DRAFT Minutes
Joint Meeting
Neighborhood Advisory Commission and Sustainability Commission
January 6, 2021

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) and Sustainability Commission (SUSTY) held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

NAC (MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec (Chair), Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer (Vice Chair), Christopher McCabe, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

NAC (MEMBERS) Absent: Richelle Miller, Zoe Stein

SUSTY (MEMBERS) Present: Kendon Jung (Chair), Ryan Mores (Vice Chair), Barbie Burke, Gretchen Reinhardt, Anna Melis, Sukki Jahnke

SUSTY (MEMBERS) Absent: John Kane, Steve Russell, Katja Brundiers, Stephanie Milam-Edwards

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Grace Kelly, Energy Management Coordinator; Braden Kay, Sustainability Director

Guests: Mitchell, Marlborough Park Estates resident

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order
The joint meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by NAC Chair Belec

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call
NAC (MEMEBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

NAC (MEMBERS) Absent: Jana Lynn Granillo (during roll call), Michael McLendon (during roll call), Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky (during roll call) and Zoe Stein

SUSTY (MEMBERS) Present: Kendon Jung, Ryan Mores, Barbie Burke, Gretchen Reinhardt, Anna Melis, Sukki Jahnke

SUSTY (MEMBERS) Absent: John Kane, Steve Russell, Katja Brundiers, Stephanie Milam-Edwards

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment
None.

Agenda Item 4 – Neighborhood Engagement for Climate Action Plan Update

Sustainability Director Braden Kay affirmed Tempe's first Climate Action Plan was approved by Council in 2019, the result of a three-year process after Mayor and Council signed on with Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy. Braden then provided an update on the Climate Action Plan 2021.

The purpose of the second climate action plan is to:

- Provide space and listen to build collaboration with the community and improve upon the Climate Action Plan 2019
    - Co-create a process to engage stakeholders
    - Co-create actionable items that are important to stake holders
        - Tempe's Climate Action Plan was the second in Arizona. We promised we would do an update and improve upon what is important to schools, youth, faith-based community and businesses.
- Outcomes:
    - Partnerships for decarbonization and resilience to extreme heat
        - 99% community carbon emissions come from energy and transportation
        - Working with our community to reduce emissions from energy and transportation
    - Resilience to extreme heat is another component of Climate Action Plan
        - Extreme heat is going to get worse
    - Equitable climate actions

What is equitable climate action?

- Advocates for justice, people and the planet
- Identifies ways in which injustices between marginalized communities and the earth are interconnected
    - Important to advocate for those hit hardest by climate change
    - We came to realize that social justice is climate justice and climate action
    - In case of emergency, if community members don't trust the police, they are not going to be able to get through climate challenges.

Some of the discussion highlights included:

- NAC Commissioner Harden asked: what does advocates for justice, people and the planet mean? What is a social justice issue? What is an energy resilience hub?
- Braden Kay replied not addressing poverty and not addressing racism. Braden remarked that the Office of Sustainability has been working for years to message this and there are aspects that are confusing.
- NAC Chair Belec - Resilience hubs are fire stations, community centers, schools and churches that are outfitted with solar panels and battery storage. In the event of an emergency that compromises the electrical grid, resilience hubs will ensure that first responders and evacuees have access to electricity.
- Susty Commission Chair Jung - Common definition of sustainability is people, profit and planet. There are people that talk about fixing the planet or the environment, but without addressing the social aspects. Communities of color are more likely to be located next to landfills, for example. Having an awareness

that social justice is part of those discussions is important. Climate action seeks to call out social justice as an important element that needs to be seen.

- Susty Commission Vice Chair Mores - I invite you to check out the first Climate Action plan that Tempe approved a year ago.
- NAC Commissioner Harden - We have seen the plan, so I do have a baseline, but the feedback I'm giving you is it's still unclear, to get people's attention there needs to be more specificity. It is very general.
- Susty Commissioner Burke - One example is APS and SRP studies came out and showed that many elderly people were dying of the heat, having to make choices between food and air conditioning. APS and SRP changed their policy to not allow shutoffs in the summer and offered discounts to low income residents, a local example of addressing climate justice.
- Susty Commissioner Reinhardt – Another example is air quality. Important solutions for climate impact those air quality concerns. A lot of air quality issues are not equally distributed around zip codes. So those in underserved communities are impacted more by poor air quality; it is exacerbated in low income areas. The heat changed the ozone, and it is felt more there.
- NAC Commissioner Larimer - You mentioned trust of law enforcement and government. How would trust in these organizations help?
- Braden - If people are struggling, they would be less likely to go to police because of police action toward people of color; people have come to us and told us these are issues of concern to them.

Equitable Climate Action examples:

- Training childcare organizations to reduce children's exposure to pesticides
- Educating low income families to identify and address environmental hazards in their homes including exposure to extreme heat
- Training residents on how to read their energy bill and lower utility costs
- Neighborhood green infrastructure projects in parks and in rights-of way
- Allergy and asthma testing in economically vulnerable communities
- Cooling stations or shaded bus stops
- Youth Climate Town Hall

The first Climate Action Plan (2019)

- Areas of Focus:
    - Energy
    - Transportation
    - Resilience to extreme heat
- Highlight actions
    - Resilient energy hubs
    - Transportation demand management
    - Green infrastructure
    - Green construction code

Collaborative efforts include:

- Human Services Department is working with Sustainability staff on creation of energy hubs along Apache Boulevard near Dorsey.
- Office of Sustainability is also working with Transportation on demand management.

- Pilot programs around city including those for green infrastructure meaning infrastructure that uses storm water to grow urban forests and vegetation.

Climate Action Plan 2021 Updates – Listening Phase:
The Listening Phase took place in Fall 2020; Office of Sustainability met with business leaders, faith-based organizations, neighborhoods, youth and students. Braden asked Sustainability commissioners to share about what they learned at those sessions.

- Susty Commissioner Burke commented that sessions were very well attended, drawing more people than expected. We heard that people wanted a cleaner Tempe, were concerned with their neighborhoods and growth and what we could do to make it better for them. It led to us wanting to have a meeting with your commission to get your feedback on it.
- Susty Commissioner Reinhardt recalled that there was a lot of conversation about how we reach faith-based organizations and youth and help them understand, what are resilient energy hubs? What goes into it? How may faith-based communities be involved? They need plenty of advance notice.
- Braden shared that Susty Commisioner Sukki Jahnke is with the Chamber of commerce and helps with business communication. In the listening sessions for business community, we talked about how the business community can work with utilities to save energy and work with organizations on tree plantings. In listening sessions, we asked what should we do and who should be involved?

Climate Action Plan 2021 Updates – Planning Phase:
Braden stated that Spring listening sessions are being planned for February, one with youth (middle and high school age), and one with businesses. We'll do a forum to see what climate action should look like and how we develop these specific stakeholder agendas. A Request For Proposal (RFP) has been put out to hire a community-based nonprofit to help reach residents and do training on issues like how to read energy bills and how to manage home during periods of extreme heat. We are looking for neighborhoods we don't usually hear from.

NAC Commissioner Nick Weller commented that it would be helpful if people know how to make better decisions about heat in their home. Braden agreed emphasizing there is a need for action and investment. We want to help these residents have resources so they can be heard by these decision-making bodies like utility boards and Council.

- Another component of our climate action is Story Walks
    - Placement of 8-10 yard signs that tell a story about something that could happen in Tempe during climate action.
    - Dr. Withycombe-Keeler has a class at ASU to help with those stories – tell a story about someone who is taking action now and what that looks like in the future; you can comment on if you think this should happen. We thought this would be an interesting way to do engagement during Covid.
- Guiding principles - When we adopted the climate action plan, the sustainability commission came up with these 5 principles to ensure quality and effective climate action:
    - Equity
    - Engagement

    - Enterprise
    - Effectiveness and evidence
    - Fiscal responsibility
- Next steps:
    - Identify other stakeholders to involve
    - Create and share story walks and social medias
    - Identify specific climate actions to collaborate on
    - Adopt policy to highlight actions
- Moving Forward:
    - Grant applications
    - ASU
    - Policy development
    - Pilot projects: green infrastructure and neighborhood grants

Some of the dialogue and feedback included:

- NAC Commissioner Granillo - For the Maryanne Corder neighborhood grants, it would be great to have a category for shade, using water. We're aware that some neighborhoods apply for grants and other don't because they are not organized. I could help those neighborhoods so they could apply for grants. When you come up with your recommendations, having citywide surveys would be helpful. ADOT is working on Broadway curve, I don't' know what the impact to neighborhoods will be, there may be increased traffic. I don't know how that ties into transportation goals.
- Braden - Transportation Demand Management is working with businesses and commuters and is a really important part of the equation with dealing with the Broadway curve. There is a lot of important tools that can be used such as flex day schedules and varied work hours to minimize impact on neighbors and traffic safety. I need to follow up with group that is working on that.
- Braden confirmed we will work with ALL neighborhoods; we're just putting extra effort in working with the marginalized neighborhoods.
- NAC Member Harden noted that some example Braden and SUSTY commissioners offered are very good examples of real-world things that are going on. That is positive energy put toward positive energy. Go back to beginning of presentation. Systemic racism doesn't fit in the last few examples you gave. It's very general. It seems too lofty of a goal. Then you go down to the level of a story walk. There's a disconnect between things we can do, more parks, more trees, it can dilute any of these activities.
- NAC Chair Belec - I think it could help to refine the presentation for other audiences. In terms of our involvement, we'll stick to the concrete examples.

Additional Feedback included:

- Commissioner Larimer offered that she works for a Tempe based nonprofit and will be happy to be contacted and to help connect with her HR Representative.
- Chair Belec requested. the date and info. regarding the 3rd Sustainability Summit be shared for NAC members to help push out
- Commissioner Harden noted that helping to get the word out ties in and is a good example of NAC's goal to assist the dissemination of information and seek

feedback (more thoroughly across the community). She added that representation should include members of the at risk population.

- NAC Member Schugurensky asked if the planning phase is going to end with clear goals, targets, indicators, timelines, policy proposals, and the like? He was advised that is the plan and hopefully some budget allocations as well.
- This entire topic needs to be split up to 1 year goals/tasks and then 5-10 year targets.
- The suggestion was made by SUSTY Chair Jung to have a joint meeting at least once a year to explore collaboration opportunities. There was general agreement to meet together at least once a year.
- The commissions should have connected and complimentary goals, bought off by the council's direction.

<u>Agenda Item 5 – 2021 State of the Neighborhoods Planning Update</u>
The discussion included:

- NAC Chair Hannah Moulton Belec brought attention to discussion in meeting chat specifically comments about the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant categories. Are there projects that NA or HOAs could do that are $15K or less to contribute to climate action? Are there other projects in addition to shading and shade structures that neighborhoods could do?
- Braden offered that Richard Atkins, the City's new Urban Forester, has been helping to lead green infrastructure projects that we'd like to see more of. Two NAs recently did private property tree programs and several others have done them prior. We've also seen projects around water conservation and neighborhood leaders have expressed interest in doing more projects like these.
- NAC Chair Belec asked about a webinar that could be featured at the State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops event in April. Is there anything that you as a commission would like to get in front of the commission – like tree upkeep? Want to collaborate with us on a workshop session that has to do with climate action and neighborhoods?
- Susty Commission Chair Jung - Yes, we'll work with staff on how that may look; if it is commissioner, staff or other. In prior conversations about increasing flow of conversation between residents and city council, this is a unique strategy in pursuit of that.
- Braden - We could put something together with our Urban Forester. Given the event may be a hybrid, we could explore doing our story walk at the event and have green infrastructure, neighborhood tree planting project type engagement.
- NAC Commissioner Granillo - Years ago, I attended a story walk; at each point of interest there was a sign, you could call in, and hear the story about the historical value of that location. I found it to be a good experience.
- Susty Commission Vice Chair Mores: Hannah, you asked what neighborhoods could do to support climate action. In addition to shade projects in neighborhoods, it would be good to have more community advocacy, commissioners speaking to council, to say we want these types of projects, and increased budget for these projects.

Braden suggested that maybe we meet again this summer to provide your commission the opportunity to be on this process with us. In Fall, you could write a letter in support of the Climate Action Plan.

Agenda Item 6 – Cook Kids, Cool Places, Cool Futures Grant

Braden provided a brief overview of the Cool Kids Grant noting that in concert with the Climate Action Plan, staff has been working to bring in additional grant projects to the city. Some of the challenges include:

- Climate urgency
- Collective ownership and identify – Over 45 days in summer with over 120 degree temperatures but there is a lack of ownership and action surrounding extreme heat
- Amplifying action
- Social cohesion and connectivity - sprawl

Susty Commissioner Melis said we're going to have to deal with the consequences of extreme heat, a lot of people can't move away. Our youth understand the strength in unity and numbers and the importance of caring for one another. During covid, many are focusing on mutual aid like urban gardens to provide assistance to others.

Braden shared the results of collaborating with a New Zealand expert specializing in emergency management. The Cool kids proposal is to build two youth councils, one in Escalante and another in Gilliland. This two-year school program will have ten students from each of the two neighborhoods participating. Cool Kids youth will have access to ASU heat researchers to do neighborhood work around cooling. They will help translate the work the school is doing with the work the city is doing in terms of resilience to extreme heat.

Year one is a capacity building phase leading up to year three which is translating that work into city-wide and regional works. Braden offered to forward a video with the grant basics and to have Cool Kids grant youth members come talk to the commission in the Fall.

Members expressed appreciation for the joint meeting opportunity.

Agenda Item 7 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Grace Kelly & Elizabeth Thomas