



## La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission

### Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: June 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Location: City Manager's Conference Room, 8130 Allison Avenue  
La Mesa, California

Present: Chair Richard Williams  
Vice Chair Mary Nooristani  
Commissioner Michael Bourton  
Commissioner Stephen Grooms  
Commissioner Barbara Shustek  
Commissioner Briana Coston

Absent: Commissioner Dasmine McFarlin  
Commissioner Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret  
Commissioner Fabian Rodriguez  
Commissioner Joe Garuba  
Commissioner Joe Britton  
Commissioner Jen Lebron  
Commissioner Barbara Dagman  
Commissioner Christina Potter

Staff: Environmental Program Manager Hilary Ego  
Environmental Analyst Serena Lee

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#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ricky Williams called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

#### 1.1 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### 2. **ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### 3. **PRESENTATION**

#### 3.1 **2023-2024 CITY OF LA MESA CIVICSPARK FELLOWS PRESENTATION**

Hilary Ego introduced the City's 2023-2024 CivicSpark Fellows, Carlyn Bacci and Liam Conley, who are about to complete their CivicSpark Fellowship Service Year to present their projects and accomplishments.

Carlyn Bacci presented about her background coming into the Fellowship, the La Mesa Green Business Network, community engagement and outreach, youth engagement, the Live Green La Mesa Challenge research and recommendation, environmental equity and justice, CAP presentations and reporting, and finished with a thank you to City staff, Environmental Sustainability Commission, San Diego Green Building Council, City Council, Public Works and Community Services departments, and the CAP Team.

Liam Conley presented about his background coming into the Fellowship, EV transition and public outreach, transportation demand management, green infrastructure, water conservation, CAP Update and reporting, 2023 CAP Annual Report, community engagement, additional CAP projects, and a thank you to City Staff, CAP Team, Environmental Sustainability Commission, City Council, and Public Works and Community Services departments.

Ricky Williams asked Carlyn and Liam about what lessons they learned and Briana Coston asked what was their biggest surprise.

### **3.2 2023 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION**

Hilary Ego presented about the 2023 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Annual Report. The presentation included information about the Climate Emergency Resolution actions, CAP background, greenhouse gas emissions in La Mesa, CAP co-benefits, CAP Update, CAP implementation team, 2023 CAP Annual Report overview, and highlights from the report including 2023 energy, transportation and land use, solid waste, green infrastructure, water, community engagement, and 2024 priorities.

Michael Bourton stated it would be beneficial to include the amount increased or decreased for data points from previous years.

Stephen Grooms stated to include and state that all City electricity accounts are powered by Power100 and to state the impact.

Briana Coston stated to highlight where things are already being done.

Ricky Williams stated to include specific stories to demonstrate progress towards meeting CAP goals.

Hilary Ego thanked the Commissioners for their feedback and that it will be incorporated into the final version and presentation to City Council on July 23, 2024.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)**

NOTE: In accordance with state law, an item not scheduled on the agenda may be brought forward by the general public for comment; however, the Environmental Sustainability Commission will not be able to discuss or take any action on the item at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to Staff or placed on a future agenda.

Public comment from Mairs Ryan stating that the City of La Mesa came in first in Climate Action Campaign's Climate Action Report Card and it was also announced at the last City Council meeting. The report reads what's going well for the City and that the City is research a high efficiency reach code; and there are 147 affordable housing units that will have gas and weren't supported when requested and the housing project on Spring Street is all electric and will change the neighborhood.

**5. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES**

**6. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**6.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 20, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

No comments and edits.

**Recommended Motion:** To vote on approving the minutes from the June 17, 2024 Regular Meeting

**Moved by** Commissioner Grooms

**Seconded by** Vice Chair Nooristani

**Vote:** 5-0-2

**Ayes:** Bourton, Grooms, Nooristani, Shustek, Williams

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Lonjaret, McFarlin

**Motion Approved**

**6.2 DISCUSSION OF THE JULY AND AUGUST 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS**

Ricky Williams stated that due to summer schedules and ensure a quorum is met for July and August meetings, he proposes the Commission cancel

the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting and August 19, 2024 Regular Meeting and schedule a special meeting in between those dates. Monday, July 29, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 PM at City Hall was recommended, discussed, and agreed upon to host a special meeting.

**Recommended Motion:** To vote on cancelling the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting and August 17, 2024 Regular Meeting and schedule a Special Meeting on July 29, 2024.

**Moved by** Chair Williams

**Seconded by** Commissioner Grooms

**Vote:** 5-0-2

**Ayes:** Bourton, Grooms, Nooristani, Shustek, Williams

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Lonjaret, McFarlin

**Motion Approved**

### **6.3 DISCUSSION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE AND EQUITY AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Climate Action Plan Update and Equity Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires July 2024

Mary Nooristani and Barbara Shustek stated the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed ideas for icons for the co-benefits and also the idea of a ranking system.

Hilary Ego stated that while researching other climate action plans and discussing examples in the ad hoc subcommittee about how they use the co-benefits as part of a ranking system to prioritize implementation activities, it was determined that this would hinder implementation efforts with limited staff capacity. She noted that this was very helpful to discuss with the ad hoc subcommittee and talk through what this could look like for the City.

### **6.4 DISCUSSION OF THE BUILDING EMISSIONS REDUCTION FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Building Emissions Reduction for New Construction Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires July 2024

Michael Bourton stated that the ad hoc subcommittee met with the Statewide Energy Reach Codes Program staff and discussed the draft updates to the next code cycle and also future options to focus on that

could work for La Mesa. Next steps, the Program staff are going to put together a list of options for the subcommittee to consider.

Public Comment from Mairs Ryan who read Cal Green and that her understanding is that it is voluntary and supports the the push to City Council to do more and for this Commissions to make recommendations on the environment, and that the Climate Action Campaign Climate Action Report Card stated that La Mesa was researching this.

Michael Bourton stated that the Statewide Energy Reach Codes Program team will provide recommendations on what could work for La Mesa and they will act on that since they are the experts.

## **6.5 DISCUSSION OF THE BUILDING EMISSIONS REDUCTION FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Building Emissions Reduction for Existing Buildings Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires June 2024

Michael Bourton stated that the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed outreach ideas and decided that a fact sheet with resident testimonies/stories and resources would be a great resource.

Stephen Grooms stated that San Diego Community Power has good resources to use in the future.

Barbara Shustek stated her experience installing a new residential electric dryer and Stephen responded that it is a good story to include in outreach.

Ricky Williams stated that a fact sheet is a good idea and to also see if there is a tool to show cost savings for electrification.

Michael Bourton stated that they were going to wait until the new CivicSpark Fellows begin their service year and they would like to work with them on creating the fact sheet, therefore to sunset this ad hoc subcommittee.

## **6.6 DISCUSSION OF THE LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT CONVERSION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Landscape Equipment Conversion Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires July 2024

Ricky Williams stated the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed the gaps in programs for medium sized equipment electrification, and they will work on addressing that. The ad hoc subcommittee also reviewed City

fleet data and would like to explore providing recommendations for future purchases.

Public Comment from Mark Gracyk: Stated that Helix Water District is a member of the Harry Griffen Park Joint Powers Authority and that Helix Water District owns the park and it is maintained by the City of La Mesa. They found out the City did not generate an RFI or RFP for a new lawn mower and that it was a decision of the Public Works Director. Helix Water District wrote a letter to the Director of Public Works and that it is in the hands of the City.

Ricky Williams stated the ad hoc subcommittee will continue to research recommendations for purchasing requirements.

Briana Coston asked if there is an existing purchasing policy. Hilary Ego responded that the City has an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.

## **6.7 DISCUSSION OF THE CREATION OF NEW AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES**

Ricky Williams stated that this is an opportunity to create new ad hoc subcommittees and also to consider not adding any at this time, in which the Commissioners agreed not to create any new ad hoc subcommittees this month.

## **7. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hilary Ego stated updates on City projects including: EV Charging Station Master Plan, CAP Update progress and timeline, CivicSpark Fellows completing their Fellowship end of June and they are currently recruiting for the next cohort of Fellows who will begin in September, and Green Business Network expansion and collaboration in the San Diego Region.

Serena Lee stated updates on City projects including: Organics recycling in the renovated Lemon Avenue Parking lot in the La Mesa Village, statistics from the June Paper Shredding event, Fixit Clinics at the La Mesa Library was a success with 46 attendees, a clothing swap at the La Mesa Juneteenth Celebration, upcoming Litter Free La Mesa Community Cleanup events on June 29 along Alvarado Avenue and July 13 along Riviera Drive, and that the Council ad hoc subcommittee plastics committee has been meeting and discussing single use plastics.

Ricky Williams stated that in his day job at the County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice, they are hosting a series of Community Climate

Conversations and thanked the La Mesa CAP team for attending one of the meetings, and invited the Commission and community to attend the July 18, 2024 meeting in Alpine.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ricky Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.