



Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council (RREAC)

MEETING NOTES, OCTOBER 6, 2016

Mayor

Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Jim Tolbert

District 3

Emma Acosta

District 4

Carl L. Robinson

District 5

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6

Claudia Ordaz

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Cortney C. Niland

City Manager

Tommy Gonzalez

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:12 PM

a. Members present (and the District Representative by which they were nominated)

- i. Freddy Khlayel – District 6
- ii. Shelby Ruff – District 3
- iii. Crystal Arrieta – District 2
- iv. Xavier Miranda – District 7
- v. Blanca Gadney-Moss – District 4
- vi. Johnathan Childress – District 5

b. Members absent (and the District Representative by which they were nominated)

- i. Fred Dalbin – Mayor
- ii. Ernest Eisenberg – District 1
- iii. Patrick Schaefer – District 8

2. GOAL 8 ALIGNMENT: NURTURE AND PROMOTE A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

a. Duties

- i. Nicole reviewed duties outlined in Resolution (see enabling Resolution)
- ii. Emphasis that the responsibility of this group is to make recommendations to City Council about potential renewable energy policy and incentives
 1. See page two of the enabling resolution (see *Duties*)

b. Appointments

- i. Role of the chair
 1. Lead the committee, keeping the group on track
 2. Call the meetings to order
 3. Coordinate upcoming agenda items
- ii. Freddy Khlayel nominates Xavier Miranda
 1. Blanca Gadney-Moss seconded
 2. Five votes in favor – motion approved
- iii. Freddy nominates Shelby for Vice Chair
 1. Blanca seconded
 2. Five votes in favor – motion approved

c. Procedure and schedule

- i. Procedure
 1. In order to call a meeting to order quorum is required. Quorum is five members of the council. Please note the representative from El Paso Electric is a non-voting member and does not count toward quorum.
 2. Proposed agenda items should be submitted to staff two weeks prior to scheduled meeting



Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council (RREAC)

Mayor

Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Jim Tolbert

District 3

Emma Acosta

District 4

Carl L. Robinson

District 5

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6

Claudia Ordaz

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Cortney C. Niland

City Manager

Tommy Gonzalez

- a. Presentations should be sent to staff in ppt or pdf format a minimum of 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting
- ii. Meeting schedule
 1. RREAC will meet bi-monthly – every other month
 2. The schedule allows time to bring in expert advisors, conduct research, and the ability to present analysis at subsequent meetings
 3. Blanca Gadney-Moss: Clarification that the meetings would be bi-monthly Thursday at 5 pm
 - a. Nicole Ferrini: This is what we will take action on today
 4. Freddy Khalyel made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule
 - a. Blanca Gadney-Moss seconds
 - b. Motion approved
 5. Should an extended work session be required exceeding the regularly scheduled 1 hour meeting, adjustments will be made prior.
- d. **Urban Energy Forum and Urban Energy Forum Follow Up Discussion**
 - i. Summary of Urban Energy Forum and Urban Energy Forum Follow-Up Discussion presented to RREAC members
 - ii. Freddy Khalyel: Would it be appropriate for this group to talk about how we could incorporate Fort Bliss and Cd. Juarez into this resilience discussion?
 1. Xavier Miranda: It would be nice to have those folks be represented on this Council as well
 2. Nicole Ferrini: We have great partnerships with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission and the Chief Resilience Officer in Juarez
 3. Those groups can be invited to present at upcoming meetings.
 - iii. Blanca Gadney-Moss: SolSmart Program could be viable as a recommendation for this group
 1. This is a Federal program that provides advice and guidance to look at the soft costs for solar energy and how to improve a community's ability to have that accessibility.
 2. The program rates cities on a Bronze, Silver, Gold scale
 3. El Paso could potentially be at a Bronze level today.
 4. Staff should investigate potential
 5. Provides an opportunity to publicize El Paso efforts at a national scale
 - iv. Find more information at: <http://www.gosparc.org>
 - v. Freddy Khalyel: Some of our lowest income people will be dependent on fossil fuels for much longer than some of our



Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council (RREAC)

Mayor

Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Jim Tolbert

District 3

Emma Acosta

District 4

Carl L. Robinson

District 5

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6

Claudia Ordaz

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Cortney C. Niland

City Manager

Tommy Gonzalez

wealthier community members and the group needs to be aware of that and accessible to everyone

- vi. Blanca Gadney-Moss: The group needs to look at all barriers and find out how we can promote efforts overall and make solar more accessible.
- vii. Nicole Ferrini: We will send the presentation out to everyone for feedback because we are getting close to 6 pm
 - 1. Action Item: RREAC members please provide feedback on the challenges and solutions identified at the Urban Energy Forum
 - 2. Action Item: RREAC members please identify three priority areas for the group to focus on moving forward in the immediate future.
- viii. Eddie Gutierrez: Alternative rate making mechanisms are one way to overcome some regulatory barriers

e. RREAC Member Comments:

- i. Xavier Miranda: Depending on the outcome of the school bond, renewable energy concepts should be promoted for school facilities
 - 1. I would like to see reports of this meeting on the EPE's website and a link to the school system and universities and some way to share it with our constituents
 - 2. Rewriting of municipal code is very important for me
- ii. Freddy Khalyel: we need to address the fact that we do not have a long-term strategic goal for energy. We should all read this presentation and come to the next meeting with what we believe is a priority and decide on three or four
- iii. Crystal Arrieta: it was requested for us to look at a building energy use conservation survey – maybe we can put that on the next agenda
 - 1. Priorities: the pipelines that are coming through our region and I see a lot of problems with it. The nature of the pipeline itself and what it will affect. Maybe we can recommend policy language for regulating oil companies.
- iv. Nicole Ferrini: Would it be helpful to bring in an expert speaker to discuss this issue?
 - 1. Crystal Arrieta – yes definitely
 - 2. Xavier Miranda – as long as it's on both sides of the spectrum
 - 3. Shelby Ruff – it seems like a herculean feat to take that on, but maybe we can figure out a way to bring it back into our group
- v. Nicole Ferrini: We can bring in the experts and then vet through some of this



Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council (RREAC)

Mayor

Oscar Leeser

City Council

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Jim Tolbert

District 3

Emma Acosta

District 4

Carl L. Robinson

District 5

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6

Claudia Ordaz

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Cortney C. Niland

City Manager

Tommy Gonzalez

vi. Blanca Gadney-Moss: Presentations would be helpful and spending time seeing what options we have. Back to the SolSmart, we can just initiate the process and start to get feedback from them.

1. I would like to start the application process
2. Nicole Ferrini: Staff can provide a presentation about where El Paso currently stands in terms of the certification, and place that agenda and ask this group about if we can pursue that initiative

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- a. Benito Oseguera— I am representing my instructor at the community college for renewable energy. This is my first semester and it is the first semester of the associates degree that this is offered. I guess we're guinea pigs and our professor is trying to get us the energy to move forward. My question was that I was surprised to hear that there is no goal for El Paso in terms of renewable energy. Here in El Paso the wind is not good, but the solar farms are very good. We're giving 40% of our energy from Arizona (nuclear) and if something happens between Arizona and here, we would really be struggling for electricity. That's a long way away.
- b. Ryan Green – I speak a lot about geothermal heat pumps and their potential. I always talk about that there is production and consumption. There are a lot of old buildings here that could benefit from those huge energy retrofits. Really happy this Council is convened.
- c. Ray Rapisand – I wanted to commend all of you that offered to join this board. I am a veteran of the energy world and have served on two committees like this a long time ago. I'm a member of Eco El Paso and our efforts help result in this Council. I see great opportunities for cooperation— there's a natural integration and synergy. I started promoting energy efficiency thirty years ago. We need to figure out how we can better integrate solar. We need to start thinking now because natural gas will be cheap forever. The Texas Railroad Commission and Federal Government have decided that the gas pipes are going to happen and that's a fact. Making things more accessible to the general public is what I think you should focus your energies on. If you want to change the dynamic in El Paso, you have to start the foundation.

4. ADJOURNED AT 6:25 PM

- a. Next meeting is **Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 5 pm**