



PIMA COUNTY

PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700

Tucson, AZ 85701

Summary Minutes – January 15, 2014
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 8th floor
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Peter Livingston
Ms. Kylie Walzak
Ms. Linda Hanson
Ms. Denise Moreno Ramírez

Members Absent:

Mr. Warren Thompson
Dr. Mark Witten
Mr. Richard W. Murphy
Mr. Jeff Yockey

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Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Karen Wilhelmsen, Program Coordinator, PDEQ
Ann Chanecka, City of Tucson DOT
Emily Yetman, Living Streets Alliance
Gabe Thum, Pima Association of Governments
Ruth Reiman, Pima Association of Governments

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Betterton called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. .

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Betterton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014

Rowe nominated Dr. Betterton for chair, seconded by Mr. Livingston. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Livingston nominated Mr. Yockey for vice chair, seconded by Mr. Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2013 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

V. LIVING STREETS ALLIANCE'S (LSA) ENCOURAGEMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR MULTI-MODAL

Ms. Emily Yetman, Living Streets Alliance's presentation, Streets for People, is available at the link below:

http://www.deq.pima.gov/EQAC/presentations/Emily-Y-EQAC_15Jan2014.pdf

There was discussion regarding cities that are considering taxing bike riders. It seemed that areas that had implemented this idea found that it cost more in administrative costs to run this program than they were collecting in the tax.

A question was asked if LSA offers safety classes for cyclists. They do not, however, Pima County Department of Transportation does offer free safety classes. Information is available on their website.

VI. SUN RIDESHARE PROGRAM AND TUCSON ON THE MOVE

Ms. Reiman, Travel Demand Management Manager, Pima Association of Governments' presentation is available at the link below:

<http://www.deq.pima.gov/EQAC/presentations/PAG-AlternativeTrsnp-011514.pdf>

The Sun Rideshare Rewards Program began early January and will last for two years. Please see the presentation or their website for details on how to qualify and enter.

VII. REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNT PROGRAM

Mr. Thum, Pima Association of Governments, Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program's presentation is available at the link below:

http://www.deq.pima.gov/EQAC/presentations/PAG-Bike_PedCount011514.pdf

"You value what you measure, you measure what you value". The count uses numerous volunteers in their program. Please visit their website if you are interested in volunteering.

VIII. EXPANDING TUCSON'S WALKING AND BIKING OPTIONS

Ann Chanecka, City of Tucson's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, provided information regarding the City's programs to facilitate biking and walking. Her presentation is at the link below:

<http://www.deq.pima.gov/EQAC/presentations/AnnC-ExpandingOptionsJan2014.pdf>

After all of the presentations were done, the members of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council asked how they can help. Ms. Walzak suggested that when anyone sends email invitations to a meeting or event to include directions for bicyclists and other alternative modes of transportation along with parking instructions.

Ms. Kramer will meet with Dr. Betterton and Ms. Walzak to explore additional ideas for EQAC.

IX. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Ms. Kramer, Director of PDEQ, reported on events occurring since the last EQAC meeting in November 2013, within each division of PDEQ. PDEQ consists of two separate divisions: Environmental Quality Division (regulatory) and Solid Waste Management.

a. Environmental Quality Division

Ms. Kramer reported that EPA announced that funding levels are expected to be reinstated to levels before the sequester.

Two staff performing environmental work from the County Department of Transportation will be reassigned to PDEQ. They will continue to perform the same type of work.

Staff is rolling out the MPG (miles per gallon) tire inflation program which will run from February through May, 2014. Participants will submit information and check tire pressure monthly.

b. Solid Waste Management Division

The Tangerine Landfill closed December 1, 2013. The Town of Marana's landfill, operated by Waste Management, is now open. The tire facility has been moved back to the Ina Road Landfill and is being operated by the County's tire contractor, Crumb Rubber Manufacturing (CRM).

X. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Betterton made a call to the public. No public comment was made.

XI. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. Three items for the next meeting are:

Discussion of time allotted for future presentations

The Loop, County Bike Share Program – Matthew Zoll, County Dept. of Transportation

Modern Streetcar information

TEP's switch from coal to natural gas – Jeff Yockey, TEP

Additional agenda items for the next meeting will be emailed to staff for the chair's consideration.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Livingston, and seconded by Mr. Rowe, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.