



City of Goodyear

See meeting location
below

Meeting Minutes

Water Conservation Committee

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

6:00 PM

Goodyear City Hall, Room 117
190 N. Litchfield Rd.
Goodyear, AZ 85338

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Columbia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: 12 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Gilmore, Committee Member Kagan, Committee Member Kaino, Committee Member Minarik, Committee Member Moll, Committee Member Smith, Committee Member Teiche, Alternate Lagunas and Alternate Neith

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Faiello

Staff Present: Public Works Director Javier Setovich, Water Resources Planning Advisor Gretchen Erwin, Public Works Administrative Assistant Vanessa Enriquez

Others Present: Facilitator Teresa Makinen and her assistant Anne Morton

MOTION BY Committee Member Kagan, SECONDED BY Committee Member Booth, to EXCUSE Committee Member Faiello from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Gilmore, Committee Member Kagan, Committee Member Kaino, Committee Member Minarik, Committee Member Moll, Committee Member Smith and Committee Member Teiche

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Faiello

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**

3.1 [MINUTES](#) Approve draft minutes of the Water Conservation Committee meeting held on
[83-2016](#) September 20, 2016.

MOTION BY Committee Member Gilmore, SECONDED BY Committee Member Minarik, to APPROVE draft minutes of the Water Conservation Committee meeting held on September 20, 2016. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Chairman Columbia, Vice Chairman Barber, Committee Member Booth, Committee Member Gilmore, Committee Member Kagan, Committee Member Kaino, Committee Member Minarik, Committee Member Moll, Committee Member Smith and Committee Member Teiche

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Faiello

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS/APPEARANCES FROM THE FLOOR

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Meeting Schedule and Administration

Facilitator Makinen introduced the speakers for this evening's meeting. Next, she asked how the committee members enjoyed the tour. Several commented that they were excellent and that they learned a lot. Makinen then asked if there was anything they should do differently next time. The responses were to do the tours when the weather is cooler and to allow more time because a couple of the groups ran out of time and weren't able to finish the tour.

Makinen said that at the December meeting, Committee Member Teiche has scheduled his HOA's Landscape Manager to present. Additionally, items to be included in the status update presentation to Council will be discussed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Staff Presentations and Discussions

6.1.1 Presentation of Overview of Water Use Trends (Gretchen Erwin, Water Resources Planning Advisor)

Water Resources Planning Advisor Gretchen Erwin presented the remaining information which was started at the September meeting regarding Goodyear's 2016 Water Conservation Status.

The following represents the question and answer segment of the presentation. Committee Member Minarik asked what the source was for the statistic on pool water evaporation rates. Erwin said that evaporation rates are available through ADWR or NOAA but she will provide the source to the committee.

Alternate Lagunas, in reference to water usage by single family homes remaining fairly flat from 2007 - 2015 likely due to conservation, suggested it could be due to the economy and homes not selling. Erwin said that wasn't likely because the population has grown and they've added new homes.

Lagunas said that at her HOA, they are required to have turf and she has been speaking with them about a policy change. Erwin was familiar with the HOA and said residents can apply for a variance

so they can have alternative landscaping to turf. Lagunas then asked about information to minimize pool water evaporation. Erwin said that it is included on a Pool Tips document from ADWR and she will provide it for the committee.

Committee Member Kaino said she noticed her HOA does much less over-seeding so that saves water as well.

Committee Member Moll said new HOAs and developers include what the city will allow in their CC&Rs. He also said that there are companies that fully partner with Water Sense and it can be a competitive advantage for them.

Chairman Columbia said it is nice to see what builders and HOAs are doing. He asked if the city can dictate what HOAs can and can't do regarding lawns and water usage. It appears they make their own rules. If the city can't dictate, then another option is to present to the HOA to make them aware.

Vice Chairman Barber said it would be great to bring the ideas from the Water Planning Committee in 2013 to this committee for ideas.

Alternate Neith said that the CC&Rs are usually developed by the homebuilder and adopted by the HOA.

6.1.2 Presentation of Development Services and Engineering Policies Related to Water Use and Parks & Recreation Department Water Use Trends (Katie Wilken, Planning Manager, Bruce Kessman, Ballpark General Manager and David Seid, Parks & Recreation Manager)

Planning Manager Katie Wilken, Ballpark Manager Bruce Kessman and Parks & Recreation Manager David Seid presented information and an overview of their respective departments.

The following represents the first question and answer segment following Planning Manager Wilken's presentation. Committee Member Minarik asked if the city could regulate the size of pools or the use of pool covers. Wilken said she thinks they could; however, the issue would be enforcement.

Chairman Columbia said the city could regulate the size of the pool during the permitting phase.

Committee Member Gilmore said that the city says they don't have control over CC&Rs but they do over zoning and design guidelines. CC&Rs tend to be more restrictive than zoning and design guidelines. For instance, the city could say that an HOA cannot require turf in the yard but what happens to those where that already exists. After a certificate of occupancy is issued, the city said they can require replacement of a tree that is removed. How is that enforced? Wilken said through Code Enforcement or if they receive a complaint. She added that their goal is not to beat up the businesses but rather to work with them on a solution. Gilmore said that he is thrilled that they do that and asked if the replacement must be of similar size or include other requirements. Wilken said there is a time period for replacement, she believes three months, and it has to be of like size although that is tough to enforce. Gilmore said that often retailers cut the trees too soon because they are concerned about visibility for their business but if they would just wait, the tree would grow large enough for the

business to be visible beneath the canopy. He asked if there are requirements on how they are pruned. Wilken said they do not regulate how they are pruned.

