

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: January 6, 2020

Convened: 9:06 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:14 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 & Inclusion
James McGuire, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability
Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability
Terry Lowery, Director, Dallas Water Utilities
Holly R. Holt-Torres, Water Conservation Manager
Megan H. Toofan, Water Conservation Coordinator

AGENDA

Call to Order (9:06 a.m.)

1. Approval of the December 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Omar Narvaez, Chair

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes for the December 2, 2019 Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting.

Motion made by: Paula Blackmon
Item passed unanimously: X
Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: Tennell Atkins
Item passed on a divided vote:
Item failed on a divided vote:

2. CECAP Update: Leadership from Dallas

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 (CECAP) and OEQS efforts that have positioned Dallas to be a leader on the local, regional, and nation levels. Mr. McGuire further described the numerous reasons Cities need to lead the way on climate change. Mr. McGuire emphasized the Mayors direction on the CECAP and described the local actions that have been completed in the last year. Mr. McGuire introduced the new regional integration of sustainability efforts (RISE) regional group and discussed the City's role. On the national level Mr. McGuire described the City's participation in the Climate Mayors association and Mayor Johnson seat on the steering committee. Chair Omar Narvaez praised CECAP's engagement efforts in other languages. Information only.

3. CECAP: Protecting Water Resources and Communities from Flood & Drought

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

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Ms. Alvarez outlined efforts by CECAP to protect water resources and prepare for more frequent flooding and longer periods of droughts. She reviewed the impacts of the 2015 drought in North Texas and subsequent flooding events. Ms. Alvarez described the benefits of nature-based green infrastructure strategies. The DWU “one water concept” was highlighted and reviewed comments received from community outreach efforts. Additionally, Ms. Alvarez discussed the goals and proposed actions that protect neighborhoods from flooding and increasing water resilience efforts while conserving and Dallas Water resources. Information only.

4. Dallas Water Utilities: Conserving & Protecting Water Resources

Presenter(s): Terry Lowery, Director, Dallas Water Utilities

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Ms. Lowery presented an overview of how Dallas Water Utilities is helping conserve and protect water resources. Ms. Lowery discussed how Dallas has been diversifying its water supplies over three different river basins to help compensate for the evaporation due to climate change. Ms. Lowery also talked about how water conservation and loss reduction program will impact water supplies. Flood protection and drought contingency plans were also discussed. Ms. Lowery concluded with an explanation of how the one water approach will help build greater resilience and reliability into Dallas water systems. Council Member Atkins asked about drought restrictions not placed on suburbs. Ms. Lowery explained the variations in drought solutions. Councilmember Gates inquired about flood plain evaluations. Councilmember Blackmon asked about White Rock Lake’s status, and whether it is recreational or flood control. Ms. Lowery relayed that White Rock Lake is indeed recreational. Information only.

5. City of Dallas Water Conservation: Creating a Water Efficient Future

Presenter(s): Holly R. Holt-Torres, Water Conservation Manager and Megan H. Toffan, Water Conservation Coordinator

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Ms. Holt-Torres discussed DWU’s history of conserving water and how the three-pronged approach is helping to build a successful program. Ms. Holt-Torres described how water conservation is saving millions of gallons of water annually, delaying the need to develop expensive future water supplies, and extending the life of existing water supplies. Ms. Holt-Torres talked about upcoming programs which include growing ICI program and developing irrigation system rebate. Ms. Toffan discussed how water conservation data is helping ensure equity in engaging residents that qualify for programs. Customer profiling and predictive marketing is helping to better understand customers to provide better communication and incentives. Councilmember Blackmon asked about stipulations related to sharing water with surrounding cities and associated water savings.

A motion was made to correct the council item from #27 to #34 and to support the item on the City Council Agenda on January 8, 2020.

Motion made by: Paula Blackmon

Item passed unanimously: X

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: Tennell Atkins

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

6. 25th Waterwise Landscape Tour Awards Ceremony

Presenter(s): Holly R. Holt-Torres, Water Conservation Manager

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Terry Lowery provided a brief history of the Waterwise Landscape Tour. James McGuire thanked staff and provided a recap of the 2019 event. Holly Holt emceed the awards ceremony and announced the winners and showcased some of the features of their gardens from the slide show. Best Small Garden winner, Karen Blesen, Best Large Garden winner, Donna Turman, and Best of Show Garden, Ron and Suzy Rentz were all in attendance. Councilmembers Blewett and Blackmon acknowledged the efforts of gardeners from their respective districts. Information only.

Adjourn (11:14 a.m.)

APPROVED BY:

**Omar Narvaez, Chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee**

ATTESTED BY:

**Yolanda Ramirez, Coordinator
Environment and Sustainability Committee**