



Community+Human Development

MAYOR

Dee Margo

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Dr. Sam Morgan

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Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAWS DUE TO EMERGENCY

The Texas Governor temporarily suspended specified provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act to allow telephonic or videoconference meetings and to avoid congregate settings in physical locations.

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the RREAC will be conducted on **April 14th, 2021 at 5.30 pm.**

In compliance with the requirement that the City provide two-way communication for members of the public, members of the public may communicate with the RREAC during public comment, and regarding agenda items by calling the following number:

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 915-213-4096,,770585977#](#) United States, El Paso

[\(833\) 664-9267,,770585977#](#) United States (Toll-free)

At the prompt please enter the Conference ID: 770 585 977#

The following members of RREAC will be present via video conference:

Howard Pearlmuter (District 1)

Dominic Chacon. (District 2)

KC Griffin (District 3)

Maria Trevino (District 4)

Joshua Simmons (District 5)

Joseph Gutierrez (District 7)

Miguel Fraga (District 8)

Alejandra Chavira (technical advisor, non-voting member)

A quorum (5) of the RREAC must participate in the meeting.

Minutes

1. Call to order and roll call at 5.36 pm.
 - a. All board members attended the meeting except for KC Griffin (District 3). Quorum. Joseph Gutierrez (District 7) joined the meeting at 5.42 pm.
2. Update on RREAC's Strategic Planning. Discussion and action (City of El Paso).
 - a. Introduction by Nicole Ferrini (Chief Resilience Officer for the City). Work and discussions had taking place with internal City partners and

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DELIVERING **EXCEPTIONAL** SERVICES



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Leadership. Clear directive from the City Manager: looking at initiatives that can be achieved. Executive approval for form an internal Cross Functional Team to achieve benchmarks identified in the Plan. Tonight's meeting is focused on getting the Board's feedback. This is an action item. If there is a lot of feedback we may need to go to the drawing board.

b. VISION.

- i. Howard Pearlmuter (D1). Leader among American Cities. Impact wider than regional community. Economic development is much more than that.
- ii. Maria Trevino (D4). Capture environment, ecology, species. Future generation: El Pasoans and ecosystems to thrive.
- iii. Joseph Gutierrez (D7). Leader nationwide.
- iv. Miguel Fraga (D8). El Paso will be the least fossil-fuel dependent city in Texas and a national leader in renewable energy by integrating its people, the ecosystem, and prosperity, Joshua agrees.
- v. Dominic Chacon (D2). Health component.

c. MISSION

- i. Veronica Carbajal (Mayor). Local, state and federal institutions
- ii. Howard Pearlmuter (D1). Through partnerships is just a way, there are many more. Add non-local institutions. Increase access is not what we are talking about. We are talking about producing and selling. Grid reliability does not belong here, promote industry: use sector instead of industry.
- iii. Dominic Chacon (D2). Serving utilities. Include equitable access; promote and regulate...Develop a lexicon that we can include in all presentations that we put together "data dictionary".
- iv. Maria Trevino (D4). Provide education, resources and tools, include something about natural resources.
'The City of El Paso through partnership with community, industry, local institutions and utilities will increase access to affordable renewable energy, reinforce grid reliable, provide education resources and tools on renewable energy, and promote industry development demonstrating clear action to mitigate the global crisis improving quality of life and environmental well-being of all El Pasoans'
- v. Joshua Simmons (D5). Supports Maria's edit.
"...utilities will increase access with implementation of affordable renewable energy, reinforce energy grid resiliency and...". Include resilience.

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Quality of life, include something about natural resources/ecosystems. "improving quality of life for all El Pasoans in the regional Southwest."

