



Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 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 2:03 by Chair Stormont

Present:

Dan Stormont (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager
Jim Sell (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 6
Ojas Sanghi (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 3
Adriana Bachmann (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 2
Camila Martins-Bekat (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager
Garrett Weaver (remote, Teams)	Representative, City Manager
Manon Getsi (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 5
Vanessa Gallego (remote, Teams)	Representative, Ward 1
Katy Brown (in-person)	Representative, City Manager

Staff Members & Guests:

Michael Catanzaro	Energy Manager, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Bob Bortner	Representing Dodge Flower Neighborhood Association
Lois Pawlak	Representing Garden District Neighborhood Association

Absent:

2) Call to Audience - None

3) Approval of Minutes (May 14)

Page 1, changed "CRO Luna Thanked commission" to "CRO Luna thanked the Commission".

Page 1, changed "non-profit at UofA" to "non-profit at U of A"

Page 1, changed "help distribute heat relief kits." to "help put together and distribute heat relief kits, and requested the commission assist if possible."

Page 2, changed "between english and spanish sessions" to "between English and Spanish sessions"

Page 2, changed "CRO Luna will be getting full list put together. " to "CRO Luna is still putting the full list together, but you can find the most up-to-date information on the Pima County website."

Page 3, changed "Has met with Kozachik, the Mayor, CM Uhlich, and Kevin, but this work needs to be done with the other council offices." to "Has met with Mayor Romero, former Council Member Kozachik, and current Council Members Uhlich and Dahl, but this work needs to be done with the other council offices."

Page 4, changed "Wednesday, instead of every fourth Wednesday." with "Wednesday from 2 to 4pm, instead of every fourth Wednesday from 1 to 3pm. Commissioners agreed."

Page 1, Replaced "Katy Brown (remote, Teams)" with "Katy Brown (In-person, Teams)"

Page 1, Replaced "Manon Getsi (remote, Teams)" with "Manon Getsi (In-person, Teams)"

Page 1, Replaced "Adriana Bachmann (remote, Teams)" with "Adriana Bachmann (In-person, Teams)"

Page 1, Replaced "Ojas Sanghi (remote, Teams, left at 1:30)" with "Ojas Sanghi (remote, Teams)"

Page 4, Replaced "Comm. Bachmann suggested having the CCES meeting every second Wednesday, instead of every fourth Wednesday." to "To Comm. Bachmann suggested having the CCES meeting every second Wednesday from 2 to 4pm, instead of every fourth Wednesday from 1 to 3pm. Commissioners agreed."

Comm. Sell motioned to pass the minutes.

Comm. Bachmann seconded.

Minutes approved.

4) Report from the Chair

Sat in on most recent mayor and council meeting. Looked at 2026 budget. State revenue is down, tax revenue is down. We will have to find creative ways to help the city out.

Had a discussion today with Councilmember Uhlich, glad we were looking into ECA and did not see the report. Asked to get the report directly. Agreement does not need to be approved this year. Appreciative of work being done by the commission.

Discussion about sending CCES Franchise Agreement report to council members.

Comm. Weaver agreed to send the CCES report to Councilmember Uhlich directly, will CC Comm. Sell.

Chair Stormont asked which office is not represented.

Comm. Sell replied Ward 4 is missing.

5) Boards and Commissions Presentation - None

6) Issues with GSI Approval from Flood Control

Bob Bortner - Dodge Flower, Ward 3. Got traffic circle and chicane awarded. When project was approved by city agency, all agencies approved except department of water resources. Decision was based on old data. Personal bias was preventing it, against goals of city. Staff in Ward 3 intervene. It was approved. Biggest concern was consultant that was employed by department did not address objections in a

meaningful way, models they were using were proven to be inaccurate and very old. Department of water resources, safe streets would spend money on project without supporting city goals. Believes other neighborhoods will have the same issue.

Comm. Brown asked for more background.

Received a grant under the Safe Streets Program to reduce speed on West Flower Street, address cars that do not stop and gather water, address beautification, and almost no trees in public space. That was the purpose of the project. Concern was from Dept. of water resources.

Proposal was for four chichains, but got two because of budget cuts. The intent of the project was to block the long vision where drivers can see for blocks, which encourages drivers to drive faster.

Comm. Gallego asked for clarification of which neighborhood

Dodge Flower, between Alvernon and Country Club. Small neighborhood, just north of Grant.

Lois Pollack - president of Garden District Neighborhood. In north section from Pima to Grant, Belvedere Ave runs for a half mile, with no stop signs. Have ongoing speeding issues. Heard every excuse in the book. Cannot put in stop signs, cannot put in speedbumps. No water can be captured on the sides. Fire departments uses it as an alternate route, cannot put in any traffic calming measures. They have put in plastic poles, but they can be run over easily, not a good use of money. First year the city was replacing plastic poles. A lot of people are tired of speeding on the road. Talked to Steve Kozachik at the time. Belvedere is wider than Columbus, they have added a bike path. Got \$45k from Kozachik. In January started gathering signatures. Were told what addresses they needed to go to. Some people were short term renters. High rental area, 80%. Made it difficult. Collected signatures. Everyone who signed that petition said speeding is a problem, we're tired of it, one person had their dog run over. Turned in signatures to DTM, did not hear back. In May Jessie sent an email, they had to get an outside consultant to do a flood review. Comes back and said there is concern of flood mitigation. Said they could not have chicanes or the roundabouts.

