



**Sustainability Commission  
Online Meeting via Zoom**

**Wednesday, September 25, 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 Daniel Smith-Castillo; and Commissioners Paul Lemmon, Al Nunez, Diana Estrada, Ramon Sanchez (arrived at 6:59 p.m.), and Alternate Ben Ruoti

Members Absent: Commissioners Zahra Muhidin

Municipal Staff Present: Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer / Staff Liaison and Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director

**3. Unscheduled Public Appearances**

No public present.

**4. Introductions**

Chair Schuh welcomed new commissioners, who provided a brief introduction of themselves and why they wanted to join the Sustainability Commission. The current commissioners and staff also introduced themselves.

Ms. Anderson explained Alternate Commissioner Ruoti's role in the voting process according to the By-Laws.

**5. Approval of July 24, 2024, Minutes (For Action)**

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2024, AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5-0 WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON, NUNEZ, AND ESTRADA VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## 6. 2025 Agenda Topics (for Discussion)

Ms. Anderson polled the Commissioners to obtain potential topics for next year's agenda. Topics provided included the following:

- Recycling
  - Mr. Beaty provided a brief overview of the current recycling situation related to the cost based on a volatile market. Further noting they will continue to advocate for recycling which could put an additional cost on the rate payers. Commissioner Lemmon noted City Council has been asked to bring the matter before the voters and let them decide.
- Education: Astro Turf versus Zero Scaping and Native Plant Species; pros and cons
- Heat resiliency
- Tree Canopy Coverage
- Solar Energy in the City
- Use the Newsletter as outreach to the community to get their involvement to provide insight on hot topics or things regarding sustainability
- Plastic bag bans: data on what it looks like and the impacts
- Water Story: Avondale's low cost, low maintenance, and easy to maintain system
- Composting: Options for residents, quantifying, and tracking it long term
- Community Garden / Green House
- Education/Workshops on Sustainability

Mr. Beaty noted the Citizens Leadership Academy is occurring now and the Citizens Water Academy starts in April, and he encourages members of the commission to attend both.

Ms. Anderson suggested members of the commission review the Water Conservation page on [AvondaleAZ.gov](http://AvondaleAZ.gov). Commissioner Lemmon asked Ms. Anderson to email the links to all commissioners and include Avondale Connect.

## 7. Sustainability Updates

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of the Sustainability Updates.

- On, September 23, 2024, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) for \$138,000 for energy efficiency, was presented to City Council to obtain a Technical Assistance Voucher to perform audits on the city's facilities to see if the sustainability goals are being met.
- In October, Avondale will host the ASU Sustainable Cities Network, West Valley Sustainability Practitioner Meeting.

- Avondale was awarded a platinum level certification for SRP Sustainable Cities Program

Upcoming Events:

- Billy Moore Days
- Community Clean-Up Event
- Composting 101 Class

A discussion ensued regarding conducting in person meetings.

## 8. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:40 P.M. COMMISSIONER NUNEZ SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0, WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON, NUNEZ, SANCHEZ, AND ESTRADA, VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

*Kimberly Anderson*

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Kimberly Anderson  
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison

*Daniel Schuh*

Daniel Schuh (Jan 27, 2025 10:01 MST)

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Daniel Schuh, Chair

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th day of September 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Kimberly Anderson *Kimberly Anderson*  
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison


# CITY OF AVONDALE


Final Audit Report


2025-01-27


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