



**Sustainability Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom**

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

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:36 P.M.

2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Daniel Schuh; Vice Chair Daniel Smith-Castillo;
Commissioners Paul Lemmon and Al Nunez

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; Marlena Pina,
Homeless Services Coordinator, Neighborhood and Family Services

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

No public present.

4. Approval of March 27, 2024, Minutes (For Action)

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER NUNEZ SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0, WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON AND NUNEZ VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Guest Speaker, Marlena Pina with Neighborhood and Family Services

Marlena Pina, Homeless Services Coordinator with Neighborhood and Family Services, provided the Commission with a detailed overview of the Neighborhood and Family Services work to assist those experiencing homelessness. There is an outreach team called SONAR (Street Outreach Navigation and Resources) who are out in the field making daily contact with the homeless to establish a relationship and trust and ensuring they get the resources they need, especially for resilience in the extreme heat.

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There is a county-wide heat relief network with the goal of reducing the number of heat-related deaths. Avondale coordinated and developed their own formal heat relief response plan that uses ARPA funds. The plan includes places community members can go to seek respite from the heat this summer, hydration stations, and delivery of water to those who appear overheated. Transportation is part of the plan for those who are unable to get to a hydration station or respite site. A SONAR team member, Avondale PD, and WeRIDE work together to ensure those in need get to a respite/hydration station and access the resources they need.

In response to questions, Ms. Pina noted the respite centers include the Avondale Resource Center, Civic Center Library, and the Sam Garcia Library. Brochures are also available to provide those who may need heat relief with information. Fire and Police Stations are not used as respite facilities because of how busy they are; however, they will provide water and assist individuals with getting the resources they need. Staff at each respite site are trained to provide water and submit avi-wise tickets to the SONAR team, where someone will promptly check on that person. The SONAR team does not receive calls to do home checks, but as we reassess our efforts, it might be something we should investigate, especially with the elderly. Katrece Swanson, Senior Management Analyst for Public Works, explained how portable A/C units are provided to community members who qualify through the Home Repair Program.

Chair Schuh explained what an eye-opening experience attending the Homeless Symposium was. Ms. Pina noted everyone should obtain knowledge and information because they think it is easy to connect people with resources, but it is hard work.

6. Sustainability Updates

- Chair Schuh and Commissioner Nunez attended the Boards and Commission Appreciation Dinner.
- Ms. Anderson explained the development of the Green Team and their sustainability initiatives, including the Plastic Bottle Elimination Initiative. A discussion ensued.
- Ms. Anderson provided an update on the term limit, noting the bylaws are unable to be changed as they are part of the Charter. Commissioners who are termed out can stay in their seat until the Commission appoints a new commissioner. A commissioner could also separate from the Commission and serve on another board or commission and then seek to rejoin the Sustainability Commission. The length of the separation is still being reviewed. Presently, there are a couple of applications, and the review process will begin soon to fill some vacancies.

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- Ms. Swanson provided an update on the Community Recycling Drop-Off at Civic Center Library. A discussion ensued.


Commission items for discussion at the next meeting:

- Recycling update
 - New solid waste code to issue fines
- Recycling drop-off center
 - Update and input from the Commission

7. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:35 P.M. COMMISSIONER NUNEZ SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 4-0, WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON AND NUNEZ VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.


Chair Dan Schuh (Sep 25, 2024 12:25 PDT)


Daniel Schuh, Chair



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.



Kimberly Anderson
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison






CITY OF AVONDALE

Final Audit Report

2024-09-25

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