

# PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

**February 13, 2025**

## Phoenix City Hall Online Using Webex

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**1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements:**

The meeting of the Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission (EQSC) was called to order with a roll call at 3:12 p.m. There were 7 members present at roll call.

Commissioner Barr left the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Commissioner Knoop gave an update regarding changes to the national roll out of electric vehicle infrastructure based on the new presidential administration.

Office of Environmental Programs Coordinator, Rosanne Albright, introduced Maddie Mercer as the City's new Food Systems Program Manager.

**2. Review and approval of January 9, 2025 Minutes**

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the January 9, 2025 minutes.

Commissioner Groman seconded the motion, and it carried 7-0.

**3. Public Comment**

No members of the public requested to speak.

**4. Climate Action Plan Community Engagement Workshops**

Environmental Programs Climate Programs Manager, Joshua Uebelherr, gave an overview of the Climate Action Plan workshops including past and upcoming workshops.

Chair Lobo asked what the guidelines have been so far for workshops.

Mr. Uebelherr replied ensuring the workshops did not conflict with other City events was a guiding factor in planning.

Chair Lobo asked how the workshops were structured.

Mr. Uebelherr responded the workshops began with a brief presentation from staff, then moved into exercises including breakroom groups to discuss barriers and a visioning exercise to brainstorm solutions.

Environmental Programs Administrator, Nancy Allen, added she has not seen any EQSC members present at the workshops and emphasized the EQSC needed to take the lead on the structure and planning of their own workshop.

Chair Lobo asked the Commission how they would like to be engaged with the workshops.

Ms. Allen suggested a workshop around electric vehicles based on Commissioner Knoop's announcement could be a potential example and a starting point for the Commission to discuss.

Commissioner Knoop replied she would not be in a position to execute this, but the idea could be explored further.

Ms. Allen asked if Commissioner Porter had any ideas.

Commissioner Porter replied she did not and asked what the workshop goals were.

Ms. Allen responded the workshops were intended to be interactive and collect feedback from the community. She also recommended the EQSC identify a gap in the plan and contribute to that area.

Commissioner Barr suggested the EQSC could pick a specific piece of the plan, invite an expert, and then discuss.

Chair Lobo expressed support for this idea.

Ms. Allen added the Commission could provide input as a body, but the methodology for collecting input would be up to the Commission. She noted Mr. Uebelherr could send the C40 Climate Action Planning Framework to the Commission for review, however noted that the current plan met most of the criteria already.

Chair Lobo asked about the timeline for the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Ms. Allen responded she wanted to have a draft ready by summer 2025, and a final draft ready in fall 2025.

Chair Lobo announced she scheduled a meeting with the Sunnyslope community on March 13 for a potential CAP workshop and was also considering a workshop with the architectural community. She asked if a few of the Commissioners and City staff could be present.

Ms. Uebelherr replied he could support with smoothing the runway for the workshop, but staff may not have capacity to attend.

Ms. Albright commented that staff availability for a March meeting may be challenging because there will be other competing CAP workshops at the time. There is already a city hosted workshop on the March 13 date.

Chair Lobo asked if the meetings were online or in-person.

Mr. Uebelherr responded each topic had both a virtual and in-person workshop.

Chair Lobo asked if Commissioners could help facilitate breakout rooms for existing workshops.

Ms. Allen replied she wanted the EQSC to bring in new people and perspectives, as opposed to helping facilitate current workshops.

Commissioner Porter commented she had thoughts on how water should be addressed in the plan, and she did not feel she needed a workshop to share.

Ms. Allen responded Commissioner Porter could send a memo with her comments on the CAP.

Commissioner Porter noted she was on the Phoenix Parks Board, and it would be advantageous to have a presentation on the CAP and an invitation to the Parks Board to engage.

Ms. Allen suggested Commissioner Porter ask the Parks Board if staff could come present on the CAP, Food Action Plan, and Energy Access Plan.

Commissioner Porter agreed and confirmed she was interested in providing a letter with her thoughts on the plan.

Commissioner Groman asked if there had been a formal update on progress towards goals.

Ms. Allen replied a CAP Progress Report was posted on the Office of Environmental Programs Climate website.

Chair Lobo noted next month the agenda would include the Food Action Plan, and presentation from Shelly Gordon with Arizonans for Community Choice. She also asked if there were other agenda ideas.

Ms. Albright responded the City's food systems team may benefit from bringing larger corporate companies that produce food to the table.

Chair Lobo asked if the Commission had any other ideas or if there was a particular topic from the CAP the Commission would like to focus on for recommendations.

Commissioner Porter asked if the feedback needed to come from the Commission as a whole.

Ms. Allen replied it was up to the Commission, but it would be good to consider writing a letter from the EQSC.

Chair Lobo affirmed writing a letter to the City Council was achievable. She asked if there was a topic the Commission could focus on to bring additional members of the public in for a meeting to have a discussion.

Commissioner Porter commented she would be happy to do that kind of work during the EQSC meetings. She also noted focusing on messaging climate themes to avoid climate despair could be an interesting topic.

Chair Lobo asked if Commissioner Porter could investigate someone who has that expertise.

Commissioner Groman commented this was an interesting topic and the Commission may want to consider how to convey climate messaging to a larger audience, not just those in the environmental community.

Chair Lobo asked the Commission if there were other CAP topics they were interested in discussing.

Commissioner Knoop responded there could be potential to bring in a fleet expert for electrification, or someone to discuss charging for residents.

Chair Lobo asked if Commissioner Knoop and Commissioner Porter could make recommendations based on their areas of expertise. She also asked if Commissioner Groman had an area of interest for the CAP.

Commissioner Groman responded he needed to understand the progress so far, and clarity on how the CAP was executed since the 2021 plan was approved before he could provide feedback.

Ms. Allen replied the current CAP had a lot of metrics that were narrative in nature and do not have measurable components. She noted staff was working to tighten up metrics for the next plan.

Commissioner Groman responded he wanted to dig in further into where the CAP was successful, what areas should be pivoted, and more information was needed to consider future directions.

Ms. Allen replied the City has completed greenhouse gas inventories and a progress report. She noted staff was still considering how to measure some of the completed projects that do not have clear metrics.

Chair Lobo commented perhaps the Commission could review the plan, identify gaps, have a discussion, and write feedback in a letter. She suggested the Commission could review and come to the next meeting with proposed items for discussion.

Commissioner Groman asked if financial impact has been evaluated.

Ms. Albright responded there may be some existing information on financial impact, depending on what department and what kind of project.

Chair Lobo asked if staff could bring some data to the next meeting.

Ms. Albright replied staff may not have the capacity to generate data before the next meeting.

Mr. Uebelherr responded water could be one way to zoom in on economic impact.

Commissioner Porter commented that water is often more nuanced.

Commissioner Groman noted many cities have low hanging fruit to easily calculate and show impact.

Chair Lobo announced the Commission lost quorum and she would send email communication before the next meeting.

**5. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items**

There were no announcements nor review of future agenda items.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II