

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
September 03, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 101

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Darryl Baker, Ramona Blaber, Lisa Boone

Commission Members Absent: Tejas Shah, Cassandra West

Staff Present: Abby Zielinski, Civil Engineer; Lindsey Roland Nieratka, Chief Sustainability Officer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:01 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes, and they were unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.
4. **Introductions:**
The newly hired Chief Sustainability Officer, Lindsey Roland Nieratka, provided a brief introduction. Commission members introduced themselves as well.
5. **Light Pollution:**
Ken Walczak provided a presentation to the board on the results of the Nighttime Lighting Environment Study. Key takeaways and recommendations presented included the following.
Takeaways:
 - Residential lighting is the largest emitter of upward light.
 - Village alley lighting complies to Dark Skies guidelines.
 - The community should adopt outdoor sports lighting standards.Recommendations:
 - Address outdated and/or inefficient municipal lighting
 - Create policies that remedy and/or prevent commercial and residential lighting that has negative effects on health and wellbeing.
 - Support the awareness of the harms of light pollution and the benefits of quality lighting.

Commission members and members of the public asked a series of follow up questions.

- What percentage of Village lights are remaining to be retrofitted? Of the total approximately 6,500 lights, 4,500 of them are within the right color temperature. Most of the remaining lights are an older technology and likely to also not be shielded or follow other best practices. Staff indicated that most of these lights are scheduled for retrofits in the next few fiscal years.
- Are there model ordinances that the EEC can look at to inform a recommendation to the Village? Ken named Flagstaff as having a high quality ordinance and Tucson as a community that has done major retrofits. Ken indicated that he will send additional examples to staff.
- How can a resident request shielding of an alley light? Staff indicated that a resident could call Public Works.
- Has there been an assessment of energy saved through lighting retrofits? This was not within the scope of the assessment, but Ken estimated that if the remaining 2,000 fixtures were retrofitted the Village would see a 75% reduction in energy use and experience savings on both energy and maintenance. Ken recommended the Village could install lighting control systems to see more savings.

6. **2025 Work Planning:**

Chair Lukehart led a discussion on the 2025 work plan.

- The commission is interested in providing support and input on an electric shuttle feasibility study.
- The commission would like to work with the benchmarking program to suggest options to increase compliance. They are also interested in the technical assistance the Village is receiving from the EECBG program towards developing a building performance standard and how that might relate to code enhancements.
- Chair Lukehart volunteered to write a memo suggesting a waste rate study to finish 2024 goals and for 2025 the Commission requests updates on the waste rate study and waste characterization study.
- The commission suggested that they could continue providing input on the Parkway Planting program and aim to provide updates to the Board in February 2025.

7. **Community Waste Reduction,**

A Motion was made to approve the Commission recommendation on increasing the number of composting drop-off sites and submit the memo as written. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Electric Shuttle**

The Commission briefly discussed the need to submit a memo recommending a feasibility study for an electric shuttle. Staff relayed that with the Chief Sustainability Officer on board it would not be necessary. The Village will start with the survey written by the Commission and then consider the need for a feasibility study.

9. **Single use bag fee**

Staff presented the results of the first six years of the single-use bag fee. The Commission discussed where they would like to go from here.

- The Commission recommended finding out the following information:
 - Are the stores enforcing the fee? Is there continued training of new employees?
 - Are the fees impacting people's decisions to use a disposable or reusable bag?
 - What are the reasons that the Village cannot ban plastic bags entirely.
 - When the ordinance was originally passed there was concern about the impact of the ban on individuals with certain disabilities.
 - It was suggested that the ordinance be amended to be by request only, like plastics in restaurants.
 - Now that there are exemptions for individuals with food assistance, perhaps there could be a consideration of increasing the fee?

10. **Adjourn:** At 8:07 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.