

Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting Record

The Environment and Sustainability Committee meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Environment and Sustainability Committee Coordinator at 214-670-3246.

Meeting Date: December 2, 2019

Convened: 9:01 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:21 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Omar Narvaez, Chair
Tennell Atkins, Vice Chair
Paula Blackmon
David Blewett
Jennifer S. Gates

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Other Council Members Present:

Councilmember Lee M. Kleinman

Presenters:

Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
James McGuire, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability
Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability
Todd Plesko, Vice President of Service Planning and Scheduling at DART
Lori Clark, Program Manager & DFW Clean Cities Coordinator, North Central Texas Council of Governments

AGENDA

Call to Order (9:01 a.m.)

1. Approval of the November 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Omar Narvaez, Chair

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2019 Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting.

Motion made by: David Blewett
Item passed unanimously: X
Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: Jennifer S. Gates
Item passed on a divided vote:
Item failed on a divided vote:

2. CECAP: Inclusive Community Engagement

Presenter(s): James McGuire, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Mr. McGuire presented an overview of the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan's (CECAP) community engagement efforts. Mr. McGuire further described engagement strategies with frontline communities and those most susceptible to climate change. Mr. McGuire emphasized one of the major focuses of engagement strategies was to improve access and opportunity to communities that don't typically participate in the planning process. Furthermore, Mr. McGuire shared that almost 10,000 unique comments were received during the community engagement process and that OEQS visited all Council Districts and received input from all zip codes. Some councilmembers asked about reception to community engagement efforts, and the type of audience that typically attends engagement events. Mr. McGuire answered that reception has been good and attendees are varied, from those who know a lot, to those who are incredulous. He emphasized the importance of reaching all types of residents to build trust in city government toward moving to an action plan. Information only.

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3. CECAP: Efficient, Affordable, Transportation Options

Presenter(s): Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Ms. Alvarez outlined efforts by CECAP to shift transportation systems to move people and goods in low or zero emission vehicles. She further described strategies such as adopting mode-split goals to reduce single occupancy vehicle use and to implement existing bicycle master plan. Additionally, Ms. Alvarez discussed the goal of synergizing land use and housing with transportation to help increase the use of alternative modes and prioritizing that transportation infrastructure is reliable and safe. Mr. Kleinman was pleased about the collaboration with city departments as transportation is a major factor. Information only.

4. DART's Bus Service Plan

Presenter(s): Todd Plesko, Vice President of Service Planning and Scheduling at DART

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Mr. Plesko presented a summary of the current DART System, DART Fleet, Bus Re-Envision Plan timeline, Capital Investments and future projects. Mr. Plesko also discussed transit themes that increased transit opportunities and reduced reliance on automobiles. The Bus Re-Envision Plan is DARTS efforts to re-envision the current DART bus network and whether to design a network that supports ridership, service coverage, or something in between. An important element in evaluating trade-offs is through public consultation via community engagement. Mr. Plesko believed that a 100% electric DART bus fleet in 2040 was not "unreasonable". Councilmembers had questions regarding high capacity transit and the redesign of current bus routes, specifically as it relates to west-east planning. Mr. Plesko provided information about high capacity transit and outlined efforts to improve bus routes to serve residents. Mr. Kleinman stated that more ridership needs to happen. Environment is not just clean air or water, but the environment we live in. Reduction in congestion needs to happen in order to have a good quality of life. Information only.

5. Electric Vehicles in Texas

Presenter(s): Lori Clark, Program Manager & DFW Clean Cities Coordinator, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Ms. Clark presented an overview of the status of electric vehicles in Texas. Currently, the percentage of electric vehicles in the current fleet is low at approximately 1%. Some barriers to adoption include awareness and education, affordability, and availability. Ms. Clark also discussed rebates, grants, and incentives that are available to business and the community to purchase electric vehicles and install charging stations. Some councilmembers asked about the environmental impact of electric vehicles. Ms. Clark discussed the benefit of electric vehicles to the environment. Ms. Clark also described certain studies which identify 13% as an early adopter benchmark, however it is difficult to assess whether electric vehicles significantly impact climate change. Mr. Kleinman stated that even though a reduction in clean air was made, the air pollution stayed the same level because of the growth in the region. He would like to see a slide to show number of cars in the region and where the air quality has been. Information only.

Adjourn (11:21 a.m.)

APPROVED BY:

Omar Narvaez, Chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee

ATTESTED BY:

Yolanda Ramirez, Coordinator
Environment and Sustainability Committee