



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Thursday, February 22, 2024, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

This meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams

Minutes

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:33 by Chair Jim Sell

Present:

Vanessa Gallego	Representative, Ward 1
Adriana Bachmann	Representative, Ward 2
Ojas Sanghi	Representative, Ward 3
Jim Sell	Representative, Ward 6
John Eisele	Representative, City Manager, Environmental Organization Combating & Adapting to Climate Change
Garrett Weaver	Representative, City Manager

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Sandy Bahr	Sierra Club

Absent:

Camila Martins-Bekat	Representative, City Manager, Tucson Electric Power
Alma Lizette Anides Morales	Representative, Mayor's Office

2) Call to the Audience - No Response.

3) Approval of Minutes (Dec 14)

Secretary Weaver suggested a change to remove "yes" to the right of everyone's name.
Comm. Gallego motioned to approve with the suggested change. Vice-Chair. Bachmann seconded.

4) Report from the Chair

Chair Sell reported that HB 2866 is an additional fee for EVs. AZ produces most of the copper in the US. A hit on EVs is a hit on copper mining.

Chair Sell reported that Tiffany Cleveland and David Garcia have resigned. Ward 4 and Ward 5 are vacant, as well as a city manager seat.

Chair Sell reported that Plan Tucson meetings are coming up in March. Hoping to get more specifics on policies.

Chair Sell asked about returning to face to face meetings. Bachmann, Gallego and Weaver agreed that it would be good to have a March meeting in person.

Chair Sell would like to get individual reports on what commissioners have done on the commission this year, and what they hope to achieve in the next year.

5) Environmental Lobbying Day and State level Activity: Discussion (Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club)

Chair Sell turned the meeting over to Sandy Bahr.

Sandy Barr lives in Phoenix. Grew up in Michigan. Worked for Sierra Club for 26 years. Sierra Club centers their work on equity, justice and inclusion. They want people to learn about the legislative process. What prevents people from engaging in the process is fear of the unknown. They get people registered with Request to Speak.

Sierra Club planned Environmental Day in August. They encourage members of the public to become lobbyists, give them information on the process, and do's and don'ts of lobbying. Focuses advocacy on energy, climate, water, and democracy.

Environmental Day used to focus on what the legislature has done. Now there is more focus on what the legislature could be doing. Young people will have to deal with climate change their whole lives. Sandy Bahr said how thankful she is for how brave they are.

At Environmental Day a lot of people signed up for Request to Speak, and they planted a tree. They learned that they need more table space and need to print fewer materials.

They meet every Thursday at 4pm for legislative updates. They send out a weekly written legislative update.

Chair Sell thanked Sandy Bahr.

Chair Sell expressed that he would like to do something on SB 1195 by sending a letter out.

Sandy Bahr reported that what is concerning are the ballot initiatives HCR 1015 SCR 2040

Sandy Bahr reported that SCR 2060 is just another version of SB1070.

SCR 1015 has been put on hold.

Right now the bills are still in the legislature. Hoping to have one Republican to vote no on these bills.

Comm. Eiesle asked if legislators pay attention to Request to Speak.

Sandy Bahr responded that legislators pay attention to RTS. When you make a mistake on a bill. It's good optics when a lot of people oppose something. Republicans that live in tougher districts pay attention more. People have time to do RTS.

Sandy Bahr reported that HB 2788 says that no level of government can take action to implement UN sustainability goals, which are pretty good, first one is to end poverty.

Sandy Bahr reported that there are a lot of anti EV bills 2866 is the least harmful. Many bills are anti-wind, and anti-solar.

Comm. Weaver asked about details connecting bill numbers to their contents Sandy Bahr responded by saying concurrent resolutions are referred to voters. HCR 1015 and SCR 2040 are ballot measures that defer the substance of SB1195 to voters, which would prevent bans on clothing and beef consumption. Mendez proposed an amendment to prevent fascist ideology.

HCR 2060 is the eVerify system on steroids, would disqualify more people who are undocumented. 2788 prevent implementation of UN goals.

HCR 1018 prohibits any kind of fee on vehicle miles traveled. States and political subdivisions cannot limit vehicle miles traveled.

Chair Sell said these people [in the legislature] are looking at a lot of people in Maricopa county that voted for Biden and see their campaign funding going away. We should welcome these things going on the ballot. It's a test of where people will go. It's part of a climate of conflict of warring ideologies. Facts have been thrown away.

Chair Sell articulated there should be an organization network to make sure we are tracking these Bills. Sandy Bahr said that Sierra Club gives weekly updates.

Chair Sell asked the commission for support in writing a letter to Gov. Hobbs on SB 1195.

Comm. Weaver said that we will not be a commission if something like 1195 passes.

Comm. Eiesle agreed.

Chair Sell asked for members to be on the committee. Comm. Weaver said he could not be on the committee. Comm. Sanghi said he could not be on the committee.

Gallego, Sell, and Eiesle will be on the committee.

Comm. Weaver asked if there's any check on Arizona Corporation Commission regulation.

Sandy Bahr said that with ACC, Attorney general usually certifies the rules. There are litigation solutions for procedural issues. They are getting rid of legal staff.

7) Energy Manager Report

Energy Manager Catanzaro - has been working on community pollution reduction grant with the county. Organic waste drop off, city fleet electrification and, building energy efficiency program, 4.5 million sq. feet and associated energy efficiency measures. Water pump efficiency system. Land fill gas recovery project and use it fleet. Grants are due in April 1st.

Working on GHG gas inventory for the city. Putting some dollars and expected savings for these measures.

8) Call to the Audience - None.**9) Future Agenda Items**

Chair Sell said we have a list of future agenda items. We may want to systematize them. Asked if we need to have a programming committee.

Comm. Eiesle said we do not need a committee. ACC should be an agenda item.

Chair Sell asked what would communication with the community look like?

It was mentioned that we should have public forums for the community.

The question was asked: What would you have as a venue, contact people about?

Chair Sell said we should have a social media presence, partner with other groups, such as Sustainable Tucson, or Sierra Club.

Chair Sell said that we could co-sponsor an event. Executive committee will make decisions about programming. Need to talk to mayor and council.

10) Adjournment

Chair Sell adjourned the meeting at 5:01.