



**Sustainability Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom**

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:32 PM

2. Roll Call by Chair Schuh

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

Members Absent: Commissioners Thomas Albrigo, Billy Vaughan and Bernadette Barba.

Municipal Staff Present: Katrece Swenson, Senior Management Analyst; Amber Hughes, Water Conservation Coordinator.

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

4. Approval of June 21, 2023, Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Vice Chair Grimm, seconded by Commissioner Lemmon, to approve the June 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentation on Water Conservation Outreach Strategies and Opportunities

Ms. Swenson introduced the guest speaker, Amber Hughes, Avondale's Water Conservation Coordinator.

Ms. Hughes provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of Avondale's water conservation vision, mission, goals, outreach, and city ordinances.

Within the presentation it was noted that the primary goals for water conservation are to:

- Educate the community through workshops
- Encourage civic engagement by networking with businesses and schools
- Achieve smart water saving initiatives by networking with stakeholders

Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023
Page 2 of 4

- Maintain a sustainable 100-year water supply through collaboration and conservation
- Continue to protect the aquifer by reducing our overall water footprint

Ms. Hughes spoke about the Avondale's conservation incentives and services which include Xeriscape landscape rebates for single family homes, irrigation timer rebates, plumbing rebates, landscape consultations, Homeowner Association (HOA) Water budgeting Assistance, and High Efficiency clothes washer rebates.

Ms. Hughes then shared a workshop timeline detailing the water conservation classes that are currently being offered September 2023 through March 2024. Registration for these classes is available on the Avondale website.

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of all the educational outreach programs the city currently offers, which include water conservation and landscape classes for homeowners, teacher resources, Project WET activities, self-audit kits for homeowners, and informational brochures. She would like to explore working with the Great Arizona puppet Theatre for water conservation school assemblies as well as update the xeriscape demonstration garden at Avondale's City Hall.

Ms. Hughes shared that public awareness strategy consists of partnerships with Water Use It Wisely for regional mass messaging, collaboration with the City's Public Information office to provide information to the media and through social media, as well as through outreach at community events.

Ms. Hughes concluded her presentation by sharing the City Ordinances related to water conservation and providing an overview of the resources available on Avondale's Water Conservation webpages.

Commissioner Grimm asked if the City knows who the biggest offenders are of water waste. Ms. Hughes stated that she would need to review Waterfluence data to provide an exact answer, but in general HOA's and parks are the biggest water users. Ms. Hughes further stated that if the City notices spikes in water use based on Waterfluence data, someone is sent to investigate if there is a leak.

Commissioner Grimm asked if the City is offering incentives to developers to not install grass? Ms. Hughes stated that the city gives HOA's rebates for xeriscape conversions that is higher than the single-family home rate since they have more land.

Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023
Page 3 of 4

Commissioner Lemmon stated that the city of Scottsdale passed an initiative that new home builders cannot put grass in the subdivision. He asked if the City of Avondale has a related policy or code. Ms. Hughes responded that based on the sustainability plan, that will come into play if we declare a higher stage of drought. Ms. Hughes stated that different cities have different water profiles and are doing different things to address conservation.

Commissioner Arreguin asked if there will be any classes offered on mulching or woodchips for gardening? Ms. Hughes stated that woodchips are important in the desert to help keep the soil cool and she is in the process of organizing classes related to proper use.

6. Update from Staff Liaison

Ms. Swenson stated that once the City has a new Water Resource Manager on staff, they will be invited to speak on the water portfolio as requested.

Ms. Swenson shared that there are a variety of sustainability projects being worked on including progress on the food compost pilot program. A survey has been developed and will be put on the Avondale Connect website.

Other updates include meeting with a group that offers multi-family recycling grants as well as meetings with ASU to develop an electric vehicle charging modeling study.

Commissioner Cota asked Is there going to be room in the future for the Commission to participate in community events such as Billy Moore Days? The other commission members also expressed interest in participating in community events. Ms. Swenson stated that she will look into having the Commission participate at the Billy Moore Days Event and other events of interest.

7. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Vice Chair Shaun Grimm, seconded by Commissioner Arreguin, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Daniel R. Schuh
Daniel R. Schuh (Sep 27, 2023 20:55 PDT)
Daniel Schuh, Chair

Katrece Swenson

Katrece Swenson
Senior Management Analyst 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 21st day of June 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Katrece Swenson

Katrece Swenson
Senior Management Analyst as Staff Liaison