Question is what specifically is not allowed. Need to get approval from consultants. Going to different consultants is expensive. Did not follow up. They did not have feedback. They still have a problem. The ball gets dropped. Two months ago, secretary got notification that there were two speed radar signs installed on Belvedere. It's a little bit, but it doesn't solve anything. They have four-way stop sign there, but every time it rains, it floods with garbage. On list to get sidewalks on Pima Street, need sidewalks between Swan and Columbus. Then are taken off the list. We have low income and refugees. Two people have been killed. No crosswalks. DTM said it is a false sense of security. Could get sued if they put in a crosswalk. They want to take the bus away. We're getting crunched. We cannot get an improvement.

Chair Stormont There are standards the city follows, and they are not followed. Showed map of FEMA flood zone.

Comm. Sell - Commented relating to the 100-year floodplain in relation to traffic calming measure.

Bob Bortner - Wants to sit down with the department of water resources. Make decisions without feedback. Needs to look at how to accomplish common goals.

Comm. Stormont - Seems like there is a breakdown in the process.

Comm. Brown - discussed Gollet. Asked about what the flood map depicts.

Comm. Stormont - blue is zone A, grey is zone Z. FEMA does not match City of Tucson, or Pima County flood zones.

Chair Stormont thanked Lois and Bob for their input. Said there is a breakdown.

Comm. Gallego thanked Safe street grants are not being completed in Ward 1. Will bring this up with their council member.

Comm. Getsi asked about scope of subcommittee. Just focus on the grants, or also look at the wider issue of non-responsive responses that some residents get.

Chair. Stormont commented that some information is not getting distributed to other departments. There is a larger issue here. Wants to look at storm water issue directly.

Chair Stormont asked if Mr. Bortner had prepared materials. He commented that he had. Chair Stormont asked for him to send it on to

Chair Sell - there's a larger issue going on, but wants a subcommittee that looks at stormwater and safe streets. Are the flood control people stopping this with bad information, or bad intent?

EM Catanzaro asked if you taken the issue with the complete streets council.

Chair Stormont formed a subcommittee on "Safe Streets and Traffic Calming" with himself, Comm. Sell, Comm. Getsi, and Comm. Brown.

7) Discontinuation of Sun Tran Route 5

Comm. Stormont discussed the route. It is an important route, including service to the Arizona school for the deaf and blind.

Comm. Sell - Counter productive to our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is a good reason for maintaining it. One of the oldest bus routes in town.

Chair Stormont reported he is working on a letter to Mayor and Council. Suntran route 5 has a number of issues with discontinuing it. It's a heat resilience issue. Would like to put together into a memo for Mayor and Council.

Comm. Brown commented that the report said ridership was low.

Comm. Stormont said that survey was done in the summer. Ridership surveys are based on number of people entering the bus, but unsure how that data is gathered. Just counting the number of people does not express the value the service brings to the community.

8) Subcommittee Reports & Standing Meeting Time- 4th Friday 1-2:30pm

Outreach committee has not met for a while. Outreach subcommittee remains a committee.

EM Catanzaro said 4th Friday, from 1-2:30 PM of the month seems to work the best.

Comm. Bachmann said she was concerned about her work times, asked about the executive subcommittee

Comm. Weaver agreed to work with EM Catanzaro to plan a franchise agreement subcommittee meeting in the next three weeks.

9) Energy Manager Report 10) Climate Resilience Report

Comm. Brown asked about canceled Energy Townhalls.

EM Catanzaro did not want to release the documents out of respect of the process process.

10) Climate Resilience Report

Hosted community heat awareness event around Fred Archer, there is a cooling center there and 11 mobile home parks there. Staying busy over the summer.

Comm. Stormont asked about grants.

Spoke to solar empowerment program funds.

Comm. Bachmann complimented CRO Luna on canvassing in mobile home park. Requested heat awareness events during the weekend.

CRO Luna said she plans on having heat resource kits handouts at various times of the week.

Comm. Stormont asked about handing out the kits to neighborhood association.

CRO Luna said that she will be canvassing other events in mobile home parks. Will be coordinating events with 911 call logs and will be looking at zip codes that have the highest number of heat related deaths. If there are specific locations to suggest, asked for them to be sent her way.

Comm. Getsi indicated that she would like to be kept informed of events in the future.

CRO Luna will be releasing quarterly report in July to have updates on the last three months.

11) Call to Audience

Lois Pollack - We need an ordinance to protect mature trees. There are many complexes. New owners often cut them down. State Farm insurance sawed down a big mesquite tree. We need to protect tree canopy. Trees cost money, we need an ordinance.

12) Future Agenda items

We do not have the ward office in July. Thinking of having a virtual meeting.
Comm. Sell said we would want to have our bus letter.

Chair Stormont - said we would do the July meeting virtual and August meeting.
Comm. Brown would like a field trip to see what is happening at the sustainability campus, look at ByFusion, see what we can look at and talk about.

Comm. Getsi - Commented on Lois call to audience remarks on the mature trees ordinance. Talked to insurance requiring cutdown. Talked about rising heat index, water use of new trees.

Comm. Sell suggested inviting Nicole Gillet to a future meeting.
EM Catanzaro suggested inviting her in July.

Comm. Brown suggested talking about vines and having them on ramadas. Looking at tradeoffs would be interesting to her.

13) Adjournment - Chair Stormont adjourned the meeting at 3:55