

164607

**SOLAR & OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MINUTES**

May 3, 2007

200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85003

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kate Widland, Chair
Stephen Ahearn
Josh Hartmann
Brian O'Donnell
Jill Van Dierendonck
Mark Manoil

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Stacy Kolegas, OEP
Karen O'Regan, OEP
Dimitrios Laloudakis, Public Works
Gaye Knight, OEP
Blaine Akine, WSD
Tom Buschatzke, WSD
Norbert Senfleben, Aviation
Ryan Gregory, CEDD

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Alston, Arizona Solar Energies Industries Association
Cameron Stewart, Arizona Solar Energies Industries Association

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. with a quorum of four members present.

II REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINTUES

Brian O'Donnell made a motion to approve the March 1, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jill Van Dierendonck and carried by a vote of 4:0.

Josh Hartmann arrived at approximately 8:10am.

Mark Manoil arrived at approximately 8:20am.

**III PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

Ryan Gregory, Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD), presented the Economic Development Plan (ED Plan) that was approved by City Council on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. Mr. Gregory explained that the purpose of the ED plan is to create a framework for the City and its economic development partners to develop strategies and goals for the next five years. Mr. Gregory also explained that there was an extensive public process to develop and comment on the plan which took about a year. Major updates from the last plan include expanding focus on developing and retaining workforce, expanding the arts and film industry and the addition of a "future strategies" goal.

Mr. Gregory outlined the eight goals of the ED plan and explained in detail goals #1, 2 and 6 as they include renewable energy components.

Goal #1: Create and retain high quality jobs focusing on key business sectors. This includes emerging technology employers. Mr. Gregory said that the focus could expand to include renewable energy.

CITY CLERK DEPT.
2007 JUN 11 AM 11:08

Goal #2: Foster an environment for entrepreneurial growth. Mr. Gregory explained that this goal is a critical component because 70-80% of the business community is made up of small businesses. Supporting initiatives from renewable energy start-up companies is one objective. Stephen Ahearn commented that CEDD should not only be concerned with bringing new renewable energy industries to Phoenix, but also nurturing those that already exist. When Kate Widland asked how CEDD “supports initiatives”, Mr. Gregory explained that CEDD is supporting growing companies. This can include technical assistance, collateral assistance for loans, new market tax credit program, sponsoring venture capital conferences, being a liaison and available as a resource to support them where possible.

Goal #6: Enhance and improve the quality of life for Phoenix residents. One objective is to protect and enhance the environment by reducing pollution, promoting sustainable practices, and preserving our natural resources. Mr. Gregory explained that this objective involves other city departments apart from CEDD because they all contribute to the economic development of Phoenix. Mr. Ahearn commented on the first objective; promote Phoenix as an arts and cultural destination. He said that Phoenix’ unique desert landscape should be included in the cultural aspect. Mr. Ahearn also said that solar and renewable energy resources could also be included because they promote a livable city.

Mr. Gregory explained that the next step is to develop strategic actions plans that will specifically describe how the City should implement these goals. Josh Hartmann asked what the target demographic group is for downtown revitalization. Mr. Gregory responded the Hispanic community has been a major focus. Phoenix is taking many steps to develop retail and grocery chain opportunities similar to places like Los Angeles. He also said that CEDD and the Downtown Development Office have been working to attract and retain people in the downtown core through different tactics such as retail opportunities and new residential development including the residential ASU campus. Mr. Hartman commented that Phoenix should consider the young professionals with no children and the baby boomer demographics. He also suggested that Phoenix could promote itself as a progressive city by supporting environmental initiatives in architecture, design and planning.

Kate Widland commented that the Subcommittee was excited to see renewable energy included in the ED Plan. She said she would like to see Phoenix set a goal to take a leadership role in the area of renewable energy and continue to strengthen that commitment. Mr. Ahearn encouraged CEDD to seek EQC comments on the strategic plans as the details are developed.

IV PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

At the Subcommittee’s request, Gaye Knight OEP presented the climate change report that OEP staff gave the Sustainability Subcommittee on April 18, 2007. The Subcommittee discussed the staff recommendations included in that report to 1) endorse a climate change resolution (to endorse the state goal and to join ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection and follow their 5-step process) and 2) start the process to hire a consultant to

conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The members expressed support for conducting an inventory and setting a target rather than agreeing to the Kyoto Protocol goal. Stephen Ahearn made a motion to write a statement of support from the EQC to the Sustainability Subcommittee. Since the full EQC does not meet until after the Sustainability Subcommittee the motion was amended so the EQC Subcommittee could write a statement of support for City Council to be approved by the EQC at the May 17, 2007 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Manoil and passed 6:0. Ms. Widland volunteered to work with staff to draft and distribute the letter.

V DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SOLAR AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Widland invited two representatives from the Solar Energy Association, Cameron Stewart and Tom Alston, to talk about their permitting experience for solar installations within the City of Phoenix. This was in response to a suggestion at the April 19, 2007 EQC meeting that the City might want to look at reducing permit fees and providing expedited permitting for solar installations. Ms. Widland asked questions on how Phoenix' permitting process compares with other cities. Mr. Stewart responded that Phoenix is one of the best! Mr. Stewart said that Development Services Department staff was knowledgeable and cooperative; that the permit fees were lower than most cities (Tempe is lower) and the permitting time was fantastic, less than an hour. Mr. Stewart's suggested that Phoenix provide outreach on solar installation permitting techniques to other cities. Ms. Widland stated that the City should be congratulated for a job well done. She suggested that the full EQC discuss this at their next EQC meeting on May 17 and discuss sending a letter congratulating DSD on doing such a great job.

Mr. Manoil briefly discussed a potential future initiative about decentralized power distribution centers. He indicated that he would be talking to the city Law Department about its feasibility.

VI FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING SCHEDULES

The next Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for June 7, 2007. The agenda will tentatively include:

- Continued discussion of Solar and Other Renewable Energy Recommendations.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you,



Stacy Kolegas
Environmental Programs Assistant