



**Sustainability Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom**

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:33 PM

2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Paul Lemmon; Commissioners Litzy Hernandez Cota, Thomas Albrigo and Alejandro Arreguin.

Members Absent: Commissioner Shaun Grimm (excused), Vice Chair Daniel Schuh, Billy Vaughan, and Bernadette Barba.

Municipal Staff Present: Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer; Kirk Beaty Public Works Director, and Nancy Wallace, Administrative Assistant

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

4. Approval of July 27, 2022 Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez Cota, seconded by Commissioner Arreguin, to approve the July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Recommend Approval of the Community Sustainability Plan (For Action)

Chair Lemmon asked staff to provide a summary on public feedback received on the Draft Community Sustainability Plan and any resulting changes made to the document.

Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer, reported that the City gathered community feedback on the Draft Plan from June 27 to August 14, 2022. Public input was gathered through the aVOICE (Polco) platform, public poll, social media posts, sustainability webpage, West Valley View article, two neighborhood meetings, a virtual webinar for local Avondale businesses, peer review panel of sustainability professionals, and one request for a meeting with a stakeholder group.

On September 19, 2022 the Sustainability Plan will go to City Council for their consideration and adoption. Community feedback overall was positive. There were

three public comments received. One respondent said the plan was informative and thorough with achievable long-term goals, however, they had concerns about water availability, specifically related to new apartments coming into the city, and they also noted that recycling in these apartments could be a challenge.

In response to this comment, staff added language to the Sustainability Plan to clarify how the city is preparing for growth amid our drought conditions and noted that the recycling aspect for apartments is an existing component of the plan.

Another respondent recommended providing air conditioning units for low-income families. Staff interpretation and response to this comment was that they were thinking of households in times of need, when there may be an extreme heat event and the air conditioner is not working or not working well enough.

In response to this comment, staff added that action to the resilience to extreme heat pathway and talked with the Neighborhood and Family Services Department about the idea of piloting a program that would loan portable air conditioning units to low-income households in those emergency situations.

The last respondent was a LEED-accredited architect who was interested in volunteering and supporting this plan. Ms. Presler reached out to the respondent and provided opportunities to get involved.

Ms. Presler showed a summary of the public poll which received 37 responses. Participants were asked to select the top three sustainability options they would most like to see implemented in Avondale. The number one response was planting more trees, the second was preserving and revitalizing our natural areas and the third was making it safer and easier to walk and bike in our city.

The Sustainability Division also received two letters of recommendations from stakeholders. The first was from Local First Arizona & Coalition for Farmland Preservation. In general, they were very supportive of the plan, especially the fresh food for all pathways. Recommendations included supporting the formation of an urban growers' network for local farmers, creating market gardens as a way to make a profitable garden from a small area like a backyard garden that you would sell produce for, and creating a community toolbox for gardening, equipment, and resources. Staff incorporated these recommendations into the Sustainability Plan.

The second letter was from the Western Adaptation Alliance and the Sustainable Cities Network, which detailed five recommendations, including ensuring funding to

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implement the Plan, cultivating economic growth and advancing workforce development, and clearly defining who will be responsible for which actions and when they will take place. In response, staff created and included in the Plan an Implementation System that articulates who the lead entity for each action, potential partners, associated costs, funding sources, and when implementation would begin.

After the presentation of public feedback, Chair Lemmon asked if the Commission had any questions or comments.

Commissioner Albrigo commented that all cities in the valley should be as aggressive as possible when it comes to the water situation and noted his concern that the 2025 timeline to evaluate water consumption at city facilities does not seem urgent enough, and that it's not clear how aggressive the 2030 water use target is.

Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director, shared that in addition to the Community Sustainability Plan, the City is developing a Drought Preparedness Plan (DPP) and updating the Designation of Assured Water Supply. Mr. Beaty explained that the DPP includes triggers, stages and measures to encourage and require further water reductions for municipal, residential, and non-residential water users based on current circumstances. Many water conservation measures are already in effect and the city will continue to advance these efforts. The Designation of Assured Water Supply is required by the State to ensure the city has enough water available in its portfolio to meet the build-out conditions for the next 100 years. It is updated regularly, and part of the process is to evaluate current water consumption and project future water consumption. The update is due by January 1, 2025.

Chair Lemmon thanked Commissioner Albrigo for his question and Mr. Beaty for his explanation.

Commissioner Albrigo mentioned seeing misuse of water around the City. Chair Lemmon said those are the kinds of things that shouldn't wait until 2025 to address and noted a desire to work with City staff to educate residents.

There being no further discussion, Chair Lemmon asked for a motion to recommend City Council approve the Community Sustainability Plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez Cota and seconded by Commissioner Albrigo to recommend City Council approve the Community Sustainability Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

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6. Overview of the “Plastic Free July” Campaign

Chair Lemmon invited Ms. Presler to provide a brief overview of the Plastic Free July Campaign.

Ms. Presler shared that the campaign was launched on Instagram and Facebook and reached 1,359 people, with high rates of impressions (650) and post engagements (61). A link on the post would direct viewers to the online pledge form, where they indicated what actions they would take to reduce their use of single-use plastics and for how long (e.g., a day, a week, a month).

7. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Commissioner Hernandez Cota, seconded by Commissioner Arreguin, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Paul Lemmon, Chair

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 31st day of August 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