



PIMA COUNTY

PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Summary Minutes – March 19, 2014
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 7th floor
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Warren Thompson
Ms. Kylie Walzak
Ms. Linda Hanson
Ms. Denise Moreno Ramírez
Dr. Mark Witten
Mr. Richard W. Murphy
Mr. Jeff Yockey

Members Absent:

Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Mr. Peter Livingston

Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Karen Wilhelmsen, Program Coordinator, PDEQ
Ruth Reiman, Pima Association of Governments (PAG)
Matthew Zoll, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, PDOT
Cherry Rosenberg, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
Patrick Hartley, PAG Transportation Planner
Mike Martin, HDR Engineering
Heather Spitzer, Raytheon
Dianna Holgate, UofA Intern, Raytheon

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Betterton called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Everyone introduced themselves. A Philabaum award was given to Kylie Walzak.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 15, 2014 MINUTES

A correction to the January minutes requires moving Mr. Yockey from the present column to the absent column. A motion was made by Ms. Hanson, seconded by Ms. Moreno Ramírez, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. THE LOOP AND PIMA COUNTY BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

Mr. Matthew Zoll, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager for the Pima County Department of Transportation, showed a short video about The Loop. He also shared information using a power point presentation and distributed maps of The Loop.

The video is available here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=s3Etsx13J3M

The presentation is available at the link below:

http://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Government/Environmental%20Quality/Boards%20Commissions%20and%20Committees/EQAC/2014/Loop_Presentation_2014_short_DOT.pdf

The Pima County Bike Share Program is for County employees, their families, consultants. The bicycle inventory for the program is about 35 bikes. Some County departments are located close to The Loop.

V. MODERN STEETCARD PRESENTATION

Ms. Shellie Ginn, City of Tucson, was not available. Mr. Mike Martin, Project Manager for HDR Engineering, the project's consultant, presented in her place. The modern streetcar is 4 miles long with 19 stops. It starts at the University of Arizona Science Center building and ends at the shops across from the El Rio Clinic on Congress. His presentation is at the link below:

http://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Government/Environmental%20Quality/Boards%20Commissions%20and%20Committees/EQAC/2014/PDEQ_3_18_2014%20Street%20Car.pdf

VI. PAG 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Patrick Hartley, Transportation Planner with Pima Association of Governments (PAG), presented information regarding the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. PAG is the federally designated planning agency for MPO. The ½ cent sales tax which provides funding needs to be reauthorized in 2026. His presentation is at the link below:

http://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Government/Environmental%20Quality/Boards%20Commissions%20and%20Committees/EQAC/2014/RTPTF-2014-01-14-RTP2045.pdf

For additional information, please visit the webpage at: www.sunlinkstreetcar.com.

VII. TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER AND NATURAL GAS

Mr. Jeff Yockey provided a brief background of the H. Wilson Sundt Generating Station (formerly Irvington Generation Station). His presentation is at the link below:

http://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Government/Environmental%20Quality/Boards%20Commissions%20and%20Committees/EQAC/2014/EQAC_Sundt_BART_March_2014.pdf

VIII. TRANSPORTATION ISSUES UPDATE AND ACTION ITEMS FROM JANUARY EQAC MEETING

Ms. Kylie Walzak, Dr. Eric Betterton, Ursula Kramer and Beth Gorman were a subcommittee that met to discuss the presentations and information provided at the January EQAC meeting. The Subcommittee presents the following as possible action items for consideration by EQAC:

- University Boulevard – discuss the possibility of making University Boulevard outside of Main Gate a pedestrian only area along with the Modern Streetcar. This would require further discussions with the Marshall Foundation as well as the City of Tucson and the University of Arizona.
- Sabino Canyon – work with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to change the current tram from biodiesel to another cleaner power source. Attend upcoming public meetings to discuss the Sabino Canyon Recreation Concept Plan. The meeting dates are March 25 and May 1. They will likely start at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Udall Center. EQAC could also send a letter to Linda Stamer, expressing support for the Tram change to improve air quality and visitor experience.
- Provide EQAC member participation at key regional planning events, such as the PAG ongoing regional planning events. PAG is currently developing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2045 which incorporates the projects included in the Regional Transportation Authority plan and projects that are included in PAG’s five-year transportation improvement program. In developing the RTP, PAG wants to hear from members of the community about goals, concerns and regional priorities for the future of our region’s transportation system. To do so, PAG is conducting a regional transportation survey from now through the middle of March 2014. The link for the survey was previously emailed to all EQAC members by Vicki Bennie.

Dr. Betterton stated that we would discuss this further at a future meeting.

IX. FUTURE EQAC MEETINGS DISCUSSION

There was consensus to try to keep the EQAC meetings to 90 minutes. Staff will limit the number of presentations to two or three per meeting.

X. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Betterton made a call to the public. Ms. Walzak made an announcement about the Cyclovia Event which will be on Sunday, April 6. Starting downtown, specific streets will be closed to motorized traffic making a five mile loop south and back again. Events are planned for the day at several locations (Santa Rosa, Santa Rita and Armory Parks). For more information, please visit: www.cycloviatucson.org

XI. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. EQAC members with ideas for the agenda for the May meeting were asked to email Ms. Bennie.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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