

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

February 8, 2024

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Kelly Barr, via WebEx	Nancy Allen, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Darren Chapman, via WebEx	Mikaela Castle, Public Works Department
Eric Gorseger, Via WebEx	Katrina Gerster, OEP
Baltazar Hernandez, Via WebEx	Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability (OOS)
Andrea Odegard-Begay	Carlos Aguiar Hernandez, OOS
Bill Sandweg, via Webex	Matthew Potzler, OEP
Ginger Torres, via Webex	Joshua Uebelherr, OEP
Caroline Lobo, In-person	Danielle Vermeer, OEP
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Penny Allee Taylor	John Cleveland, Green Ribbon Commission
Orlando Cazarez	Ryan Kirane, Honor Health
Timothy Franquist	Peter Pallagi, Mayo Clinic
Kevin Groman	Cecilia Riviere, Arizona State University
Kathy Knoop	Wayne Washington
Sarah Porter	
Colin Tetreault	

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 3:14 p.m. There were eight members present at roll call.

2. Review and approval of September 14, Minutes

Commissioner Chapman made a motion to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion and it carried 8-0.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak.

4. Boston Green Ribbon Commission Overview and Discussion

John Cleveland, Boston Green Ribbon Commission (GRC) Senior Advisor, gave an overview of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission including history, structure, mission, and more.

Commissioner Chapman asked what success looked like for the GRC in terms of representation.

Mr. Cleveland discussed historical harms and how GRC could add value in this area.

Commissioner Barr asked about the GRC budget and how projects were funded.

Mr. Cleveland responded the core operating budget was just over \$1 million per year, which could support some project activities. For larger projects, there would be a separate fund-raising process.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked about development approvals.

Mr. Cleveland provided details.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked about grid modernization.

Mr. Cleveland replied with an overview and commented on the distribution system.

Chair Lobo thanked Mr. Cleveland for the presentation and noted she will send him a few questions over email.

5. Honor Health and Mayo Clinic Arizona Overview and Discussion

Mayo Clinic Arizona Sustainability Officer Peter Pallagi and Honor Health Sustainability Officer Ryan Kirane gave an overview of Mayo Clinic and Honor Health, including the state of sustainability in healthcare and strategies for impact.

Mr. Kirane summarized three key areas where EQSC could assist including (1) advance solutions at scale, (2) surface logistical innovation, and (3) connect supply with demand.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked about challenges of incorporating solar in parking lots.

Mr. Pallagi responded with a discussion of limited resources and financial constraints which has made adding solar panels less impactful than other sustainability initiatives. They reevaluate solar panels once or twice a year.

Mr. Kirane agreed.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked if the issue was related to net metering.

Mr. Pallagi replied it was not related to net metering.

Commissioner Barr asked about fleets and workplace charging for electric vehicles.

Mr. Pallagi noted interest in charging stations being placed in facilities and commented on fleets, noting constraints for electrification.

Mr. Kirane responded charging stations were expected to be placed at the Deer Valley location and agreed with the constraints discussed.

Commissioner Barr asked if there was something Phoenix could do to increase demand for recycled Styrofoam.

Chair Lobo asked if there was a way to work with manufacturers to reduce medical packaging waste.

Mr. Pallagi responded some equipment was placed in a bin and sent back to the manufacturer to be repurposed.

Mr. Kirane replied Honor Health was having these discussions during contract development to include solutions for reducing waste.

Chair Lobo asked about metrics.

Mr. Pallagi responded a software was in progress to create a dashboard and collect information.

Mr. Kirane replied there were staff members responsible for organizing and analyzing data.

Chair Lobo asked if there could be contributions to the Climate Action Plan.

Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen asked if data could be separated geographically for Phoenix.

Mr. Kirane responded yes.

Chair Lobo thanked Mr. Pallagi and Mr. Kirane for their attendance.

6. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Barr requested a platform to debrief creating a similar model to the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. She noted this could come in the form of convening a small group conversation. She also suggested meeting with the Greater Phoenix Leadership organization and creating something similar with sustainability executives. She mentioned wanting to meet and brainstorm who should be included and suggested the major sectors to include would be K-12 schools and higher education, healthcare, manufacturing, and realtor developers.

Commissioner Gorsegrner noted to include multi-family development specifically.

Commissioner Torres reminded the Commission to be mindful of public meeting law.

Ms. Allen advised that a small group discussion should not exceed three people.

Commissioner Barr asked if a staff member could support the work.

Ms. Allen responded yes.

Commissioner Barr volunteered to take the lead on this and bring back recommendations to the Commission.

Commissioner Torres and Commissioner Gorsegner volunteered, noting that Commissioner Gorsegner would be tied up until April.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II