



**The Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, July 28, 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, Elizabeth Valencia, Bernadette Barba, Daniel Schuh; Commissioner Alejandro Arreguin arrived at 6:47 PM.

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

Municipal Staff Present: Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

4. Approval of May 26, 2021 Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Vice Chair Lemmon, seconded by Commissioner Valencia to approve the May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of June 23, 2021 Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Commissioner Schuh, seconded by Vice Chair Lemmon to approve the June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion of 2021 Commission Goals

Chair Vaughan asked Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer, to provide an overview of the Commission's 2021 Annual Goals and status updates.

Ms. Presler reviewed the Commission's progress on its Annual Goals, noting that the Commission achieved all goals and met all timelines to date, including providing input to City staff on the General Plan Update Sustainable Development Theme, engaging youth by presenting at the Avondale Youth Advisory Commission and volunteering at KidFest, discussing the City's Recycling Program and contract, and providing input to

staff on efforts to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles. The Commission had a goal scheduled for July 2021 to provide a memorandum to City leadership recommending the development of a Climate Action Plan, however, City Council and City Manager's Office approved the development of a Community Sustainability Plan earlier this year. Ms. Presler asked if the Commission would like to revise the July goal.

The Commission determined to revise the goal and instead provide a memorandum to City Council commending them for supporting the development of the Community Sustainability Plan and advising on important aspects to consider, including a city-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. The Commission would also like to share the work they have been doing this year and note that they will be involved in the development process and help bring forward specific goals and strategies for the Plan.

Chair Vaughan directed staff to draft the memo and bring forward for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Commission.

The Commission had also set a goal for fall 2021 to launch a campaign to encourage community members to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle through everyday action. Ms. Presler proposed the Commission support and promote the public engagement for the Community Sustainability Plan this fall in lieu of the "One Less" Campaign the Commission ran the last two years.

Vice Chair Lemmon stated he was in favor of supporting the Community Sustainability Plan this fall and proposed running a zero-waste type campaign in July, in alignment with "Plastic Free July" global initiative.

Chair Vaughan voiced his support for Vice Chair Lemmon's suggestion.

Commissioner Hernandez also supported the suggestion, noting that she likes the tangible impact of encouraging people to become involved with the Community Sustainability Plan.

7. Sustainability Plan Update

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

- Progress continues on the City's Municipal Sustainability Plan, with 79% of actions implemented and another 10% underway.
- One recent achievement was the adoption of sustainable purchasing objectives in the City's Procurement Policy, encouraging staff to make acquisitions that conserve natural resources, reduce the use of water and energy, minimize

environmental impact, eliminate or reduce the use of toxics, reduce materials sent to landfills and more. The City has also switched to placing all general office orders on Tuesday for bulk delivery once per week.

- City Council approved funding for up to 10 new electric vehicle charging stations this fiscal year, as well as funding for an update to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.
- Staff resumed the energy benchmarking project with Arizona State University and is currently working on benchmarking the City's Police and Fire Stations.
- Staff received a draft inventory of potential redevelopment opportunities using funding from an Environmental Protection Program grant.
- The City continues to evaluate green building certification for new City facilities and incorporating sustainability elements into the designs.

Ms. Presler shared that the City is preparing for the launch of the Community Sustainability Plan, which will identify pathways for a sustainable and resilient Avondale. The Plan will kick-off with a community survey, and outreach events are planned for the fall. Janet Dayer, Management Associate, is assisting Ms. Presler with these efforts.

8. Discussion of Future Meeting Format and Commission Composition

Ms. Presler shared that City Council plans to resume in-person meetings starting in August and asked if the Commission would like to meet in-person or online moving forward. The majority of Commissioners preferred meeting in-person.

Chair Vaughan requested the next person be held in-person if possible, subject to change due to Covid-19 guidance.

Ms. Presler asked if the Commission would like to continue to meet at 6:30 PM or prefer a 6:00 PM start time like other City Boards and Commissions? The majority of Commissioners preferred a 6:30 PM start time.

Chair Vaughan requested that meetings continue to be held at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Presler inquired if the Commission would support reducing the membership size to seven (7) voting members and one (1) alternate to align with other City Boards and Commissions, noting that changes would go into effect as terms end.

Chair Vaughan and Vice Chair Lemmon were in favor of the change in membership size to make it easier to ensure quorum and facilitate discussions and decision-

Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2021
Page 4 of 5

making. No Commissioners objected. Chair Vaughan requested that staff email the Commission roster with current terms to all members after the meeting.

Lastly, Ms. Presler asked if the Commission was in favor of changing the name of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission to the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Schuh was in favor of the name change.

Commissioner Barba liked the name Green Commission or Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Valencia suggested renaming it to the Environmental Sustainability Commission.

Ms. Presler proposed including environmental component in the bylaws' description.

Chair Vaughan approved of renaming it the Sustainability Commission.

Vice Chair Lemmon supported renaming it the Sustainability Commission.

Ms. Presler will bring forward revised bylaws for the Commission to consider and vote on at the next Regular Meeting. If approved, the revised bylaws will go to City Council for final approval and adoption.

9. Adjournment

The next Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Vice Chair Lemmon, seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Billy Vaughan, Chair



Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2021
Page **5** of **5**

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 28th day of July 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