

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 3:04 p.m. There were 9 members present at roll call.

Commissioner Cazarez left the meeting at 4:22 pm.

2. Review and approval of March 14, Minutes

Commissioner Gorsegrner made a motion to approve the May 9, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Allee Taylor seconded the motion and it carried 9-0.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak.

Daniel Baugh introduced himself as a member of the public interested in learning more about the Commission.

4. Tree and Shade Master Plan Update

Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM) Project Manager Mary Wright gave an update on the Tree and Shade Master Plan. Staff noted 90 percent of residents report there is not enough built shade or trees in Phoenix. Tree and shade estimated investments over the next five years include \$17 million for trees, \$15 million for maintenance, \$18 million for new built shade, and \$2 million for workforce and programming. Ms. Wright asked if Commissioners could review the plan and provide feedback. The plan is available in the City Council Policy packet from June 11, 2024. The plan is expected to be finalized by Fall 2024.

Commissioner Barr asked if the City had done an analysis on cost differences between built and tree shade.

Ms. Wright responded a cost-benefit analysis had not been conducted, but staff had an idea of the difference. She added each case depends, but shade structures tend to be more expensive than trees with a shade structure varying between \$20,000-\$100,000 compared to approximately \$1,000 for planting a tree.

Commissioner Hernandez asked if there was a response from the City on the perceived conflict between water and trees.

Ms. Wright replied she did not feel comfortable making a statement on the City's position, but affirmed OHRM was aware and looking into this.

Chair Lobo asked if streets right-of-way were included in the calculation of City property for the City tree inventory.

Ms. Wright provided clarification, noting the analysis included City parcels and not streetscape, however including the streets maintained area only would increase that percentage a small amount.

Chair Lobo asked if any community meetings were with school districts.

Ms. Wright responded OHRM has worked with school districts on tree and shade grant programs but was not sure if a specific meeting was conducted for school districts.

Commissioner Hernandez asked what initial ideas there were for green stormwater infrastructure features.

Ms. Wright replied she was not the expert on green stormwater infrastructure but could report back.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked about requirements for private developers.

Ms. Wright commented on the Walkable Urban Code and code enforcement.

OHRM Project Management Assistant Julia Maturano presented on City Council feedback from the June 11, 2024 Policy session and gave an update on tree and shade grant programs. She reported overall positive and supportive feedback from the Policy session and highlighted project success from the grant programs.

Chair Lobo asked why more grant applications were not awarded to the applicants.

Ms. Maturano responded applicants that were not awarded either did not follow the application directions or were not located in a qualified census tract.

Chair Lobo asked if the grants were still open.

Ms. Maturano responded that they were still open.

Commissioner Gorsegrner asked if schools had to be in a qualified census tract.

Ms. Maturano replied applicants either had to reside in a qualified census tract or have 80 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Chair Lobo asked about the visibility triangle at intersections.

Ms. Wright responded shade structures could not impede the visibility triangle and this was being accounted for.

Chair Lobo asked what the timeline was for the first shade structure.

Ms. Wright responded it depended when the contractor was able to begin work, but hopeful for next year.

Chair Lobo asked how the locations were selected.

Ms. Wright discussed considerations including qualified census tracts, pedestrian traffic, and other equity components.

Commissioner Gorsegrner commented on shade structure design and proposed a motion that the Commission request the City's Intergovernmental Relations staff to include among its 2025 Arizona League of Cities legislative resolutions a measure to introduce legislation that appropriates \$20 million for K-6 playground shade structures. Funds would be distributed to Arizona Public School districts in all 30 legislative statewide commencing in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Chair Lobo asked if the Commission could discuss with Government Relations staff first and go from there.

Commissioner Barr added because there was not a formal item for this motion on the agenda, the Commission could not vote on it at this time.

5. Tree Equity Score Impact Maker Presentation and Discussion

Strategic Doing Valley Leadership Manager Amanda Straight gave a presentation on the Tree Equity Score Impact Maker including principles of doing, environmental sustainability, and the tree equity score tool kit.

Commissioner Lobo asked if there was funding associated with the tool kit.

Ms. Straight replied that there was not, but that they would work with businesses to find funding elsewhere.

Commissioner Cazarez asked if the toolkit would be hosted somewhere with continually updated resources.

Ms. Straight replied the PDF would continue to be updated on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.

Chair Lobo asked who Commissioners should contact if they had ideas for resources or neighborhoods to be included in the toolkit.

Ms. Straight replied Commissioners could email her.

6. Discuss Collaboration Between EQSC and City of Phoenix Staff for Potential Mini Town Hall

Chair Lobo introduced a collaboration between the EQSC and the City of Phoenix for a potential mini town hall with Arizona Town Hall.

Commissioner Allee Taylor gave support to the idea, added the town hall would bring a variety of voices together, and gave appreciation for moving forward with her idea.

Commissioner Gorsegrner replied this would be a good opportunity to make partnerships with the community.

Commissioner Barr acknowledged this was a good idea but cautioned the Commission to be clear about the objective.

Chair Lobo suggested 2-3 Commissioners get together and have a more detailed discussion on this.

Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Gorsegrner, and Commissioner Barr volunteered for a virtual meeting.

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Taylor suggested the Parks Steward Volunteer Program come give a presentation.

Chair Lobo announced she gave a pitch to the Arizona Town Hall regarding a discussion on the Climate Action Plan for the 2026 townhall.

Commissioner Gorsegrner suggested a topic around electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II