

Environmental Affairs Commission

Regular meeting –Agenda
Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building
January 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Bernie Stalman
Tom Kennedy
Dennis Ehrenberger
Ron Faulkner
Norm Patten (via Telecon)
George Monken
Tait Wilcox

Associate Members Present:

Amy Carter
Joanne Roberts (via Telecon)
Gene Fenstermacher

Council Liaison Present:

Hank Huisking

Staff Liaison Present:

Ryan Kooi, Public Works

Others Present:

Richard Cayer, Operations Manager,
Public Works
Tricia Gerrodette – Huachuca Audubon
Society

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Kennedy moved to accept the agenda for the meeting. Commissioner Ehrenberger seconded the motion.

The motion was passed.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Kennedy moved to accept the minutes for the December 16, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Stalman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilwoman Huisking reported Council Executive Newsletter prepared by the city manager will replace the staff minutes. This will improve keeping council members apprised of topics/actions of concern to the council.

She reported that the city saved \$116k during 2015 in energy costs due to an emphasis by the city staff on reducing energy costs. The saving was mainly from electrical cost. The same emphasis will continue during 2016.

Councilwoman Huisking also discussed the yearly city's commissions update to the city council in March. A specific date will be determined later. Each commission will be allotted 15-20 minutes for their annual update. The EAC will be allocated an additional 15 minutes to make a PV Solar recommendation to the council. Normally, four commissions will be giving their annual report per session **with ithe city** council. Since, it was felt that it was best for the EAC to present their PV Solar recommendation at the annual update; only two other city commissions will provide an update on the same date.

STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS

Richard Cayer, Operations Manager, Public Works, provided an update on Refuse Services' initiative to provide recycling to commercial accounts. The program has been successful, and since there is no trip fee for recyclable material, commercial customers normally see a reduction in their trash bill. At present there are 11 commercial customers with discussions ongoing with other potential customers. A green business award is being developed to recognize commercial businesses that are doing recycling. Mr. Cayer expressed an interest that they work with the EAC on this as part of the EAC initiative to establish an environmental award. EAC Associate Member Roberts will be the point of contact for this effort.

Mr. Cayer said that if the EAC is interested he would provide monthly statistics concerning commercial recycling.

PRESENTATION: None

EAC CHAIR COMMENTS

Chairman Kennedy requested that commissioners and associate members let Ryan Kooi know if they are not going to be in attendance at a meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Property Clean Up:

Commissioner Patten recapped a little of the history of EAC involvement in property clean up. Prior to the city focus on economic development, EAC recognized from an environmental view that there were many properties that needed to be cleaned up within the city. This topic became part of the 2015 EAC **Mission Statement**. The city subsequently began to focus on economic development and "cleaning" up properties within the city. The city has hired additional staff to work the issue of properties not being in compliance with city ordinances. Additionally, the city is "cleaning" up city ordinances and procedures to make it easier to enforce cleanup of nuisance properties. With these changes, property clean up is becoming an issue that would best be followed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

PV Solar:

Chairman Kennedy said that changes talked about at the last EAC meeting have been accomplished. Ryan Kooi will forward the final version of the presentation to EAC members.

EAC Public Awareness:

Commissioner Wilcox provided a review of the January 19 subcommittee meeting. He recapped the discussions of the meeting which included a review of the three events they participated in last year. The subcommittee reviewed what went well and what didn't. This year's plan is to have a display that would draw people to the booth so they could become aware of environmental issues and solutions. Plans include poster boards, possible an "erosion tube" for kids to crawl through, and other eye-catching displays. The plan is to participate in five events during 2016, which are SACA Home Show, West End Fair, Breakfast in the Garden, Art in the Park, and Sierra VistAbility Day.

A teacher at Joyce Clark Middle School teaches sustainability. The subcommittee thought it would be a good idea to contact her and see if her classes would like to partner with the EAC to participate in the five events this year. Commissioner Wilcox will formally purpose participation in the five events and partner with Joyce Clark Middle School to participate in the events at the February commission meeting.

Award for Energy Conservation:

There was discussion about what the name of the EAC Award would be. It was decided that the name will be Environmental Merit Award (EMA). The award would cover the area of water, energy, and sustainable practices. Chairman Kennedy, Associate Member Roberts, Ryan Kooi and Richard Cayer will get together to make sure that everyone is in agreement on the process and eligibility for the EMA.

