

Sustainability and Economic Vitality (SEV)

Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual and In-Person Meeting in City Council Chambers
31 East 5th Street
May 24, 2023
3:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Vice Mayor Adams at 3:02 p.m. with Councilmember Chin and Vice Mayor Adams both attending in person.

2. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

- A. March 22, 2023 SEV Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023 SEV Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.

- A. Comment Cards Submitted
No comment cards were submitted.

4. COMMITTEE SESSION ITEMS

- A. Current Items and Updates

1. Innovation Hubs Update

The Deputy Economic Development Director, Maria Laughner, Economic Development Program Manager, Chad Schleicher, and Economic Development Project Coordinator, Josh Rutherford provided an update on the Innovation Hubs. Updates include:

Maria, Chad, and Josh from ED provided an update on Tempe Innovation Hubs. Josh started with the lake district which includes properties such as The Pier, Watermark, Hayden Ferry Lakeside, and IDEA campus all involving mixed use-projects and then moved to ASU's athletic district,

Novus which will include multi-family housing and restaurants. Josh also discussed the Maker District which will capitalize on affordable housing and Smith Hub which will include market rate housing. Josh talked about the active projects in the Apache District.

Chad then provided an update on the ASU Research Park and Discovery Campus in terms of projects, recent locates, and any large vacancies. Chad also talked about the same in terms of the Papago district.

Chad then presented on the downtown district next where there are several active projects, mainly office spaces and lots of restaurant activity. Chad then spoke about the Emerald district, which involves much industrial space.

Maria closed by speaking generally about other areas of ED Activity—namely North Tempe, Fountainhead, Liberty West, and Central Industrial. They are trying to create employment opportunities based on things the market is capitalizing on.

CM Chin thanked them all for the valuable information.

2. Heat Relief Update

Jessica Wright, Homeless Solutions Coordinator

Jessica gave an update on the Heat Relief Network that Tempe is involved in the region regionally and what efforts are made to keep residents safe. This is a county-wide interdisciplinary effort. Tempe specifically has seven daily cooling center locations and a mobile cooling trailer on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Vice Mayor Adams requested more of these sites be available for pets. Jessica spoke specifically about the development of the Envision Center, the newest Heat Relief Center in the city. City locations include:

- Cahill Senior Center
- Escalante Community Center
- Kiwanis Recreation Center
- Mountain Park Health Center
- North Tempe Multi-Generational Center
- Pyle Adult Recreation Center
- Westside Multi-Generational Center
- Salvation Army – On excessive heat warning days only

3. Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Federal Advocacy Committee Update

Councilmember Arlene Chin discussed the committee meeting she attended at National League of Cities. She prepared for the meeting by speaking to members of Tempe's Office of Sustainability and Resilience to understand the critical input they were able to offer.

Councilmember Chin said the committee talked about projects and trends in grant opportunities that are coming through to build community resilience, urban trees, and electric vehicles. She encouraged staff to use committee meetings as a forum to advance priorities and relationship-building.

B. New Items for Consideration

- 1. Councilmember Chin requested for an update on Tempe's water portfolio.**

C. Announcements

1. *Vice Mayor Adams announced the SEV Committee will be recessed in June and July 2023.*

5. NEXT MEETING DATE: August 2023, TBD

6. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. by Vice Mayor Adams.