- vi. Joseph Gutierrez (D7). Add resiliency and equitable access.
- vii. Miguel Fraga (D8). Local, state, federal, international. Natural resources at the end. Affordability.
- viii. Alejandra Chavira (EPE). Grid reliability portion, the city does not own the grid " support grid reliability"
- d. INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT. Goals are not the how, staff will bring specifics on the how based on the goal.
 - i. Veronica Carbajal (Mayor). Non-profits. Target to local and small.
 - ii. Howard Pearlmuter (D1). Producing energy is the main one missing here. Eco systemic health. Make bigger goals. Share the raw list.
 - iii. Dominic Chacon (D2).
 - 1.3 Create Equitable regulations that ensures renewable energy economic development prioritizes longevity over short term profit margins.
 - 1.4 Create a market pricing mechanism that ensure renewable energy prices reflect the constantly growing affordability. Maria Trevino (D4). Provide education, resources and tools, include something about natural resources.
 - iv. Maria Trevino (D4). 'Energy conservation after energy efficiency. 1.2. something about local businesses
 - v. Joshua Simmons (D5). Include R&D on 1.1. Advocacy at state level.
 - vi. Nicole Ferrini. Change solar to renewable.
 - vii. Joseph Gutierrez (D7). R&D.
 - viii. Miguel Fraga (D8). renewable energy technology. Technology innovation on 1.2. 1.1 add sustainability.
 - ix. Alejandra Chavira (EPE). Energy conservation which is different to EE.
- e. MUNICIPAL ENERGY USAGE.
 - i. Veronica Carbajal (Mayor). Solar in 2.2. 2.4 add "and solar power chargers".
 - ii. Howard Pearlmuter (D1). 2.4. Solar and battery-based chargers.
 - iii. Maria Trevino (D4). Goal 2.1 Reduce overall energy consumption and increase thermal performance in municipally owned facilities. Goal 2.3 Increase solar generation and

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thermal performance at City owned facilities. 2.1 or 2.3 standards and performance

iv. Joshua Simmons (D5). EV becomes energy storage.

v. Miguel Fraga (D8). Reduce overall energy consumption and improve energy efficiency in municipally owned facilities.

f. RE INFRASTRUCTURE

i. Veronica Carbajal (Mayor). 3.5 Add conservation. 3.1. and provision of solar to the community, communities most impacted by CC.

ii. Howard Pearlmutter (D1) Feed-in tariff.

What are the top 3 goals for the RREAC and the City to accomplish over the next 12-24 months?

1. El Paso City government taking a leadership role in regional climate action & agile proactive solarization = our key to catalyzing positive outcomes.

2. El Pasoans being able to buy Solar+Storage equipment (&/or grid services) = our key to Climate Security.

3. El Pasoans being able to SELL Solar+Storage grid services = our key to Economic Development.

What is the purpose of the RREAC for you?

1. El Paso is the #1 city in the US for Solar potential.

2. RREAC is the official body for advising El Paso City Council on ways El Paso can truly achieve its potential as the Sun City: Solar Energy is El Paso's largest economic development opportunity for the coming decades -- and El Paso's largest upcoming opportunity to be of service to the nation and to the world.

iii. Dominic Chacon (D2).

3.1. access doesn't reflect the intention, what does enhance mean?

3.2. need to talk about regulations

3.3. more specific in the Chihuahuan desert, in El Paso

iv. Maria Trevino (D4). A good start, 3.1 climate vulnerable somewhere.

Goal 3.1 Increase access to solar for communities, especially those underrepresented and climate vulnerable, including incentive programs and enhanced permitting and inspection process.

Goal 3.5 Invest in community wide energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation initiatives.

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v. Joshua Simmons (D5). 3.3. Influence state regulations.

3.5. include RE.

vi. Joseph Gutierrez (D7). 3.1 streamline permitting. Something about EVs.

vii. Miguel Fraga (D8). Rewrite 3.2, that is a 'how' not a goal. Establish mechanism.

g. EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

i. Veronica Carbajal (Mayor). Add conservation.

ii. Howard Pearlmutter (D1) 4.1. ...and storage.

iii. Dominic Chacon (D2). 4.2. scarcity, water. New goal. Include local businesses.

iv. Maria Trevino (D4). 4.2 Promote community-wide programs: youth, neighborhoods, broadening of energy literacy, proper communication and messaging across all segments of the community including heat mitigation strategies. An actual place like TECH2O. Highlight successes in the community.

v. Joshua Simmons (D5). Infographics like the COVID ones.

vi. Joseph Gutierrez (D7). NAs, leverage them. In the how to.

vii. Miguel Fraga (D8). Another goal about the hub, educational resources for the community.

h. PUBLIC COMMENT

i. Ms. Moran

i. City Manager praises the group for the progress made with the planning efforts. Asks what the group think of the process so far? Group agrees that it has been a good process.

j. Miguel Fraga (Chair) asks for the revised presentation to be shared with the Board before next meeting.

3. Adjourn.