



Minutes

City of Tempe Sustainability Commission June 12, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, June 12, 2023, 4:30 p.m. at a virtual meeting on MS Teams, through City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Chair)	Shawn Swisher
Barbie Burke (Vice Chair)	Morgan Winburn
Erin Boyd	

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Meaghan Coon
Katja Brundiers
Jake Swanson

City Staff Present:

Brianne Fisher	Maddie Mercer
Andy Escobar	Evelyn Brumfield

Guests Present:

Ari Young

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

As there was no quorum, Chair Kendon Jung started the discussion with Agenda Item #4.

Agenda Item 4 – Sustainability and Resilience Commission Composition

Fisher gave background information about the current composition requirements for the Commission's membership. Additionally, she provided some edits for each member position. Those edits informed the discussion.

Previously, the Chair and Vice Chair were looking for flexibility in the language describing who can be appointed to each member position. The Commission also values diversity. There is suggested language that references the importance of Tempe's demographics on the

Commission, as well as broader language for representation from a variety of sectors and expertise. Additionally, there were some potential positions added after discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair – specifically linked to S&RO Highlight Actions.

- Chair Jung brought up a language change from “worked” to “has experience” to allow for more ASU Faculty
- Swisher brought up architecture, specifically in the same category with green construction and landscape design.
- Vice Chair Burke wishes to avoid a conflict of interest with Tempe’s utility partners, and the suggestion of including the word “independent” is suggested by Commissioner Winburn. Commissioner Swisher believes a representative from APS or SRP could recuse themselves if the need arises.
 - There is also an opportunity to include green energy/energy efficiency for residential matters.

Next steps include Fisher revising and solidifying the recommendations and working with the City Clerk and Attorney’s Office for approval before taking it to a City Council Meeting. To complete a change in the Commission Composition, two public hearings are required. The next City Council meeting is in August, as Council takes a July recess.

Agenda Item 5 – Inflation Reduction Act – Tempe Update

Brianne Fisher gives a presentation to the Commission on the Inflation Reduction Act (2022). It is historic funding in climate action & other related topics. The Inflation Reduction Act is most linked to Tempe Performance Measure of Financial Stability & Vitality. Tempe is working collaboratively with the region (with cities, the county, and the state) to go after these funds. Tempe has brought stakeholders together to identify what priorities and possible projects could be for this funding.

Federal Funding Priorities:

- Justice 40: 40% of federal funding funneled to underprivileged and underserved populations. Tempe has the data and has been doing the work already.
- Workforce and labor - how is the future workforce being built or transitioned into the clean energy economy?
- Regional collaboration - how is the region collaborating for success and competing against other large metro areas?

Statewide and Regional Funding Proposals

Statewide:

- Department of Energy, Resilient & Efficient Codes Implementation (Resilient Southwest Building Code Collaborative)
 - Working on a statewide infrastructure code to unify all the cities into a southwest-specific building code.

- Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Pollution and Reduction Grant (Governor's Office of Resiliency)
 - Similar to a Climate Action Plan for the State.

Regional:

- Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Pollution and Reduction Grant (Maricopa Association of Governments)
 - Like a Climate Action Plan for Maricopa County
- Department of Transportation, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (Maricopa County Air Quality)
 - Funds for charging and fueling infrastructure - more EV chargers county-wide in a strategic way.
- US Department of Agriculture, Urban Forestry (ASU)
 - Several Tempe departments are joining to advance the urban forestry and urban agriculture program in Tempe.

Tempe-Specific Funding Proposals

- Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant
 - \$236,000. Targets high energy burden households for home weatherization projects.
- Department of Transportation, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
 - \$1 million. Charging infrastructure installed at North Tempe Multi-Generational Center.

Commission Swisher is curious about the logistics for the Southwest Building Code grant – there are 31 different partners on that grant and funding will be announced at a later date. Cities were able to participate at a tiered level – Tempe is Tier 2.

Agenda Item 6 – Joint Meeting with Neighborhood Advisory Commission

Fisher reminds the Commission that there is interest in a joint meeting with the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. That would be tentatively scheduled for early September. Staff Liaison and Chair expressed interest, and this current meeting should work on what the Commission wants to discuss with them as well as creating a tentative agenda. Is there an ask or mission or outcome being sought? Chair mentions that this type of sharing can lead to shared support between the commissions. The Neighborhood Advisory Commission was part of the S&RO early partners in climate action work and the neighborhood agenda. Swisher asks if there are specific items the Commission is looking to partner with Neighborhood Advisory. Chair, Vice Chair and staff will meet to ensure that items are discussed.

