



**Sustainability Commission  
Online Meeting via Zoom**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order at 6:30 P.M.**

**2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison**

Members Present: Chair Daniel Schuh; Vice-Chair Shaun Grimm; Commissioners Paul Lemmon, Al Nunez, and Daniel Smith-Castillo (arrived at 6:31 p.m.)

Members Absent: Commissioners Alejandro Arreguin, Billy Vaughn, and Mina Dao

Municipal Staff Present: Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer / Staff Liaison; Katrece Swanson, Senior Management Analyst for Public works; and Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director

**3. Unscheduled Public Appearances**

None.

**4. Approval of September 27, 2023 Minutes (For Action)**

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2023, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER GRIMM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5-0 WITH CHAIR SCHUH, COMMISSIONER LEMMON AND VICE-CHAIR GRIMM, NUNEZ, AND SMITH-CASTILLO VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**5. Introduction of new Commission Members and Staff Liaison**

All Commissioners present introduced themselves, stated their length of time on the Commission, provided some background about themselves, and explained why they joined the Commission.

Staff members present introduced themselves and explained their role within the City of Avondale and the Sustainability Commission.

## 6. Updates from Staff Liaison

Ms. Anderson reviewed the role of the Sustainability Commission, noting their purpose as an advisory board to the City Council on environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals and practices that reduce cost and support a high quality of life for current and future generations of Avondale residents. The Commission provides oversight and motivation for the sustainability plan.

There are presently eight sustainability pathways with targets in place, and progress is being made on many of them.

- ▶ Clean Transportation
- ▶ Resilience to Extreme Heat
- ▶ Reliable Water Supply
- ▶ Efficient Buildings and Renewable Energy
- ▶ Healthy Environment
- ▶ Waste as a Resource
- ▶ Fresh Food for All
- ▶ Green Economy

Current projects within the Sustainability Plan include:

- ▶ A Community Compost Pilot Program with a focus on backyard composting and door-door pickup.
- ▶ A Resilient Roots Grant to increase the canopy coverage in strategically chosen locations.
- ▶ Recycling Drop-off Centers for multi-family recycling that will be open to all residents.

Commissioner Nunez asked how the locations are being selected for canopy coverage. Ms. Anderson explained that they use an analysis tool called TESA (Tree Equity Score Analyzer) that compiles data related to disadvantaged / lower-income, higher-heat intolerance, and large populations of the elderly and children. A map is produced indicating areas that can benefit from increased canopy to make sure everyone has access to cool sidewalks and fresh air. A link to TESA was provided to the Commissioners.

Vice-Chair Grimm inquired if there was a local building code that requires multi-family facilities to provide recycling opportunities for residents. Ms. Anderson stated there is a state law that prohibits mandated recycling. Ms. Swanson stated having recycling drop-off centers accessible to multi-family homes will be a solution to the challenges with apartment buildings. A link to the state law and related resources will be provided

to the Commissioners. Commissioner Lemmon suggested contacting Phoenix regarding their pilot program for multi-family housing and balancing what they are doing with what the Commission want to do. Ms. Swanson advised she would reach out to the Zero Waste team in Phoenix to get an update on their program.

Ms. Swanson provided an overview of the grant recently received from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority for water conservation. Through utilization of these grant funds, 200 households can sign up for a water conservation class. Attendees will be provided with water conservation skills and tools. After a year of engaging in water conservation and a reduction in water usage, they will receive a credit on their water bill. This is a pilot program that will be used for long-term analysis to determine if the class has an impact on water usage behavior. Commissioner Lemmon suggested a Commissioner be involved in the pilot program.

Ms. Anderson presented an overview of the 2024 Agenda, noting meetings are scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, and September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of upcoming volunteer opportunities for Sustainability Commission members and asked for anyone interested in these events to reach out to her.

- ▶ Tres Rios Nature Festival at Estrella Mountain Regional Park February 24–25, 2024
- ▶ Littleton Water Festival at Estrella Vista Elementary on February 27, 2024, will require attendance at the mandatory training on February 15, 2024, from 1–3 p.m.
- ▶ KidFest April 13, 2024, at Friendship Park
- ▶ Earth Week Event April 20, 2024 (location to be determined)

Chair Schuh thanked Commissioners Nunez and Smith-Castillo for being interested in this, noting new people with new ideas are beneficial to the Commission and encouraging them to participate in the events outlined.

Commissioner Nunez inquired of recycling opportunities for items outside of what is currently recycled. Ms. Anderson replied, noting recycling is a hot topic, as prices have increased; however, Avondale remains committed to providing the same recycling services. There are two yearly events offered through the Public Works Waste Department to recycle batteries and e-waste. A discussion ensued, with Commissioners recommending additional outreach to the HOAs and the donation of usable unwanted items to Aqua Fria Food and Clothing Bank.

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Mr. Beaty stated Ms. Anderson is doing a great job and thanked the Commissioners for supporting the sustainability programs. He discussed the increased cost for recycling, noting additional money is being added to the budget to cover the costs going forward. The recovery facility at the Salt River Landfill on the Salt River Indian Reservation, run by Republic Services and replacing a facility that burned down in 2019, might help the market.

In response to a Commissioner's request, Ms. Anderson replied she would notify the Commissioners of any City Council agenda items related to sustainability.

## 7. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR GRIMM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE-CHAIR GRIMM AND COMMISSIONERS NUNEZ AND SMITH-CASTILLO VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. MOTION PASSED, MEETING ADJOURND AT 7:17 PM.

*Daniel R Schuh*

Daniel R Schuh (Apr 2, 2024 13:11 PDT)

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Daniel Schuh, Chair

*Kimberly Anderson*

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Kimberly Anderson  
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 24th day of January 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

*Kimberly Anderson*

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Kimberly Anderson  
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison