

Environmental Services Advisory Committee



Thursday, March 10, 2022  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Minutes**

Approved on April 14, 2022

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 4:06 p.m.**

A quorum was established.

**Present:**

Elvira Suarez Din	Representative, Ward 1
Alfredo Araiza	Representative, Ward 2
Ryan Thomas	Representative, Ward 3
Yolanda Herrera	Representative, Ward 5
Kris Yarter, Chair	Representative, Ward 6
Margot Garcia	Representative, City Manager's Office
Michael Herrier	Representative, City Manager's Office

**Absent:**

VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, Ward 4
VACANT	Representative, Mayor's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office

**Staff Members Present:**

Carlos De La Torre	Director, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Victoria Molt	Finance Manager, Business Services Department (BSD)
Brittany Aldrich	Staff Assistant, EGSD

**2. Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2021**

The minutes for October 14, 2021, were approved with grammatical corrections.

**3. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events**

Chairperson Yarter discussed the following items:

- **Meeting Start Times** – Currently, the full ESAC meetings are being held virtually via Zoom at 4:00 P.M. on the second Thursday of every month. It was asked if this time continues to work for other Committee Members.

It was mentioned that if meetings resume to in-person, that the 4:00 PM start time would be problematic for some members to meet at that time. No action or change was made at this time.

- **Annual Report** – A reminder that the ESAC Annual Report deadline is approaching. Subcommittee Chairperson help summarize the report for the year. Chairperson Yarter will draft the report for final review. No action was taken on this item.

#### 4. Director's Summary of Current Events

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director provided an update on the following:

- **M&C Item: Los Reales Sustainability Campus** – The department presented to Mayor & Council at the March 9, 2022, meeting regarding the Los Reales Sustainability Campus (LRSC). This presentation provided information about the economic development opportunities to expand and provide investment opportunities for a more sustainable future. The development and future expansion at LRSC were broken down to short-term projects and long-term sustainability improvement projects.

*Short-term:*

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility
- Cell 4B Construction
- Land Acquisition
- LRSC Internal Service Road Improvements

*Long-term:*

- Landfill Gas Recovery and Reutilization
- City Tree Nursery, N.W. corner, Los Reales Road and Craycroft Road
- Phase I-Perimeter Landscaping Buffer and Multi-Use Trail System
- Passive and Active Recreational Areas
- Shovel Ready Pad, New/Proposed Mixed Waste Processing Facility
- Intersection Improvements, Los Reales Road and Craycroft Road
- Shovel Ready Commercial and Light Industrial Pads
- Improvements to the On-Site Non-Potable Reuse Water System

- **Cost of Service Update** – With the need of some of these projects and no rate adjustments/increases for the past 11 years to help supplement the cost, the department is going to look at the current services in the “as-is” condition to complete a business model to operate the department. This would factor in the revenue requirements, capital outlay changes, operating, labor and equipment cost increases.

Once completing this as a business model approach to see where the rate should be, a tiered fee implementation can be presented to Mayor & Council. After that, a new cost of service model should be completed that includes all the new Zero Waste programs, composting and the major capital investments can be included.

- **Code Enforcement Update** – The Independent Audit and Performance Commission will resume holding meetings after not being able to meet quorum requirements and then will finalize their review on Code Enforcement. The department is in the process of hiring four Code Enforcement Inspectors that the City Manager approved back in November. Some other changes that were recently made was leaving the weed complaints with the Tucson Police Community Service Officers.

It was requested to have a follow-up on EnerGov the Code Enforcement software implementation that will replace PermitsPlus.

Director De La Torre provided an overview how vacant properties are handled. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

## **5. Zero Waste Presentation**

This item was tabled.

## **6. Monthly Finance Report**

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director presented the Financial Report for the month ending in February 2022.

Some concerns that Committee Member Garcia shared was the amount of funds that are being taken out of the ES Fund Balance which are required for the pre/post closure cost of the Los Reales Landfill. Additionally, the ES Fund has not yet received the proceeds from the sale of the Nearmont/Congress Landfill which was supposed to be returned to the Enterprise Fund for the clean-up/remediation of these closed landfills. The department was told that once the sale of these properties took place, the fund would be paid back for all the remediation cost.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports, Appointments, Meeting Dates, and Assignments**

- **Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education**

The Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education Subcommittee met on October 6, 2021. Subcommittee Member Garcia provided a summary from the meeting. The following items that were discussed at the Subcommittee were monthly Materials Recovery Facility report, an update on glass collection progress, an update on composting, a code enforcement update, and other items.

- **Environmental/Engineering**

No report was given. The Environmental/Engineering Subcommittee did not meet during this time.

- **Finance**

The Finance Subcommittee met on October 21, 2021. Subcommittee Member Yarter provided a summary from the meeting. The following items that were reviewed and discussed were the FY 2021 year-end, FY 2022 adopted budget, Fund 2 balance review, quarterly projections, and other items.

## **8. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

The following items were requested for the next meeting:

- Zero Waste Discussion Continued
- Elections
- ByLaws
- Landfill Gas Recovery and Reutilization Discussion

## **9. Call to the Audience**

Vanessa Gallego, Chairperson of the Commission on Climate Energy and Sustainability introduced herself and stated she looks forward to future conversations regarding the Los Reales Sustainability Campus that relates to climate change.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.