

SIERRA VISTA ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
18 March 2015
Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building

Co-Chairman Tom Kennedy called the regular Meeting of the Sierra Vista Environmental Affairs Commission to order at 3:34 PM.

Member Present: Bernie Stalman
Tom Kennedy
Kim Mulhern
George Monken
Tate Willcox

Members Absent: Dennis Ehreberger
Norm Patten

Associate Members Present: Gene Fenstermacher
Amy Carter

Council Liaison Present: Hank Huisking

Staff Liaison Present: Ryan Kooi, Public Works

Others Present: Scott Dooley – Public Works Director
Cindy Guyer
Josue Cisneros
Sean Jenkins

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Mulhern moved to accept the agenda for the meeting.
Commissioner Stalman seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0)

ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Monken moved to accept the minutes of 25 February 2015.
Commissioner Stalman seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0)

COUNCIL LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Councilperson Huisking gave a short briefing about her attendance at the National League of Cities in Washington D.C. She said the delegation from Sierra Vista met with Senator McCain and the Military Communities. Discussions with the Military Communities included the amount of soldiers coming home, the returning soldiers having the services they need, the VA is working with returning soldiers, the rate of suicides in the military and why the Commissaries were going away. There are budget constraints concerning this topic. Senator McCain will check on the status of the Commissaries.

Councilperson Huisking also stated the delegation met with Representative McSally's staff. They requested that Representative McSally visit Sierra Vista to talk with the City Council and the City would host a Town Hall meeting for her.

Councilperson Huisking said she and other Councilpersons would be extremely busy working with the City Advisory Commission on the budget process. Also on 20 and 21 March the City Council would have their Strategic Planning Work Sessions.

When the topic of plastic bags came up, Councilperson Husking requested that the report from Public Works be provided to the City Council not necessarily for a decision but for their information.

STAFF LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Ryan Kooi reported that the Water Management Group will provide a brief presentation at the EAC's May meeting. The Water Management Group has received a grant from the Walton Group Grant which includes work being done in Sierra Vista. Ryan will provide "read ahead" material to the EAC. Commissioner Kennedy and Ryan will work together to allocate a time limit for the Water Management Group.

EAC Co-Chair Comments

Commissioner Kennedy reiterated the agenda for today's EAC meeting 1) Go over the Mission Statements, make any changes, vote to accept or not accept each and 2) review EAC accomplishments for 2014.

OLD BUSINESS:

Each Mission Statement was read. Minor working and/or grammar corrections were made. See attached for EAC Mission Statements. Commissioner Mulhern moved to accept the Mission Statement as changed. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

There was some discussion concerning whether or not the EAC should also discuss plans for the remainder of 2015 or just discuss EAC accomplishments for 2014. Ryan Kooi provided guidance that the EAC needed to discuss 2014 accomplishments in preparation for the annual report presentation to be given to the City Council. Discussion of EAC plans for the remainder of 2015 should be delayed until after the City Council provides guidance based on their Strategic Plan. Commissioner Kennedy requested that Ryan make sure EAC plans for the remainder of 2015 be on the May agenda.

The following accomplishments were discussed:

- a. Participation in West End Fair
- b. Participation in Water Expo at the Mall
- c. Education of "new" members of the EAC on other ongoing environmental efforts, which include conservation and mitigation. The purpose was to allow EAC to avoid duplication of efforts in these areas that are already on going. The EAC received briefing on the Cochise Water Project, UA Cooperative Extension Water Use and Energy Smart Program. The EAC also visited the Palominas Recharge Project.
- d. Researched the RF factors of electric meter from wireless reporting devices from the house back to the electric provider. The RF values are higher than cell phones, but evidence of the harm to humans is still inconclusive as testing is ongoing.
- e. Kept aware of the digital sign issue and their effects on "Dark Skies" and the environment.
- f. An EAC Commissioner instituted changes at a local house construction company by changing toilets to .8 gallons per flush, changing the plant package size as well as changing them to xeriscape watering, change vanity water aerators to 1.0 gallons per minute, changed side and/or rear lights to dark sky compliant and changes selected house to have fully shielded garage carriage lights.
- g. Identified and analyzed all possible city application of PV Solar. Identified 4 candidates' applications and prepared recommendation for the City Council. EAC continued to monitor events in the solar industry.
- h. Plastic Bags. Public works drafted a report outlining all the options concerning plastic bags. EAC was provided a copy to make comments. Scott Dooley stated that the State Senate was working on a bill essentially stating that country and city governments can't "tax" secondary containers which included plastic bags.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – N/A

REQUEST FOR FUTURE ACTIONS ITEMS

Field Trips - Potential

McFadden Park

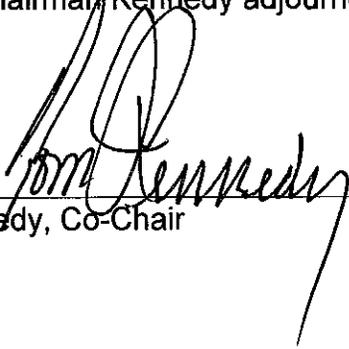
Sierra Vista Transit Station

Ft Huachuca Solar Array - Commissioner Kennedy will work with Councilperson Huisking to arrange a tour.

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled EAC meeting will be 22 April 2015 at Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building beginning at 3:30pm

Co-Chairman Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kennedy", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Kennedy, Co-Chair