

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 3:07 p.m. There were 11 members present at roll call.

Sarah Porter left the meeting at 3:49 pm.

2. Review and approval of February 8, Minutes

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the February 8, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Groman seconded the motion and it carried 11-0.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak.

4. St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center Sustainability Update

CommonSpirit Eco-Contact and Neurosurgery Clinical Nursing Supervisor, Mollee Deason, introduced CommonSpirit colleagues present at the meeting.

CommonSpirit System Vice President of Environmental Sustainability, Sister Mary Ellen Leciejewski, gave an overview of the CommonSpirit Climate Action Plan.

CommonSpirit Sustainability Program Manager for National Real Estate Services, Robert Vandling, spoke about greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

CommonSpirit Director of Diversity, Sustainability and Education, and Supply Chain, Kelly Paul, discussed Scope 3 GHG emissions.

CommonSpirit System Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy Engagement, Rachele Wenger, presented on the climate resilient communities (CRC) pillar.

Ms. Deason provided a sustainability update on St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

Commissioner Barr congratulated the group on their sustainability goals and discussed the sustainability healthcare collaborative. She asked about the benefits of having sustainability professionals work together.

Ms. Deason spoke about the benefits of the sustainability healthcare collaborative and the impact of sustainability on the healthcare industry.

Sister Leciejewski added CommonSpirit has been having conversations with hospitals across the country and sharing best practices in healthcare.

Commissioner Groman asked if CommonSpirit would be interested in sharing their expertise and experiences with other industry groups.

Sister Leciejewski noted the food industry came to mind.

Ms. Wegner expressed support for cross-sector collaboration.

Commissioner Chapman asked about the Community Change Grant.

Ms. Wenger asked if the presentation could be shared with the group and noted there was a link on the slides with more information.

Ms. Allen noted the City of Phoenix was looking into the Community Change Grants. She added if not awarded, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was willing to have a debrief and there would be an opportunity to apply again. Ms. Allen also shared the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) has identified Phoenix as a high-risk area for vector borne disease due to climate change.

5. Debrief with Commissioner Kelly Barr

Commissioner Barr gave an overview of two possible example models to engage the business community, one for Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and the other for sustainability professionals. She noted that both models have been supported by Mayor Gallego's office.

Chair Lobo asked if there was a preferred model between the two examples.

Commissioner Barr recommended doing both models in parallel, but this would require significant participation from the Mayor's office and Commissioners.

Chief Sustainability Officer Mark Hartman recommended doing a large call to all organizations and have them co-create the model together.

Chair Lobo asked if the Commissioners were in favor of moving this initiative forward.

Commissioner Chapman suggested leveraging the EQSC to help advise the group.

Commissioner Torres expressed support for the initiative and asked if Ms. Allen could go over the timeline for the Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Allen gave an update on the Climate Action Plan timeline.

Commissioner Barr noted a third idea to leverage the Commission and get the right people to attend and participate in Climate Action Plan workshops.

Ms. Allen recommended connecting with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC).

Commissioner Barr noted the Commission could inventory what sustainability professionals are doing.

Commissioner Groman recommended re-convening a small group and then bring a more detailed proposal to the EQSC.

6. Water Update

Deputy Water Services Director Max Wilson gave an update on the Phoenix water supply status.

Chair Lobo asked if Mr. Wilson could back for another meeting and have an extended discussion.

Mr. Wilson responded yes.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II