

SIERRA VISTA ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
22 April 2015
Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building

Chairman Dennis Ehrenberger called the regular meeting of the Sierra Vista Environmental Affairs Commission to order at 3:35 p.m.

Members Present: Bernie Stalman
Tom Kennedy
George Monken
Norm Patten
Tate Wilcox
Dennis Ehrenberger

Member Absent: Kim Mulhern

Associate Member Present: Gene Fenstermacher

Associate Member Absent: Amy Carter

Council Liaison Present: Hank Huisking

Staff Liaison Present: Ryan Kooi, Public Works

Other Present: Scott Dooley – Public Works Director

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

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

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0)

ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Kennedy moved to accept the minutes of 18 March 2014. Commissioner Patten seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0)

COUNCIL LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Councilperson Huisking gave a short briefing concerning the Council Work Session with the Citizens Advisory Commission. The Council Work Session included discussions on how to reduce services, raise revenues and/or reduce/raise revenues by the City. It was recommended the City look closely at the Cove, the Library and Transit for reduction. Ideas to increase revenues did not include an increase in property tax. There is an interest in learning more about a Tier Tax for purchases over \$5,000. She stated that whatever the Council desires for the budget this year, it will need to do similar things in the near term years.

Councilperson Huisking also commented on a movement by some communities to revert back to using mid-decade census. This change would not be beneficial to Sierra Vista.

The strategy plan update will not be as "big" as the current strategy plan. The Council is looking at what needs to be done in strategy planning due to shortage of money. Strategy Plan topics currently receiving support by the Council are City Clean Up, and making it easier for businesses to do business in the city. She said that the Digital Code would be up for vote by the City Council in May.

Councilperson Huisking reported that the Branding of Sierra Vista would be unveiled in August.

Question was asked, "What does it look like for the next one or two years (i.e. deficit, overage, balanced)? Councilperson Huisking stated by Arizona law, the budget must be balanced. The city has budget policies and rules. The City staff will provide a recommendation and the Council will decide the final budget. The question was asked, "Does it look like there is going to be downsizing?" Councilperson Huisking said not downsizing, since the City Staff has been cut by 25% in recent years.

Commissioner Ehrenberger suggested that the city would like to see something published before the city got to the procession is with revenues and expenditures. Ryan Kooi stated that Pam Wear has a presentation that provides an outline of revenue sources and expenditures. Several commissioners expressed an interest in seeing it.

Ryan Kooi asked, "How the recommendations from the EAC and other commissions would fit into the Budget?" Councilperson Huisking said the council's recommendations don't come with money, but the recommendation to do clean up, be environmental friendly, make the city presentable to visitors, and make it easy to do business were all excellent. She felt the recommendations are very supportive of what the City Council wants to do in the next two years.

A question was asked on the results of the Commissions' project recommendations to City Council and what projects to back. Councilperson

Huisking replied that there was no decision made on the recommendation. The Council is trying to decide to leave the recommendations as provided or add to them. Councilperson Huisking made a strong recommendation to improve the process for commissions to forward recommendation and project to the Council. The Council did feel there is a lack of feedback to the commissions.

STAFF LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Ryan Kooi reported that the Water Management Group would provide a brief at the EAC's May meeting. Simone McFarland, Economy Development Manager for Sierra Vista, will also provide a briefing on the City's efforts to improve the economy. There was some concern that with two briefings, the EAC would not have sufficient time to conduct other business. It was agreed that each briefer would be limited to 20 minutes.

EAC Chair Comments

Commissioner Ehrenberger thanked Commissioner Kennedy for chairing the March EAC meeting and giving the EAC annual report to the City Council.

Commissioner Ehrenberger also commented about an article in the Sierra Vista Herald concerning recycling of glass. The article asked the question, "Why can't people put it in the recycling bins and when they get to the recycling area, separate it and recycle at the dump?" Commissioner Ehrenberger will write a letter to the editor explaining the difference between recycling (reuse for something else) vice dumping (put it in the land fill). Additionally, the process of separating broken glass would not be an easy task.

He also reported that Arizona law was signed that bans communities from banning plastic bags. The issue for Sierra Vista is how to reduce use of plastic bags as well as recycle them. It was suggested that a list be publicized where the public can recycle bags.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project Missions Statements

Property Clean Up: One comment Commissioner Ehrenberger had mentioned that the Mayor would like the mission statement changed to "advise" vice "investigate" for the City Council. The appropriate change will be made to the mission statement. Commissioner Patten is working on developing various matrices/list of the various types of properties, various governmental entities involved with "nuisance" properties, various volunteer groups (i.e. neighborhood organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.), and legal ramifications of using

volunteers.

PV Solar – Commissioner Kennedy reported the latest development centers around a letter SSVEC sent to all of its members concerning their request to the Arizona Corporation Commission to change the amount of compensation they are required to pay their members who generate solar power that is “sold” back to SSVEC. It was deemed this is not an EAC issue.

EAC Public Awareness – Commissioner Wilcox reported the EAC has a booth for the West End Fair and needed EAC members to volunteer to work a “couple” of hours. The EAC has a 10X10 Booth. It was suggested the EAC have a booth at Art in the Park in October.

Annual Conservation Award – Commissioner Mulhern was absent but sent word that she will provide information to EAC members at a later date.

EAC Annual report to the City Council – Scott Dooley stated the presentation went well. Councilperson Husking stated she thought all the projects were thoughtful and fit right into Sierra Vista’s Strategic Plan. She also stated the Council is looking at all of the commissions and how better to manage them. She doesn’t think that the EAC is in danger since they play an important role in the City. Do they need to consolidate, do they only need to come on board when a problem needs to be solved, etc. EAC has been a commission for 22 years. Commissioner Stalman commented how various commissions can work together on issues, for example EAC has stated Sierra Vista should emphasize Eco-Tourism which falls under the Tourism Commission.

Commissioner Ehrenberger said he wanted to use this year’s process to develop EAC Annual Report (i.e. keep notes of what projects commissioners have worked on during the year, etc.).

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Management Presentation - See Staff Liaison comments above.

Economic Development Manager Presentation– See Staff Liaison comments above.

West End Fair – See Commissioner Wilcox’s comments above.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC –

In the future this agenda item will be moved to just prior to Adjournment.

Tom Kennedy expressed concern about the non-functional wind turbine on Ft. Huachuca and that it was damaging to the scenery. He also expressed concern at the number of empty businesses along Fry Blvd., especially in the West End.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE ACTIONS ITEMS

Field Trips - Potential

McFadden Park

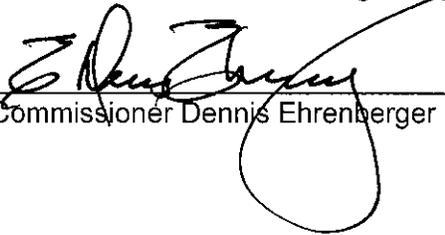
Sierra Vista Transit Station – Visit will be planned for July.

Ft. Huachuca Solar Array - Visit will be planned for June.

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled EAC meeting will be 27 May 2015 at Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building.

Chairman Ehrenberger adjourned the meeting at 4:49 PM.



Commissioner Dennis Ehrenberger