



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Friday, September 27, 2024, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Conference Room
City Council Ward 6
3202 E. 1st Street
Tucson, Arizona, 85716

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Jim Sell

Present:

Jim Sell	Representative, Ward 6
Adriana Bachmann	Representative, Ward 2
Ojas Sanghi	Representative, Ward 3
Garrett Weaver	Representative, City Manager
Camila Martins-Bekat	Representative, City Manager, Tucson Electric Power
Dan Stormont	Representative, City Manager (joined at 2:13, left at 3:03)
Vanessa Gallego	Representative, Ward 1 (joined at 2:25, left at 3:40)

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Jennifer Shopland	Friends of Rio Vista
Kyra Berg	UofA Journalism Student

Absent:

John Eisele	Representative, City Manager, Environmental Organization Combating & Adapting to Climate Change
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2) Call to Audience - No Response

3) Approval of Minutes (August 30)

Comm. Bachmann motioned to approve.

Comm. Sanghi seconded.

No objections.

4) Report from the Chair

Chair Sell reported that he is working with Blaise Claudel at the state resilience office. He is working hard on the state climate action plan. Working on home energy efficiency, working on getting contractors trained up.

Reported that he is talking with Natalie Shepp. Working on building a closer relationship between Pima County and CCES. Interested in indicators. Working on the City County Climate Action Team.

Reported that he is talking with Fatima Luna, just starting up the Heat Advisory Plan. Pushing for the Heat Summit in January and next summer.

We're seeing city staff working on sustainability and outreach, and this should be applauded.

Reported that he would like to know what the limits of the commission's activities are.

There was discussion of the amount of resources available for climate planning. It was found that \$1m is available to the County for preliminary climate action planning.

5) Speaker: Jennifer Shopland, Friends of Rio Vista

Thanked the commission for having an agenda item for this issue.

Reported that Rio Vista park provides ecological services.

Reported that Friends of Rio Vista is a 501c3 non-profit, works with Tucson Parks and Recreation Department (TPRD) since 2019, and supports them. Their non-profit does not take money from the City of Tucson.

TPRD hired Watershed Management Group for trail modifications, rain water harvesting, and revegetation, and they hired a subcontractor: Strategic Habitat Enhancements.

Proposal of 355 container plants. Submitted comments to TPRD.

Reported that TPRD is not taking public comments. Trail network modifications have been undertaken.

There is no budget for maintenance. Irrigation failures are common, it takes the city two weeks to respond at a minimum. In the summer, this leads to plant deaths. This is a poor use of public funds.

Reported that the alternative to the actions of TPRD, is to follow the incremental revegetation approach that the TPRD approved before the master plan.

Friend's of Rio Vista's goals are long term. TPRD Operations division should consider the long term needs of the park. Jennifer Shopland indicated that her opinion is that the TPRD Operations division should not be held accountable for short-sighted decisions made by the contractor during design and implementation.

Climate resilience, and biological diversity, as well as the solutions of public private partnership.

Comm. Martins-Bekat asked for more detailed information.

Ms. Shopland reiterated that the concern is with plants not being irrigated enough and the ask of Friends of Rio Vista is to invest more money in irrigation and to have a viable maintenance plan.

Chair Sell asked if this is a fixed irrigation system.

Ms. Shopland replied that although she is not an irrigation specialist, she believes spaghetti lines are proposed for some areas of the park but that stakeholders have received conflicting information about the issue.

Chair Sell suggested setting up a small Ad Hoc committee to look at this.

Comm. Martins-Bekat asked how realistic it is to change the implementation of the plan at this point. EM Catanzaro said that the contract being issued means there isn't much that can be done. He commented that there is a board that reviews Prop 407 money and they may be able to do something.

Ms. Shopland posed the question: what can we do to make sure that this does not happen in the future? What is the process?

Ms. Shopland commented that when contractors were hired, the steering committee, created by TPRD staff, was dropped.

Chair Sell determined that himself and Comm. Stormont will be on the Ad Hoc committee.

6) Continued Discussion on Key Performance Indicators

Comm. Sanghi asked if we want to decide on KPIs.

Chair Sell went over the list of potential indicators

Water

- Resource
- Consumptions

Greenhouse Gasses

- CO2
- Methane

Energy Efficiency

- Housing
- Transport

Renewable energy

- Solar
- Windmill

Electric Vehicles

- Residential
- Fleet

Vehicle miles traveled

Vegetation Cover

Climate Action Team staffing.

- Turn over
- Amount of time spent

Community Engagement

- Number of people attending

Alignment with state legislature.

Comm. Stormont asked about the objective of climate action. How do these metrics align with the climate action plan?

EM Catanzaro commented that every quarter there is a report sent on the climate action plan. Some of the metrics, such as renewable energy, might trail for things like renewable energy adoption.

Comm. Bachmann commented that waste reduction can be broken down into composting, recycling, and landfill.

Comm. Gallego commented that Environmental Services might have those numbers readily available for us. How can we make it more accessible? Maybe we can get them.

Comm. Weaver commented on research done on looking at the IMF climate dashboard, San Francisco Climate Action plan, and Saint Paul Minnesota.

Comm. Sanghi pointed out that it sounds like the city is already doing a great deal of this measurement already.

Comm. Martins-Bekat commented on the TEP report on residential and commercial energy use. EV usage in the city. Once per year they get zip code data.

Comm. Sanghi asked about metrics for EV charging infrastructure. How much is driven within the radius of a charging station. L2 and L3 chargers.

Chair Sell concluded we want to see who is already collecting this data and put it in one place.

7) TUSD Climate Plan and Electric Bus Grant — Letter

Comm. Sanghi spoke on the letter for TUSD.

EM Catanzaro expressed concern about scope three emissions being an issue.

Comm. Weaver indicated he would be willing to ask for forgiveness on sending a letter to a body outside of City of Tucson.

Comm. Martins-Bekat motioned to send the letter contingent on city approving.

Comm. Weaver seconded the motion.

There was discussion of the phrasing “recommend passing the motion without changes”, and no changes were made to the letter.

Motion passed 6-0.

8) Committee Reports — Outreach

Comm. Bachmann reported that question came up of whether we can attend a lobby event. EM Catanzaro is looking into that question.

Question came up with website to broadcast information.

Comm. Weaver said he took on the actions to reach out to members of the public who came to meetings to talk about the need to do public engagement and to write a letter to Mayor and Council in support of Fatima Luna and the Climate Action Team for forming the Heat Advisory Committee.

9) Energy Manager Report

EM Catanzaro reported that the energy dashboard is in a draft state. We're at 50 electric vehicles in the city.

GDS will be at the October meeting.

Reported on mobile charging stations.

Comm. Sanghi asked about the internal carbon price.

EM Catanzaro - this does not have a due date, it has been pushed back.

There was discussion that a carbon price will lead to fleet not being electrified as quickly since there are better options for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

There was discussion of the TEP green tariff.

EM Catanzaro asked the commission to share questions for GDS consultants for their presentation.

10) Climate Resilience Report - None**11) Call to Audience**

Kyra Berg thanked the commission for letting her sit in, and said it was an interesting meeting.

12) Future Agenda items

Consultants for next October from GDS.

Letter for Fatima for Heat Plan.

In the future look for advocating for carbon price and quantify carbon, community benefit, health benefits.

13) Adjournment - Chair Sell Adjourned the meeting at 4:00