



Citizen Advisory Sub-Committee: Green Future

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Transportation Training Room, 5:30pm

Meeting Minutes by Mariel Klein, Management Assistant I

Sub-Committee Members

Terry Benelli – Lead

Patrick Kee

Jenny Richardson

Green Future Staff Liaisons

Scott Bouchie, Environmental Management & Sustainability Department Director

Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director

Staff Presenters

Frank McRae, Energy Resources Director

Richard Manzo, Energy Resources CIP Administrator

Nathan Curtis, Transportation Streetlight Systems Supervisor

Jodi Sorrell, Transit Director

Terry Benelli called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Notes from 10/5 meeting approved unanimously.

Next Session: Thursday, November 2, 2017 5:30-7:30PM, Transportation Training Room

- Staff Presentations
 - Alley Abandonment
 - Solid Waste/Food Waste- Scott
 - Citizen with Community Garden idea

Staff Presentations:

District Cooling- Frank McRae and Richard Manzo

For details about district cooling, see PowerPoint presentation distributed by Frank McRae.

- Challenge is adding additional customers to current district cooling system
- District cooling system utilizes chillers- reaching end of natural 15-year life and will need replacing
 - Expensive to replace
- Need more funding sources before adding new customers
 - Currently not recovering all operating costs
- Question: If an investment in the system is made, would costs be recovered?
 - Depends on the number of customers gained
 - It would probably work out to have a positive return down the road

- Question: Would a raise in rates still allow cooling to be competitive with traditional A/C?
 - Not currently prepared with answer
 - Cooling works out better with vertical development, such as campus environments
- Question: Why cooling at Benedictine University?
 - Not sure, could have been sold as beneficial
- Question: Is any grant funding available?
 - Not really.

Buried Powerlines- Frank McRae

For details about buried powerlines, see PowerPoint presentation distributed by Frank McRae

- 60-65% of current electrical system is already underground
- In order to move more underground, many components need to be rebuilt- permits, casements, etc.
- All customers need to agree to drop the lines b/c of potential placement of transformer and pad in front yard
- Currently many completed and in-progress projects
 - Completed: Mesa Dr. 8th ave to 10th ave- 9 customers
 - Current: Pima Dr. and others
- Priorities
 - Areas with service interruptions due to tree issues/weather issues
- Pros to buried lines
 - Less storm impact
 - Less maintenance
 - Looks cleaner
- Cons to buried lines
 - Harder to discover issues

Solar Powered Lighting- Nathan Curtis

For details about solar powered lighting, see PowerPoint presentation emailed out by Nathan

- Lithium batteries have predicted life of 5-8 years, but AZ life is shorter due to heat
- Changing batteries is difficult and time consuming- cranes, etc.
- Cost differential: GE Residential = \$150.00, Battery = \$800.00
 - Saving some money on wiring, but evens out in the end
- Solar batteries not the perfect resource- battery disposal is difficult
- Currently using in bus shelters and walkways
 - City is currently using resource correctly- waiting on technology to catch up before further utilization

Mass Transit- Jodi Sorrell

Light Rail

- 1.9 mile extension will be completed by 2019
 - Working closely with regional partners

- Two extension options:
 - 6mi light rail to Power/Main, bus to Gateway airport
 - Mesa's area is in better shape than Chandler's
 - Long Term option
 - Passenger/commuter route along the 60 and 101 into downtown
- Taking light rail east of Gilbert has issues- no more bus service, but densely populated
- Ultimate goal: get to Baseline
- Transit budget:
 - 11M in City Budget
 - 12M in Prop 400 money = 24M Budget

Busses

- Challenges
 - Gilbert doesn't want to extend service into Gilbert
- Country Club bus changing to 15 min service all day
- Current deficiencies: Weekend service
- Free youth bus pass
 - Phoenix loses about 11-24M a year
 - Mesa might lose 3.3-10M a year – about equal to what we pay for all bus service
- Question: How many under 18 use the discounted bus pass now?

Review of New Ideas

- Community Garden w/ food: Already mentioned, roll into previous idea
- More trash pickup: Solid waste presentation next meeting
- Recycling sold: Commercial project- not City appropriate

Discussion of Presentations/ Ideas

Tabled until next meeting

Terry Benelli adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Meeting notes submitted to sub-committee members and staff liaisons on Monday, October 9th for review by Erin Romaine.