipal Staff Present: Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Harold Siguenza, Public Works Deputy Director; Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer; Javier Machuca, Sanitation Supervisor

3. Approval of March 24, 2021 Minutes (For Action)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Lemmon, seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to approve the March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

5. Presentation on Recycling Program

The Commission received a presentation on the City of Avondale's Recycling Program from Public Works Director, Kirk Beaty.

Chair Vaughan inquired what the City's Recycling Program is focused on this year and asked what residents could do to help. Mr. Beaty replied that efficiency of operations has been the focus of the Recycling Program and noted that the City is adding a Solid Waste Manager position. Mr. Beaty commended Avondale residents for achieving a low contamination rate of recycling compared to other cities.

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Vice Chair Lemmon inquired how the City measures effectiveness of recycling education and outreach programs and efforts. Mr. Beaty replied that the key indicator is that the City of Avondale is not being charged for contamination by the City of Phoenix. Mr. Javier Machuca added that in 2003, the contamination rate was at 50% and now the City has been keeping it under 20%. Vice Chair Lemmon encouraged staff to identify successful efforts and share these strategies with others.

Lemmon noted his concern about bulk trash that is recyclable, such as cardboard, and asked if any education was provided to residents about how to recycle cardboard and other items. Mr. Machuca replied that an inspector is out every day with the bulk team and that they recycle cardboard if it's clean and piled up. Lemmon commended staff for doing a good job. Mr. Beaty added that approximately 50% of residents take advantage of Bulk Trash Program each month, and that the City will continue to assess the data on bulk schedules.

Vaughan voiced appreciation for the Household Hazardous Waste events and bulk trash pickup.

Commissioner Schuh commended the City's Recycling and Solid Waste Divisions for doing a good job. Schuh noted there has been a lot of green waste in past few months and that the City did a good job of collecting it and providing excellent customer service. He asked if cardboard can be taken somewhere that eliminates cost of staff coming to pick it up. Mr. Machuca replied that the City used to have drop off locations but no longer has those, instead residents can call and provide address and City staff will collect it.

Commissioner Barba asked what kind of oversight the City has of private vendors to ensure the process is clean and responsible. Mr. Beaty responded that they work closely with City of Phoenix, who oversees the enforcement. Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) also has a Solid Waste Committee.

Barba stated her concern that vendors are not being responsible and do not have adequate oversight. Commissioner Alejandro agreed and noted importance of public inquiry and interest to ensure the process is handled correctly. Mr. Harold Siguenza shared that the facility is city-owned with contracted employees, enabling the City of Phoenix to provide additional oversight. Mr. Beaty offered to try to setup a field trip to the facility for the Commission. The Commission will consider this for the future.

6. Update on Municipal Sustainability Plan

Ms. Presler provided the following updates on the Municipal Sustainability Plan.

The City is partnering with Salt River Project (SRP) to increase tree canopy in Avondale. City-owned trees that are infringing on SRP power lines will be removed and replaced with three new trees planted in City parks, neighborhoods, or schools. Through the Right Tree, Right Place Program, the City will increase overall tree canopy, providing shade and cooling for people, habitat for wildlife, and increase safety and resilience of the energy grid. The City and SRP are currently working on a Tree Planting Plan.

The Sustainability Office is leading the development of an EV Roadmap to chart a course for greater adoption of electric vehicles in the community through charging infrastructure, City Codes and Ordinances, fleet electrification and raising public/staff awareness.

Avondale is undergoing an exercise to benchmark electricity use of all City facilities, with the help of Arizona State University graduate and undergraduate students.

The City continues to evaluate green building certificates and standards for new City facilities, including the new Fire Station 175 at Van Buren and 127th Avenue, the Parking Garage at the BLVD, City Hall Annex, and others.

Avondale is exploring collaborations with OnePointOne and Arizona Sustainability Alliance to bring food tech and vertical farming education into Avondale classrooms.

Lastly, Avondale will be developing its first Community Sustainability Plan and preparing for kick-off in August with community engagement events and activities for residents and stakeholders to provide input to shape the Plan.

7. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Chair Vaughan called for the Commission to hold a Work Session in June to discuss the City's plans for enabling electric vehicle adoption, in alignment with the EENRC 2021 Annual Goals. Commissioners voiced their support for the Work Session and scheduled the meeting for June 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

8. Adjournment

The next Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM.



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There being no further business, Commissioner Schuh moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice Chair Lemmon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Vaughan".

Billy Vaughan

Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th day of May 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.

Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison