

**PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION MINUTES**

July 11, 2024

Phoenix City Hall
Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Allee Taylor, Penny, Webex	Castle, Mikaela, Public Works
Barr, Kelly, Webex – Delegated Chair	Gerster, Katrina, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP)
Cazarez, Orlando, Webex	Uebelherr, Joshua, OEP
Chapman, Darren, Webex	Vermeer, Danielle, OEP
Gorsegner, Eric, Webex	Zima, Elizabeth, OEP
Groman, Kevin, Webex	Wright, Mary, OHRM
Hernandez, Baltazar, Webex	
Odegard-Begay, Andrea, Webex	
Porter, Sarah, Webex	
Sandweg, Bill, Webex	
Tetreault, Colin, Webex	
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Franquist, Timothy	Mark Carlisle
Knoop, Kathy	
Torres, Ginger – Vice Chair	
Lobo, Caroline – Chair	

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 8 members present at roll call.

Commissioner Groman joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Commissioner Chapman joined the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Commissioner Allee Taylor joined the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

2. Review and approval of March 14, Minutes

Commissioner Tetreault made a motion to approve the June 13, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Porter seconded the motion and it carried 8-0.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak.

4. City of Phoenix Government Relations End of Session Report

Environmental Programs Coordinator Elizabeth Zima gave an overview of the City's Government Relations End of Session Report, highlighting environmental and sustainability matters. Themes discussed included water resources; the State's \$1.4 billion budget shortfall; transportation and infrastructure; and sustainability and heat mitigation.

5. Discuss Commissioner Gorsegner's Proposed Motion on Shade Structures

Commissioner Gorsegner discussed his proposed motion from the June 13, 2024, EQSC meeting regarding shade structures. He reviewed his proposed motion as follows:

“That the Commission request the City's Government Relations staff to consider including among its 2025 Arizona League of Cities resolutions a proposal to introduce legislation that appropriates \$20 million for K-6 playground shade structures. Funds would be eligible for distribution in Arizona Public School districts in all 30 legislative districts statewide commencing in Fiscal Year 25-26.”

Ms. Zima responded with a summary of EQSC bylaws, including that motions must be related more directly to agenda items. She noted the Commission had authorization to recommend positions on State and Federal legislation, regulations, and programs to the Council, but not propose new legislation. She also explained Government Relations staff does not support items that are not directly a City function. So, Government Relations would not consider lobbying for schools, but could consider shade in City Parks as an example.

Commissioner Porter replied the proposed motion may not be in the wheelhouse of EQSC and requested more details.

Commissioner Groman affirmed Commissioner Porter's comment and noted the EQSC's voice was strong and should focus on initiatives that are crucial to the Commission's mission.

Commissioner Gorsegner agreed with Commissioners that the motion was tangentially related to the EQSC's mission, but not a focus, and withdrew the motion.

Delegated Chair Barr informed the Commission that there would be an opportunity on the horizon to share feedback for the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation Shade Phoenix Plan. She noted Commissioners would receive an email with more information.

6. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Delegated Chair Barr stated that the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation would be at an upcoming meeting to discuss the Shade Phoenix Plan and Commissioner's comments on the plan.

Ms. Zima shared Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen was recovering from some medical issues and would be returning very soon.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Vermeer, Administrative Assistant II