



**Sustainability Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom**

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:32 PM

2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Paul Lemmon; Vice Chair Daniel Schuh; Commissioners Litzy Hernandez and Shaun Grimm.

Members Absent: Commissioners Billy Vaughan (excused), Thomas Albrigo (unexcused), Bernadette Barba (unexcused), and Alejandro Arreguin (unexcused).

Municipal Staff Present: Jeremy Abbott, Public Works Assistant Director; Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer; Jennifer Davidson, Water Resources Manager; Nancy Wallace, Administrative Assistant

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

4. Approval of May 25, 2022 Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Vice Chair Daniel Schuh, seconded by Commissioner Litzy Hernandez, to approve the May 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentation on the proposed Drought Preparedness Plan

Jennifer Davidson, Water Resources Manager, presented an overview of the proposed Drought Preparedness Plan (DPP) to the Commission. The DPP is required by Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and is part of the City's overall portfolio management. The DPP assesses risks and reduces vulnerability to the community due to drought impacts. It allows for selection of appropriate responses based on the water supply and demand conditions. The plan includes triggers that prompt the City to consider implementing measures and strategies to help reduce water demand. Ms. Davidson shared tables that listed proposed measures to be taken at different drought stages for municipal, non-municipal, and residential users.

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Two public open houses will be held for Avondale's DDP: August 9, 2022 from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM at Sam Garcia Library and August 11, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Avondale Visitor & Conference Center.

Chair Lemmon asked how Avondale can continue to grow with limited water. Ms. Davidson responded that Avondale has planned for growth within its water portfolio. The City researches each development to ensure sustainability. The departments work together in planning for growth.

Chair Lemmon inquired if having farmland and their associated water rights helps the City's development. Public Works Assistant Director Jeremy Abbott stated that is part of it, and additionally Avondale has long leveraged smart planning in developing its water resources.

Commissioner Grimm asked for clarification on the terms "expand", "enforce" and "prohibit" within the tables. Ms. Davidson explained what the terms meant in this context.

Chair Lemmon commented on the frequency of some residents changing pool water and advocated for the City having a stronger stance on it in the DPP. Ms. Davidson discussed issues of privacy and health reasons for why the City would not want to limit changing pool water. Mr. Abbott added that residents are encouraged to empty the water into the sewer so it can be reclaimed.

Chair Lemmon had heard that greywater is pumped back into Crystal Garden Wetlands and ran through the cells before discharged into the aquifer. Mr. Abbott clarified that the water in Crystal Gardens is surface water that comes from SRP, and is not greywater.

Chair Lemmon stated that he would like the City be more aggressive with the measures it is currently proposing in the DPP, and that he plans to attend one of the Open Houses on the plan.

Vice Chair Schuh shared that he received an email about providing feedback on the proposed DPP. He noted that he was impressed with the City's plan and that it made him reflect on his own water use. He appreciated the City having these open houses and getting it out to the public for feedback.

Commissioner Hernandez stated her agreement with Chair Lemmon of anticipating the DPP to be more aggressive, but noted that Ms. Davidson explanation of not

getting into people's backyard made sense to her. Commissioner Hernandez added that she supports the education-first approach.

6. Update on the Community Sustainability Plan

Chair Lemmon asked Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer, to provide an update on the Community Sustainability Plan. Ms. Presler shared an overview of the Council Work Session she participated in. Overall, Council was supportive of the plan. Areas that Council felt were most important were a reliable water supply, tree canopy coverage to help mitigate urban heat, increasing access to recycling and growing food locally. Several Councilmembers stressed the importance of education in schools.

Ms. Presler stated that the public comment period is open until August 14, 2022 and that the final plan will be brought to Council for consideration and adoption on September 19, 2022.

The Commission determined to convene a Regular Meeting on August 31, 2022 at 6:30 PM to review the final plan and vote on a recommendation to City Council.

7. Update on the "Plastic Free July" Campaign

Ms. Presler provided an update on the "Plastic Free July" Campaign, which was an effort on behalf of the Sustainability Commission to encourage the reduction of single-use plastics during the month of July. The City created a dedicated webpage, and promoted the campaign through social media posts, flyers displayed in City buildings, and digital pledge cards. People who pledged to reduce their use of plastics were entered for a chance to win a "zero waste" kit. The winners will be announced on August 1st. Ms. Presler will provide the Commission with the statistics for this Campaign after it concludes on July 31, 2022.

8. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

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

Paul Lemmon, Chair



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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 27th day of July, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison