



City of Glendale Council Sustainability Committee Draft Minutes

September 18, 2012
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room B-2

Council Sustainability Committee Members:

Present were Vice Mayor/Chairperson Steve Frate (Sahuaro District), Councilmember Yvonne Knaack (Barrel District)

City Staff Members:

Present were Mike Gregory, Somone Johnson, Deborah Mazoyer, and Joetta Miller

I. Approval of the Minutes of the June 19, 2012 Meeting

The minutes of the June 19, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

II. Parks and Recreation Presentation

Mike Gregory, Recreation Manager for the Parks, Recreation, and Library Services Department, presented on the Sustainability Initiatives in the parks and libraries in the community.

The following are excerpts from the presentation and discussion:

Three Main Areas in Parks, Recreation and Library Services Sustainability

Parks, Recreation, and Library Services practices sustainability initiatives in three main areas: Parks and ROW Maintenance, Library Services, and Recreation with goals in stewardship of resources, equitable and diverse programming, minimization of environmentally hazardous chemicals, and encouragement of resource conservation and awareness.

Parks and ROW Maintenance

Parks and ROW Maintenance have the following focus areas: resource conservation, open space preservation, green energy, and technology & tools. With regard to resource conservation, the Department has reduced electrical costs up to 40% with changes in lighting at the Sahuaro Ranch Sports Complex; replaces a wasteful sprinkler system with more efficient pop up sprinklers that consume less

water and reduce water evaporation; and realigned staffing based on expertise the better utilize staff time and resources.

Resource Conservation

In order to maximize resource conservation, the Department examined their landscaping and turf practices in the parks and facilities in the city. A moisture sensor was installed in some xeriscape areas. These resource conservation efforts have reduced water consumption by about 100 million gallons from 2007. These changes have also reduced the risk of vandalism. The presentation pointed out that water consumption in parks and facilities today is actually less than it was in 2001.

Open Space Preservation

The focus of open space preservation is to preserve natural landscape during construction and improvements. Some examples of this in city parks are Skunk Creek, Thunderbird Paseo Park, and Thunderbird Conservation Trail.

Green Energy in Parks

The Department has also implemented green energy in parks including solar and LED lighting at the Sahuaro Ranch Park entry monument; several parks are currently being outfitted with solar lighting due to EECBG funds. In addition, over half of the controllers in the city's ROWs are solar operations. Converting to solar lighting is estimated to save the city over \$12,000 annually in electricity costs and lower the maintenance requirements due to less frequent replacement of bulbs.

Technology and Tools

The Department also utilizes technology and tools in order to help its sustainability efforts. For instance the Department's wood chipper is used to chip downed trees and branches for mulch – this is seen at the entry of Thunderbird Paseo park. Additionally, crew leader trucks have been outfitted with laptops that allow them to stay out in the field and perform computer based work functions without having to return to city hall.

Library

The libraries have implemented a number of measures geared towards sustainability focused on: digital information access, education, energy conservation, and green resources. With regard to digital information access, the libraries are striving to be a one-stop-shop to information both physically and electronically. The libraries website allows users to perform almost all library functions from home, 24/7. For education and green resources, the library provides early literacy programming for young children on reading readiness. It's important to note that every \$1 invested in increasing early childhood education yields \$7 in long term social and economic benefits – National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families. The libraries provide education to the public about green solutions and energy consumption. Library has partnership with SRP with Kill-A-Watt meters. Energy consumption at the Main Library has been reduced through retrofitting with new

ballasts and bulbs, motion sensing light switches, energy savings lights in the atrium, and the Velma Teague Library being fit with a new, more efficient, air conditioner.

Recreation Division

In the Recreation Division, the sustainability focus is on community education and volunteerism. The division's GRASP and Green Crusaders programs educate participants about green resources and conservation tactics. In addition, the partnership with Teracycle pays the city per specific recyclable item collected and sent to them. Lastly, used shopping bags can be dropped off by residents for use in the dog parks and walking trails for dog waste. Volunteers play a huge role in the Recreation Division. The Department has approximately 219 volunteers who contribute an estimated \$379,310 worth of work to the parks and related facilities. The Library has 322 volunteers who contribute about \$386,070 in work and free services. The Partners N' Parks Program is one volunteer avenue available in the city.

III. Appointment of New Committee Chair

Councilmember Knaack was unanimously voted as new chair of the committee.

IV. Staff Updates

Joetta Miller provided an update on various conservation related activities, grants, and awards in the Water Services Department

V. Items for Future Discussion

Vice Mayor Frate suggested a presentation of the connectivity of the trail system in Glendale to the rest of the region as well as an inventory of the parks in the community

Councilmember Knaack requested a report on the maintenance and improvements needed in the existing parks in the city

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:08pm

Next Meeting

The next Council Sustainability Committee meeting will be December 18, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. in conference room B-2.

Submitted by:

Somone Johnson

Somone Johnson, Recording Secretary