Battery Recycling Update:

There was discussion of what is EAC's goal of battery recycling. Discussion included a need to educate the public on where and how to recycle batteries, Associate Member Roberts looked at the city website's links to battery recycling, which appears to be inaccurate and outdated. Commissioner Monken will review the city website for accuracy and do a survey of city businesses.

"Villages at Vigneto" in Benson Discussion:

Tricia Gerrodette stated that Benson just adopted a policy that any developer could apply for a community facility district. She also stated that Benson still has not finalized a community master plan. It was suggested that the EAC should provide Benson with the recommendation that we made to the Sierra Vista City Council to San Pedro Partnership. It was pointed out that EAC needed to send anything we believe could be used by other governmental entities through the city council. The city council has already indicated that issues dealing with the "Villages at Vigneto" are outside of the purview of Sierra Vista. "Villages at Vigneto" will remain on the EAC agenda in order to monitor, to see if any "red flag" issues come up that would directly affect Sierra Vista.

Commissioner Stallman reported that ADOT will be having a meeting in Benson on 11 February concerning issues dealing with roads within southeast Arizona. Council Liaison Huisking pointed out that this is one area of concern on the effects of the increase of traffic caused by "Villages at Vigneto."

There was some discussion concerning what impact the drawdown of water from "the aquifer" in one area has on the use of "the" aquifer in another area. It was explained that there are two aquifers (Sierra Vista Watershed aquifer and Benson Watershed aquifer) that are minimally connected. There is also another aquifer that has not been "tapped" but the cost of doing so would be extremely expensive to drill to its depth.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Report to City Council:

Chairman Kennedy led the discussion detailing what he wanted to see in the annual report. He outlined the following requirements for the annual report:

1. One slide per contributor
2. Simple bullets - 5-6 per person
3. Use the city slide format
4. Draft from contributors within 2 weeks (February 10)
5. EAC February meeting will include a working session to go over the drafts and finalize them
6. Contributors (the order of presentation TBD)

- a. Property Clean Up - Commissioner Patten
- b. PV Solar – Chairman Kennedy
- c. Public Awareness - Commissioner Wilcox
- d. Environmental Merit Award (EMA) - Associate Member Roberts
- e. Battery Recycling - Commissioner Monken
- f. Other topics (Beta test of glass recycling within Winterhaven, estimate number of EAC volunteer hours, etc.) - Commissioner Ehrenberger

There was discussion about the format and content of the update. Commissioner Stalman showed the presentation previously provided to the city council. This year's presentation will be organized by topic with general information (i.e. mission of EAC, EAC membership, etc.). Each topic should cover accomplishments and, if any, recommendations.

Watershed Alliance Discussion:

Associate Member Carter was working on this issue to bring someone with hydrology expertise to discuss effects. Chairman Kennedy stated that presentation and items discussed by the EAC must be relevant to the EAC. Since the Watershed Alliance deals with the Benson area, there is an Upper San Pedro **Water**shed group who may be a source to provide a speaker about hydrology of the Sierra Vista **Water**shed area.

FIELD TRIPS OR OTHER FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

Field trip date is February 24, 2016 to the solar farm on Ft. Huachuca. Meeting place will be the ramada at Thunder Mountain Activity Center (TMAC) at 2:00 pm. Everyone needs to notify Ryan Kooi if they wish to attend.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC - REQUESTS OF THE COMMISSION

Tricia Gerrodette requested the city provide public access Wi-Fi. Her request was that the city should provide public Wi-Fi access as other cities provide.

Ryan Kooi looked into a report in the Sierra Vista Herald about the meeting of Sierra Vista commissions. The idea was originated by the West End Commission. It appears that posting the invitation on Facebook was not the best way to **contact ALL** commission members. Council Liaison Huisking mentioned that she also did not know about the meeting. In the future, meetings such as this should be coordinated through Jill Adams, City Clerk.

Commissioner Ehrenberger recommended that EAC members read the editorial in today's Herald about the number of commissions in Sierra Vista.

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting will be February 24, 2016 at the Pedro Castro Maintenance Center at 3:30 pm.

Chairman Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.

Chairman Tom Kennedy