

## Sustainability Commission Meeting

Wednesday March 26, 2025, at 6:30pm

Municipal Operations Service Center – 399 E Lower Buckeye Rd, Avondale AZ 85323

### Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call by Staff Liaison
3. Unscheduled public appearances
4. Approval of January Meeting Minutes (for action)
5. R. City presentation on community composting
6. Sustainability Updates (for discussion)
7. Adjournment

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**Sustainability Commission  
Online Meeting via Zoom**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**

**DRAFT** Minutes

**1. Call to Order at 6:33 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, and Alternate Ben Ruoti

Members Absent: Commissioner Zahra Muhidin

Municipal Staff Present: Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer / Staff Liaison

**3. Unscheduled Public Appearances**

No public present.

**4. Approval of September 25, 2024, Minutes (For Action)**

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER NUNEZ SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON, NUNEZ, ESTRADA, AND SANCHEZ VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**5. 2025 Agenda (for Discussion)**

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of and discussed the 2025 Sustainability Commission Agenda that was compiled from last meetings discussion on possible agenda topics and hit something on everyone's list.

March – Waste

Composting Program; Recycling; Second Life Market (looking at what we can do with recycled materials)

Commissioner Lemmon suggested contacting Arizona State University because they had given a previous presentation.

## May – Heat Resiliency

- Tree canopy coverage
  - Community tree planting events will occur over the next three years through a grant awarded in 2024. There will be two tree planting events in April and the kickoff event will be Roots in the Ground. Additional information will be shared at the next meeting.
  - Tree City USA is a designation the City of Avondale has been awarded for the past fourteen years and has recently been transferred to Ms. Anderson's responsibility to oversee.

In response to the Commissioner's questions, Ms. Anderson advised the three years of grant monies are provided through the Department of Forestry and Fire Management. In addition, the City also has events for Arbor Day, Earth Day, Global Youth Service Day Tree Planting Event that utilize City funds as well as sponsorships from companies that want to participate in tree planting events. Ms. Anderson noted a volunteer signup sheet would be prepared for events. The Street Tree Master Plan which takes into consideration native plant species, drought, and color, is used choose trees that work best in the areas they are being planted.

Chair Schuh discussed an article about plants that put off too much ozone layer, especially when it is hot. Commissioner Nunez shared the link to the article.

Commissioners engaged in a discussion offering suggestions to publicize events.

- ▶ Incorporate it with a speeding infraction where each offender must plant a sapling.
  - ▶ Ask residents to donate to a good cause
  - ▶ Invite the Garden Clubs and others to get involved
  - ▶ Put up a jumper at Tres Rios Festival and all donations go to the Tree Canopy Program.
  - ▶ Have a table at an event with visuals for talking point and impact on residents.
  - ▶ Advertise in Avondale's quarterly magazine
  - ▶ Email blasts
  - ▶ Leveraging local libraries bulletin boards, websites.
- Sedona's heat resiliency efforts  
Ms. Anderson recently met with one of their sustainability coordinators who is interested in sharing information with the Commission.

## July – Community Outreach

- Community sustainability feedback survey to hear what the community is interested in.
- Educational outreach for such things as artificial turf vs zero scape and air quality.
- Sustainability workshops include fix-it clinics like the Water Wise Workshops and the Composting 101 Workshop. This is another way to get the word out to the public. They are also looking at what other workshops can be useful.

Commissioners discussed the need to direct residents to the City website and other resources to obtain information because many of them just don't know about what is happening or how to find out. Ms. Anderson suggested including in the survey how residents are obtaining information, what they are seeing, and how they would like to get information.

## September – Water

- Avondale's Water Story

Ms. Anderson noted Commissioner Lemmon has a story to share about the history of water in Avondale and the details for a location and marketing are being worked on.

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of and discussed Ad Hoc Meetings.

Alternate Ruoti recommended the Water Academy to anyone who has not taken it, noting it is great preparation for this meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the Water Academy.

Commissioner Sanchez shared a situation from last year with a leaking sprinkler in his neighborhood. A discussion ensued regarding AviWise.

- Water Conservation

## **6. Sustainability Updates**

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of the Sustainability Updates.

### Upcoming Events

- Tres Rios Nature Festival on February 22 & 23, 2025 at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. A sign-up sheet will be distributed.

### Updates

- Composting Program  
Classes through the Water Wise Workshops will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, and November 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Compositing Pickup**

Ms. Anderson noted she has been working with a local organization to provide a pickup service of compostable waste for residents who do not want to do it themselves but still want to do something good.

A discussion ensued regarding the Composting Program and the Composting Kit.

- **Green Business Program Update**

Ms. Anderson noted this program is now under her purview and discussed updates that are in progress and that the finalized revised program will be sent out to Commissioners for review.

Commissioner Sanchez shared a photo and discussed his experience in Tokyo, Japan where they recycle unused soda and ice.

Commissioner Estrada inquired if the proposed tiered or points system would include businesses that do not use single use bags. Ms. Anderson confirmed that will be part of the reward program.

- **Resilient Roots Tree Planting Grant**

Ms. Anderson advised the grant funds received will begin being used this spring and continue for the next three years. There will be 153 trees, and 50 shrubs planted in the City parks and rights-of-way on the streets during tree planting events.

Commissioner Lemon noted 1,000 trees would be better. Ms. Anderson explained the Parks and Rec Department advised there was a need to have grass and turf for the public to play on.

Ms. Anderson advised there will be a Sustainability Department table at KidFest on April 12, 2025.

- **Sustainability Plan**

Ms. Anderson provided an update on the status of the plan noting the following targets have been reached:

- ▶ Maintaining 100 years of water supply
- ▶ Evaluating water consumption at City facilities
- ▶ Increasing percentage of solar on Avondale City facilities, homes, and businesses
- ▶ Installed some solar this past year
- ▶ Implemented one or more restoration projects in the River Corridor
- ▶ Last year hosted a large event to attract green businesses, workforce talent, and tourism Implemented an active Transportation Plan through the Parks and Rec Department

## 7. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2025, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., possibly in person.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:29 P.M. VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR SCHUH, VICE CHAIR SMITH-CASTILLO, AND COMMISSIONERS LEMMON, NUNEZ, ESTRADA, AND SANCHEZ 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2025. 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