

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
6:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING WEBINAR**

MINUTES  
October 18, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:02 p.m.)

2. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Andrea Beth Damsky, Chair	X
Ricky Williams, Vice-Chair	X
Stephen Grooms	X
Trey McDonald	
Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret	X
Michael Bourton	X
Maggie Eggers (EDCO)	
Joe Garuba (Helix Water District)	X
Joe Britton (SDG&E)	X
Sebastian Sarria, San Diego Community Power	X
Vacant (Youth Rep)	
Vacant (La Mesa-Spring Valley School District)	
Vacant (Helix Charter High School)	

Others present: Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager; Samantha Bohl CivicSpark Fellow; and Jackie Weeden, CivicSpark Fellow

Public present: Mark Gracyk, Elected Division 3 Director of Helix Water District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments submitted or stated.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2021

Andrea Beth Damsky had a correction for item nine.

Approval of minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting.

Action:	Motion to approve minutes by Ricky Williams; second by Steven Grooms
Vote:	4-0
Ayes:	Damsky, Williams, Lonjaret, Grooms, Bourton
Noes:	None
Abstained:	Bourton
Absent:	McDonald

Motion passed.

## 5. CITY STAFF UPDATES

Hilary Ego gave updates on the following items:

- CivicSpark Fellows started in September and are here today to introduce themselves and the projects they will be working on.
- Trees: Successful tree planting event on September 24, 2021. 11 trees planted and featured on two tv news channels. Granted a one-year grant extension for the Cal Fire grant. Public comment open for the Urban Forest Management Plan until September 30. Mailed 700 letters to residents for Phase 2 of the tree planting.
- Waste: Organics recycling commercial rollout coming soon. Continuing to work on SB1383 requirements including edible food recovery and ordinances.
- SANDAG ReCAP data requests submitted for the 2020 GHG Emissions Inventory
- EV chargers at MacArthur Park began construction. Part of SDG&E's Power Your Drive program.
- Park Appreciation Day/Earth Day Festival on November 6<sup>th</sup> at MacArthur Park from 10-1. Looking for volunteers to help out tabling and promote the DIY Toolkit.

## 6. SELECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (Hilary Ego)

Hilary Ego stated that the Chair and Vice Chair will be voted on by nomination followed by a vote and also verified that the chair and vice chair role cannot fill the same role for more than four terms.

ACTION: Motioned by Ricky Williams and seconded by Board Stephen Grooms to appoint Board Member Andrea Beth as Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Commission

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Williams, Grooms, Damsky, Lonjaret, Bourton

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: McDonald

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Stephen Grooms and seconded by Michael Bourton to appoint Board Member Ricky as Vice Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Commission

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Williams, Grooms, Damsky, Lonjaret, Bourton

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: McDonald

Motion passed.

## 7. CIVICSPARK FELLOWS INTRODUCTION (Hilary Ego, Samantha Bohl, Jackie Weeden)

Jackie Weeden introduced herself, stating she will be working on CAP implementation until August 2022. Her projects include benchmarking municipal utility data and creating a municipal GHG emissions inventory. In addition, prioritizing and implementing energy efficiency and utility projects listed in the CAP.

Samantha Bohl introduced herself, stating she will be working on CAP implementation until August 2022. Her projects include introducing the La Mesa Green Business Certification Program to

increase education and outreach to businesses. In addition, she will be working on authoring an environmental justice recommendation report.

#### 8. DISCUSSION OF 2023 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE (Hilary Ego)

Hilary Ego provided an update that the Council CAP Subcommittee has met and discussed the upcoming CAP update. Hilary also followed up on questions from the last meeting and stated that the Council CAP Subcommittee is not open to the public and Commissioners can email members of the CAP Council Subcommittee as individual private citizens.

Ricky Williams asked if the Commission could present a commission approved letter outlining items they'd like to see in a CAP update. Hilary responded she will ask and follow up with the Commission.

Hilary Ego stated she has been networking with other jurisdictions in San Diego County to share resources and best practices for the CAP update.

#### 9. DISCUSSION OF AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE: BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret provided an update on the ad hoc subcommittee's process of developing the bullet points for the Work Plan Update and a recommended timeline and requested comments from the Environmental Sustainability Commission.

Ricky Williams commented that we are reviewing the ad hoc subcommittee's work today and it would not be a Brown Act violation since it will not be voted on at this meeting.

Joe Britton requested the draft be emailed to the Commission to provide time for review and an agenda item to vote on the next meeting. Hilary will email to the Commission following the meeting.

Ricky Williams asked about the process the City's Green Building Code and if this would be a reach code. Hilary responded yes. Ricky recommended changing the verbiage of bullet 4.5 from "prepare" to "explore."

Sebastian Sarria commented that San Diego Community Power would be a resource to these community meetings.

#### 10. DISCUSSION OF AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE: NO IDLING

Ricky Williams provided an update that the ad hoc subcommittee met on October 6, 2021. They reviewed a vehicle idling policy that they made comments on and discussed the potential edits and additional research Jackie Weeden is leading. Next step is to finalize, then they will bring to Commission to get feedback and request a vote.

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret asked if the vehicle idling policy is for fleet only or for the whole city. Hilary responded that the subcommittee is focused on the fleet policy for now.

#### 11. 2022 WORK PLAN UPDATE (Hilary Ego)

Hilary Ego stated that the Commission Work Plans will be presented to Council in February and recommended an ad hoc subcommittee be created for the Environmental Sustainability Commission 2022 Work Plan. The timeline for the ad hoc subcommittee would be to draft the Work Plan in November and December and to finalize in January. Hilary reminded the commission that

the January meeting currently falls on a Holiday and would need to be canceled or create a special meeting to the following week.

Ricky Williams stated there are two votes that need to be made to create the Work Plan Update ad hoc subcommittee and cancel the January meeting and create a special meeting the following week.

**ACTION:** Motioned by Ricky Williams and seconded by Andrea Beth Damsky to proceed with the formation of the 2022 Work Plan Update ad hoc subcommittee comprised of Commissioners Ricky Williams, Andrea Beth Damsky, and Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret with the goal of drafting the Environmental Sustainability Commission's 2022 Work Plan to be prepared for the review of the Commission. The ad hoc subcommittee would end after the January 2022 meeting.

**Vote:** 5-0

**Yes:** Williams, Grooms, Damsky, Lonjaret, Bourton

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** McDonald

**ACTION:** Motioned by Stephen Grooms and seconded by Michael Bourton to cancel the regularly scheduled January 18, 2022 meeting and schedule a special meeting one week later on January 24, 2022.

**Vote:** 5-0

**Yes:** Williams, Grooms, Damsky, Lonjaret, Bourton

**No:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** McDonald

## 12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Michael Bourton asked if a Fellow is available to work with the decarbonization ad hoc subcommittee.

Sebastian Sarria stated San Diego Community Power recently hired Rita De la Fuente as the Director of External Affairs. Rita will provide the presentation to the Commission early next year for La Mesa's residential roll out.

Joe Britton stated that SDG&E released their sustainability strategy update today with three main goals: to have a zero emissions fleet by 2035, zero net energy facilities by 2030, and piloting a virtual power plant by the end of next year.

Stephen Grooms asked if the utilities present, EDCO, Helix Water District, SDG&E and SDCP, can provide updates earlier in the meeting. Hilary responded she will ask what the best method for this is, or to keep them in Commissioner Comments.

Andrea Beth Damsky commented on the tree planting event on September 24 and she had a great time. Andrea Beth also stated she spoke with the chair of the La Mesa Spring Valley District School Board about the Commission seats and asked she report on it.

Ricky Williams commented on a reminder that SANDAG will be presenting on the Regional Transportation Plan at the November meeting. Ricky also stated that the County is presenting the County's Climate Action Plan to the County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday. Andrea Beth requested the link be shared with the Commission to attend.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2021.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Prepared by: Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager