



PIMA COUNTY

PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, AZ 85701

Summary Minutes – July 16, 2014
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 7th floor
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Jeff Yockey
Dr. Mark Witten
Mr. Warren Thompson
Ms. Kylie Walzak
Ms. Denise Moreno Ramírez
Dr. Peter Livingston

Members Absent:

Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Ms. Linda Hanson
Mr. Richard W. Murphy

Others Present:

Ursula Nelson, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Linda Stamer, Sabino Canyon, U.S. Forest Service

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Yockey, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Yockey led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19, 2014 MINUTES

A correction to the March minutes, last page, under Section 9, (typo) changing “meeting” to “member”. A motion was made by Dr. Witten, seconded by Dr. Livingston, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. FOREST SERVICE/SABINO CANYON STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Linda Stamer, Santa Catalina Ranger District, Coronado National Forest, shared information and handouts regarding the Sabino Canyon Recreation Concept Plan. Ms. Stamer shared her background with the EQAC members. She has been the manager of the visitor center for the last two years and her first 15 years with the agency were working as a biologist.

Ms. Stamer distributed two handouts:

- Sabino Canyon Recreation Concept Plan (draft)
- January 1, 2014 Comment Summary

The Forest Service is updating the recreation concept plan which is not a legal document but a guideline on how to manage the recreation area for the next 10 to 20 years. There is no funding tied to this plan. One public meeting was held in May with 150 attendees.

Some good ideas from the old plan will be kept for inclusion into the new plan, such as the environmental education program. This is the area's largest naturalist program educating over 10,000 children annually.

Goals and Objectives

- Emphasize Environmental Education at Sabino Canyon
- Maintain the Natural Character of Sabino Canyon
- Provide for a Spectrum for Compatible Activities for People to Enjoy the Canyon
- Maintain Ecosystem Integrity
- Preserve and Interpret Cultural Resources
- Encourage Sense of Public Ownership and Responsibility
- Maintain and/or Create a Sustainable Recreation Area

Future Management Focus Areas

- Interpretive Resources/Information Technology
- Environmental Education
- Transportation
- Facilities/Fees
- Trails
- Ecosystem Integrity
- Rejected Ideas- due to incompatibility of users, safety or were considered non-sustainable.

The January Comment Summary provided a breakdown of the comments received from the public:

Category	Number of Comments
Transportation/roads	88
Facilities/Fees	56
Trails	53
Interpretive Resources	32
Environmental Education	28
Ecosystem Integrity	24
Total Comments	281

EQAC offered the following ideas:

- Charge cyclists to use site
- Partner with TEP
- Partner with U of A engineering students
- Charge visitors
- Offer special use permit for events
- Partner with the library system
- Partner with Tucson based foundations
- Work with the Tucson Visitors Center
- Update the website to make it more inviting and interesting

Ms. Stamer talked about the Sabino Canyon Shuttle and stated that she has received complaints that it is noisy and smelly. Currently the shuttle uses fuel that is 45% bio-diesel. A new Request For Proposal (RFP) will be out in June 2015 to award a 20-year contract.

V. CYCLOVIA TUCSON REPORT

Ms. Kylie Walzak, EQAC and Living Streets Alliance, talked about Cyclovia. Cyclovia is an event consisting of miles of car-free city streets for walking, biking, etc. The first Cyclovia was held in Columbia and is still celebrated there each Sunday.

The last Tucson Cyclovia event was held Sunday, April 6, 2014. The route started downtown and made a five mile loop south and back again. A survey was distributed to those participating in the April Cyclovia. From this survey, it is estimated that the event generated approximately \$250,000 in revenue for local businesses. The average spent was \$15 per person. The cost to put on an event is approximately \$60,000 for insurance, police officers, marketing, t-shirts, etc. Cyclovia requires about 200 volunteers.

The next event is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be five-miles long. The route will be in the Keeling neighborhood and down 4th Avenue. Fundraising is currently underway to raise \$15,000 by August 15. Participation is expected to be between 30,000 to 35,000 people.

Ms. Walzak would like to see 4 events each year.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Nelson, PDEQ Director, reported that the County has terminated its participation in the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Tucson to provide funding for the Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHWP), effective July 1, 2014. County residents may still use the HHWP facility but will be charge a usage fee of \$10. City residents can continue to use HHWP services at no charge. The public may still bring antifreeze, batteries, oil and paint (ABOP) to the County landfill and transfer stations free of charge. Tucson Recycling and Waste Services (TRWS), the County's solid waste operator, has agreed to provide the ABOP services at no cost to the County or the public. A press release will be issued in the near future.

The air emissions for Rosemont were completed and accepted by ADEQ. ADEQ issued the air quality permit. The air permit was appealed by three parties with the permit being upheld by an Administrative Law Judge. However, that ruling is being challenged by the appellants in Superior Court. There are still outstanding issues related to water quality, fish and wildlife impacts.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Yockey made a call to the public. There was no response.

VIII. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. Agenda items include: Air Quality Survey completed by FMR (Beth Gorman, PDEQ)

For a future meeting agenda:
111(d.) – Jeff Yockey

Ms. Walzak is checking into information regarding an app company and metropia and will report back to the group at a future meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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