Alternate Neith asked if the city has computerized tracking for landscape. Seid said there is a spreadsheet for parks but not for individual businesses.

Committee Member Smith said that during monsoons, several trees are lost. Maybe a different type of tree that doesn't use so much water to get established would be better. Seid said that is an excellent point. Other cities have a list of trees that thrive in different circumstances. Goodyear doesn't currently have one.

Committee Member Teiche said that he read through some of the Master Plan and there are extensive open space requirements. He asked how the city works with that to balance the open space required when turf is often used in those areas. Wilken said that having turf is the only way for the open space to be usable since that is where people play. She added that they need to look at how they can work with the developers regarding how people use the land today and what they can do about it to create those spaces.

Committee Member Kaino said that the term "Beautiful lush landscaping on day one" was used. What is the definition of lush? Wilken said that they don't have a specific definition but 50% of the landscaped area must have planting. She added that she isn't sure but she does believe it is more than other cities' require.

Committee Member Moll said he agrees with Teiche on his concern. He added that another concern is that the city requires the HOA or developer to put in a park and then they put in their own that would likely be used by the same residents.

Vice Chairman Barber said that in a previous conversation with Water Resources Manager Mark Holmes she asked if it is hard for rain to drain on Bullard when it rains hard. He said that drainage is handled during the design of the road. Addressing drainage should be considered. Barber also said she asked Holmes about the trees. Holmes said they are spaced 25' apart. Wilken said they are required to plant every 25' but maybe the regulation should say it must be "shaded" instead. The city doesn't require they be planted in a straight line, but there is limited space in the right-of-way. Wilken said that it sounds like the question is whether that is the right place for trees but the city treats all streets the same. This decision came from Council long ago.

Barber asked about the public pools and if usage was considered in determining the size of the pools. Seid said there isn't a standard, but he knows that with over 25,000 pool visits last year at Loma Linda Pool they knew they needed more.

Barber said she knows that in Flagstaff and areas like that, landscaping can be an issue for fire. She asked if that is an issue in Goodyear. Wilken said that it isn't in developed areas but is more of an issue in other areas, primarily due to Salt Cedars. Barber then asked if water for fighting fire in a

neighborhood is taken into consideration by the developer. Wilken said they have minimum flow requirements and spacing requirements for fire hydrants. There isn't a real saving opportunity there because they are only tapped for fighting fires or if they need to be flushed. Setovich said that in looking at water resources, they look at the whole area not broken down into fire, etc. All of the planning numbers are per capita.

Chairman Columbia said it's interesting to him that they cannot regulate HOAs. He added that he couldn't believe he heard the term "Cosmetics vs. Conservation". There can be an attractive community or an attractive community that saves.

Teiche said that he is aware of a chemical that can be added to a pool to reduce evaporation but wasn't sure of the name.

The following represents the second question and answer segment following Ballpark Manager Kessman's and Parks & Recreation Manager Seid's presentations.

Barber said that Seid mentioned a wish list for additional irrigation technicians. How many would be needed? Seid said doubling the number with two more would be a great start.

Minarik asked what the definition of remediated water is. Remediated water is pumped from superfund sites, cleaned and reinjected or sent to the ballpark or Goodyear Community Park. Minarik also asked if they then capture the water and reclaim it. Setovich said it drains into the sewer system as it should.

Columbia said he thought it was a great presentation and while they each have different levels of conservation, together they've got it.

Gilmore said that most of the items that could be used elsewhere requires a financial investment. The number one cost for HOAs is turf. If there is a way to encourage the use of better technology maybe they will invest in it if the city would be willing to participate.

Neith suggested a campaign for no overseeding for a year to see the impact it makes.

Kagan said one point is if the city encourages or discourages the building of new golf courses in new communities or should there be a moratorium?

Barber said that in communicating with HOAs, instead of mandates, it might be better to use a collaborative approach and partner with them. Minarik asked if it is feasible to have conversations with the HOAs.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

Public Works Director Javier Setovich, had a couple of updates to share. He said that the past Monday, they presented the Integrated Water Master Plan to Council. The first phase consisted of developing and understanding of the needs, looking at existing infrastructure and identifying projects for necessary improvements. Some of these projects are already in motion and several have been completed. The second phase looks at the future of the city in which this committee plays a huge role. Conservation is a big topic because it provides 35% more water than they could, based on the usage now.

Setovich said that Water Resources Manager Mark Holmes is absent from the meeting because he is on vacation, and Water Conservation Specialist Sandra Rode is no longer with the city of Goodyear.

Committee Member Minarik said he spoke with the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant regarding tours. He will send the information to Teresa Makinen to distribute.

Committee Member Kaino said that at the last meeting, the Water Festival was discussed. She volunteered and the kids seemed receptive.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Columbia adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Vanessa Enriquez, Administrative Assistant

Mario Columbia, Chairman

Date: _____