

Environmental Affairs Commission
Regular meeting – Minutes
Pedro Castro Public Works Administrative Building
May 24, 2017

CALL TO ORDER - Commissioner Ehrenberger called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Ron Faulkner
 Tom Kennedy
 Tait Wilcox
 George Monken
 Dennis Ehrenberger
 William Hargis
 Norm Patten

Associate Members Present: Joanne Roberts
 Amy Carter
 Gene Fenstermacher

Council Liaison Gwen Calhoun, Council Member

Staff Liaison Present: Jing Luo, City Engineer

Others Present: Tricia Gerrodette – Huachuca Audubon Society

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to accept the agenda for the meeting.
Commissioner Ehrenberger seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL 26, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 26 April 2017.
Commissioner Ehrenberger seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

COUNCIL LIAISON'S COMMENTS

Councilperson Calhoun stated that the council has been busy with the budget. She also reported that she has asked that the EAC be on the agenda for council work session to discuss the EAC recommendation concerning PV Solar. The date of the work session is to be determined(TBD).

STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS - Ms. Jing Luo reported they have been working on the Sierra Vista budget. The strategy plan has been approved and adopted by the city council. It is on the Sierra Vista web page. Commissioner Patton will research where it is online and will provide this information to EAC members.

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Ms. Jing Luo also reported ADOT has finished work at the intersection of AZ 90 & AZ 92.

Councilperson Calhoun suggested that the EAC should invite Dan Coxworth to brief the EAC on future ADOT plans. Commissioner Kennedy will ask Mr. Coxworth to speak at the June EAC meeting.

EAC CHAIR COMMENTS

Commissioner Kennedy reiterated that commissioners should print a copy of the agenda for themselves.

Commissioner Kennedy presented a letter of appreciation to Association Member Joanne Roberts. Ms. Roberts said she appreciated the recognition but that this was to be her last meeting due to personal and work related issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Property Infill/Redevelopment - Commissioner Patten reported he had talked with Director Matt Mc Lachlan, who said that metropolitan plan for Garden Avenue and Fry as far east Fab has been accepted. The plan should be funded and developed by 2019.

Commissioner Patten reported that TEP in cooperation with a company in Florida was going to build a 100-megawatt solar generation and 30-megawatt storage facility on property owned by the City of Tucson.

Commissioner Patten reported that Mr. Mc Lachlan stated that the Windermere was being developed into a commercial assisted living facility for veterans.

PV Solar - Commissioner Kennedy expressed his concern about conversations he had in the past with Mayor Mueller concerning PV Solar. This led to a lengthy discussion concerning what the EAC should present. It was the consensus that the EAC would provide an update to the presentation which they had presented to the city council two years ago.

EAC Public Awareness - Commissioner Tait reported that the West End Fair went well in the matter of collecting batteries for recycling. In August, the EAC will participate in Breakfast in the Garden.

Environmental Merit Award - Commissioner Ehrenberger reported that he had received comments concerning the scoring of the applications of the Environmental Merit Award. After some discussion, it was agreed that the scoring criteria would be revisited prior to evaluation of next year's applications.

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Commission Ehrenberger made a motion accept the Environmental Merit Award scoring as drafted. Commissioner Kennedy second the motion.

The motion was passed.

Battery Recycling – Commissioner Monken reported that he had contacted Richard Cayer, Operations Manager, concerning updating the information on the city web site concerning battery recycling. It was mentioned that pamphlet "Out of the Green Into the Blue" had information that was different than the city web site. Commissioner Kennedy expressed a desire that the EAC recommend to the city council that battery recycling stations be established at each of the three fire stations. Commissioner Monken will work on getting the city web site on battery recycling updated and then work on a recommendation to the city council.

Glass Recycling - Commissioner Ehrenberger reported Richard Cayer, Operations Manager, does not have the staff to research an alternative to the current glass recycling program if the current vendor backed out of the program. Commissioner Ehrenberger pointed out that anything that we can do to extend the life of the current land fill would be welcomed. There was discussion about any plans to change the current glass recycling program would probably require coordination with the county and other communities within the county.

Water Management – Commissioner Faulkner reported information that has come out of various organizations such as San Pedro Partnership, Water Wish, and SACA. He reported that the recharge into the aquifer comes from ground water and not storm waters. The biggest contributors to ground water are the mountains along with supplemental programs such as Palominas, Horseshoe Draw, Bella Vista and the EOP. The trend towards an unsustainable water supply for the Sierra Vista is the cone of depression because it is expanding. Several governmental and non-governmental entities are working together to reduce water usage and increase recharge. In 2015, water pumped for use in Sierra Vista was approximately 6300 acre feet.

Sierra Vista unofficial recharge is about 3100 acre feet. This is primarily from the EOP. There are septic systems in Sierra Vista and in some of Sierra Vista water management systems but it is estimated the recharge for these sources is marginal. There are questions concerning how many homes are using septic systems and how much more water would be recharged if these homes were connected to the EOP. Based upon available data the deficit is about 3200 acre feet.

Commissioner Faulkner reported that he had received email from Catlow Shipek of Watershed Management Group offering to come and speak to the EAC. Councilperson Calhoun stated that Watershed Management Group has done several projects for Sierra Vista dealing with migrating storm water runoff.

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Commissioner Faulkner made a motion to invite Watershed Management Group to speak to the EAC on 23 August. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
her commissions.

There was a discussion concerning inviting other commissions to hear the briefing. There was concern that the EAC needed to know what the briefing would be about prior to announcing it. Commissioner Faulkner will contact Mr. Shipek for details of what his briefing would cover.

NEW BUSINESS

Wind as an alternate power source - There was very limited discussion concerning wind as an alternate power source.

ADOT streets in Sierra Vista - Commissioner Kennedy will continue the investigation.

Federal reserve water rights adjudication - There was discussion concerning the trials for the various affected parties as well as the possible effect on water wells put in or modified after 1988.

FIELD TRIPS OR OTHER FUTURE ACTION ITEMS - Nothing to report

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Tricia Gerrodette talked about Vigneto. She stated the lawsuit filed last year, concerning Fish and Wildlife Services and the Army Corp of Engineers needs to be consulted concerning endanger species and habitats. This had been put on hold while the Corp of Engineers works with the developer concerning what could be migrated. The Fish and Wildlife Services has asked the court engineer to send a formal letter requesting formal consultation. The letter has not been sent. There was discussion concerning what work the developer could do. There are areas that the developer could start since these areas are not part of the Vigneto lawsuits.

ADJOURNMENT - Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 5 PM

The next meeting will be June 28, 2017 at 3:30 PM