Agenda Item 7 – Housekeeping

General Plan 2050: Commissioner Swisher has been serving on the Technical Advisory Group to help advise and ensure the Tempe General Plan has Climate Action tenants in it. In Swisher's time reading and reviewing the document, he notes a broad base of support for

sustainability initiatives and the overall inclusion of Climate Action Plan concepts in this. In terms of Swisher's comments on the plan –

- There is an abundance of passive language describing strategies and objectives.
 - Phrases like “climate friendly” or verbs like “encourage” or “support.”
 - Commitments should be tougher.
 - Should Shawn raise the question of tougher language, or leave that to staff?
- The Climate Action Plan is sometimes referenced incorrectly.
- There are mentions of Resilient Master Plan, which doesn't exist yet, so it's tough to see the integration of that plan into the General Plan at this stage.
- The Climate Plan should be hyperlinked within the document to keep it consistent as other plans are linked within the document.
- Swisher suggests that visually communicating when certain objectives & strategies align with one or more strategic priorities: Using a visual icon to denote which strategic priority would be powerful when it comes to funding this plan and its pieces.

Chair asks the Commission to review through Swisher's annotated document and send feedback that Commissioner Swisher can convey to TAG group. Fisher also brings up another element of the plan: future mixed-use development and its benefits. Mixed use and growing the community in a sustainable way means considering more mixed use, further south in Tempe. Fisher encourages the Commission to consider all the benefits that can occur with mixed use done well. Sustainability ties are there but not always obvious to others. Swisher comments that there were discussions and misunderstanding around mixed-use. His suggestion will be to suggest an additional, lower tier of dwelling units in the mixed-use designation (with the possibility of calling it something different than “mixed-use”). Fisher informed the Commission that there are several upcoming public meetings and a video online. Public comment forms are still up, and Commissioners are encouraged to leave comments on the concerns Swisher brought up above (in addition to Swisher submitting his markup as well).

July Recess: The next regular meeting on July 17th is canceled – the Commission will meet again on August 21st, 2023.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

Chair asked the commission to think of topics that can be added as future agenda items.

Addendum – Teams Chat Log

[6/12 4:21 PM]

6/12 4:21 PM Meeting started.

[6/12 4:27 PM]

Barbie Burke (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[6/12 4:27 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Hello hello!

1f44b_wavinghand 1

[6/12 4:30 PM]

Ari Young (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[6/12 4:33 PM] Brumfield, Evelyn

Reminder to record?

[6/12 4:33 PM] Brumfield, Evelyn

(minutes?)

[6/12 4:34 PM]

Erin (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[6/12 4:35 PM]

Morgan, Establishing Roots (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[6/12 4:39 PM] Erin (Guest)

great call out, Kendon

[6/12 4:48 PM] Morgan, Establishing Roots (Guest)

having tech issues. What if the wording says " independent" green economy or efficiency? To avoid one of the utilities applying?

like 4

[6/12 4:48 PM] Shawn Swisher

i like that solution, Morgan

[6/12 4:53 PM] Shawn Swisher

Competing against Braden now 😞

[6/12 4:56 PM] Erin (Guest)

is that the Escalante Multi-Generational center?

[6/12 4:58 PM] Escobar, Andy

It's the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center.

like 2

[6/12 4:58 PM] Escobar, Andy

east of Papago park

like 1

[6/12 5:21 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Tempe Tomorrow: General Plan 2050 | City of Tempe, AZ

Tempe's next General Plan is going through its public involvement process. Learn how you can get involved in Tempe Tomorrow, Tempe's planning effort.

[6/12 5:25 PM]

Ari Young (Guest) left the chat.

[6/12 5:25 PM] Brumfield, Evelyn

Thank you Commissioners!

[6/12 5:25 PM] Erin (Guest)

thanks, everyone

[6/12 5:25 PM] Mercer, Madeline

Goodnight, all!

[6/12 5:25 PM]

Erin (Guest) left the chat.

[6/12 5:25 PM]

Morgan, Establishing Roots (Guest) left the chat.

[6/12 5:28 PM]

Barbie Burke (Guest) left the chat.

[6/12 5:30 PM]

6/12 5:30 PM Meeting ended: 1h 10m 57s

Prepared by: Evelyn Brumfield

Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher