



## **Sustainability Commission Online Meeting**

**Join the meeting by clicking the link below:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81556216722>

**Using a Mobile Device? Download the Zoom Cloud Meeting App.**

**Join the meeting with audio only: Call 1-346-248-7799  
Meeting ID: 815 5621 6722**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.**

*Virtual Access to the online meeting will be available 5 minutes prior to the meeting.*

### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison
3. Unscheduled Public Appearances
4. Approval of March 27, 2024 Minutes (For Action)
5. Guest Speaker – Heat Relief, City Neighborhood and Family Services
6. Sustainability Updates
7. Adjournment

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Members will attend either in person or by telephone conference call.

Los miembros asistirán en persona o vía teleconferencia.

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



Instructions on How to Join the Online Zoom Meeting  
**Sustainability Commission**

For technical support, please email [kianderson@avondaleaz.gov](mailto:kianderson@avondaleaz.gov).

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**Join the May 22, 2024 Online Meeting by choosing one (1) of the methods below.**

❖ Join the Meeting **Using Your Computer** to view presentations and participants:

1. Visit the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81556216722>  
Open the Zoom Meeting Launcher (application will quickly download)
2. If your computer has speaker and microphone, select **Join with Computer Audio**
4. If your computer does not have speaker or microphone, choose **Phone Call** and call the phone numbers provided on your screen
  - a. Enter the meeting ID: **815 5621 6722**
  - b. Passcode: none
  - c. Enter the participant ID that will be provided on your screen

❖ Join the Meeting **Using a Cell Phone or Tablet**:

1. Download the **ZOOM Cloud Meetings** app
2. Select the **JOIN A MEETING** button
3. Enter the meeting ID: **815 5621 6722**
4. Update your name (please use your full name)
5. Select the **JOIN** button
6. Select the **“Call using Internet Audio”** button

❖ Join the Meeting **Using a Land line or Cell Phone** with Audio ONLY (cannot view participants or presentations)

1. Call **1-346-248-7799** and enter:
  - a. Meeting ID: **815 5621 6722**
  - b. Passcode: none



**Sustainability Commission  
Online Meeting via Zoom**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**1. Call to Order at 6:32 P.M.**

**2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison**

Members Present: Chair Daniel Schuh; Vice Chair Shaun Grimm; Commissioners Paul Lemmon and Daniel Smith-Castillo

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

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

**3. Unscheduled Public Appearances**

No public present.

**4. Approval of January 24, 2024 Minutes (For Action)**

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024, AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIR GRIMM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0 WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR GRIMM, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON AND SMITH-CASTILLO VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**5. Guest Speaker, Matthew Dudley with WeRIDE**

Matthew Dudley, Avondale Transit Manager, provided the Commission with a detailed overview of the transit program, specifically WeRIDE. He shared his byline: "the point of transit is not to have a bus; the point of transit is getting people where they need to be." The City had Valley Metro and Zoom until COVID, when the transit system had a difficult time throughout Maricopa County and the region, with ridership decreasing by approximately 50%. A study was conducted by MAG that resulted in establishing a

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pilot microtransit system in October 2022 called WeRIDE. Other transit systems exist within the city, such as Taxi Vouchers, Valley Metro Buses, Dial-A-Ride, and Ride Choice.

WeRIDE is a flexible, on demand, shared-ride public transportation service that currently has eleven vehicles, primarily minivans (with some ADA-equipped) and a couple Ram Promaster vehicles. The system utilizes technology from RideCo, one of the top two transit service companies in the industry. The microtransit zone covers twenty-two square miles of neighborhoods and commercial districts, with over 560 virtual stops. Being a shared-ride system makes the service more efficient, friendly, and sustainable. Trips can be scheduled that day or up to six days in advance using the mobile app, website, or call center. WeRIDE runs from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with a fare that is generally \$2.00 per trip with a reduced rate for seniors, students, and veterans. Goodyear and Surprise also participate in the WeRIDE transit system. Based on citizen feedback, Avondale is looking at changing the hours to 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to be compatible with Goodyear and possibly including Saturday service.

WeRIDE was expanded from a pilot program in October 2023. Statistics provided include the length of the ride, the ridership, top locations for pick-up and drop-off, passengers per vehicle, etc. A dedicated bilingual Microtransit Ambassador informed residents of the WeRIDE service. This is one of the public transportation services that is trending up, and as of today, March 27, 2024, Avondale's total ridership reached 50,000. WeRIDE is good for the environment because it is only used as needed and does not use big, inefficient diesel vehicles.

As previously stated, future plans for WeRIDE include adding Saturday service from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in November, which was the largest request from residents, increasing weekday hours from 80 to approximately 115, and adjusting the weekday hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In a partnership with Valley Metro, a \$1.3 million Federal Grant was received to test the infrastructure and sustainability of electric vehicles in microtransit. It is anticipated the electric vehicles will be added to the fleet by the end of the year.

## **6. Term Limit Discussion**

Chair Schuh noted with Commissioner Lemmon's term expiring and the difficulty in filling vacancies on the Commission, he wanted to clarify the term limits.

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Ms. Anderson read the bylaws:

- *“Unless appointed to fill a vacancy midterm, each member’s term of office shall be three years, unless the member resigns sooner or is removed from his/her position.”*
- *“No member may serve more than two consecutive terms provided, however, that a member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve two consecutive terms after the conclusion of the unexpired term which he/she was originally appointed.”*

Commissioner Lemmon shared Commissioner Grimm’s previous announcement that this would be his last meeting because of his election to the Planning Commission.

Chair Schuh stated he would like to amend the bylaws to allow commissioners to serve additional terms.

Ms. Anderson explained the City Clerk advised the Commission may change the bylaws upon agreement through a motion, and the recommendation would go before the City Council for approval. A discussion ensued regarding suggestions on the proposed language. Mr. Beaty suggested amending the bylaws to say a commissioner can be reappointed by the Council as many times as one is willing to serve or until another applicant is chosen to fill the seat. Commissioner Smith-Castillo inquired if this would retroactively involve previous commissioners who termed out.

This will be added as an action item to the next agenda.

## **7. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (For Action)**

Ms. Anderson clarified the term limits for the Chair and Vice Chair being no more than two terms for office.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON NOMINATED DAN SCHUH TO SERVE AS CHAIR. VICE CHAIR GRIMM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0, WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR GRIMM, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON AND SMITH-CASTILLO VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON NOMINATED DANIEL SMITH-CASTILLO TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR. CHAIR SCHUH SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0 WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR GRIMM, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON AND SMITH-CASTILLO VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

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Mr. Beaty suggested reviewing and possibly amending the Chair and Vice Chair term limits based on the previous discussion related to amending the term limits for commissioners.

## 8. Sustainability Updates

Ms. Anderson provided the following updates:

- First, I would like to thank Chair Schuh and Commissioner Nunez (who was unable to attend tonight) for volunteering at the Sustainability booth at Tres Rios. I think the booth was a hit!
- We received funding for the recycling drop-off center, and it will be located at Civic Center Library in the parking lot near the road. There will be two roll-off dumpsters with informational graphic wrapping and security cameras to limit illegal and improper dumping.
- The AquaSmart Reduce Your Use program is now open to residents to sign up. Those signed up will attend a class on reducing their water consumption at home, be provided water-conserving tools, and have their water consumption monitored for a year. Those who reduce their water consumption will be rewarded through rebates. Commissioners are welcome to sign up.
- KidFest is April 13<sup>th</sup> at Friendship Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- The Earth Week Tree Planting event is April 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Festival Fields Park. Registration is required, and a link will be sent to the Commissioners.

A discussion ensued regarding recycling.

## 9. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

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COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:44 P.M. VICE CHAIR GRIMM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0, WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR GRIMM, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON AND SMITH-CASTILLO VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

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Daniel Schuh, Chair

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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 27th day of March 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

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Kimberly Anderson  
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison