



Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council (RREAC)

Mayor

Dee Margo

City Council

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Alexsandra Annello

District 3

Cassandra H. Brown

District 4

Sam Morgan

District 5

Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6

Claudia Ordaz Perez

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Cortney C. Niland

City Manager

Tommy Gonzalez

MEETING NOTES, JUNE 13, 2017

Attendance

Name	District	Position	Present
Frederic Dalbin	Mayor	Member	x
Ernest Eisenberg	1	Member	Not present
Crystal Arrieta	2	Member	x
Shelby Diego Ruff	3	Vice Chair	x
Blanca Gadney-Moss	4	Member	x
Jonathan Childress	5	Member	Not present
Fareed Issa Klayel	6	Member	x
Xavier Miranda	7	Chair	Not present
Patrick Schaefer	8	Member	Not present
Eddie Gutierrez	N/A	El Paso Electric (EPE) Technical Advisor	x

1. Meeting called to order with quorum at 6:04 pm
 - 1.1. Members present (as noted above)
2. Request to excuse absent members
 - 2.1. District 1 and 8 seats open for council appointment
 - 2.2. Motion passes
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 04/11/2017 MEETING**
 - 3.1. Minutes approved
4. **GOAL 1 ALIGNMENT: CULTIVATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO STRONG, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 - 4.1 SolSmart Certification, Press Update + Next Steps
 - 4.1.1 We are Officially SolSmart Gold Certified – only other Gold certified city in Texas is Austin
 - 4.1.2 Press Release has been drafted and is awaiting approval from Public Affairs Office.
 - 4.1.2.1 Once press conference is scheduled, we will need to bring in other related parties such as solar integrators, Sen. Jose Rodriguez, etc. El Paso Electric can help coordinate.
 - 4.1.2.2 **Action Item:** Coordinate with El Paso Electric and the City PIO for press event
 - 4.1.3 **Next Steps:** SolSmart Consultation/Training Session for leadership,



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City Council, Mayor, etc.

4.1.3.1 Partnerships with El Paso Electric and SolSmart could streamline the process more through recommendations

5. GOAL 7 ALIGNMENT: ENHANCE AND SUSTAIN EL PASO'S INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

5.1. Discussion on the Development of the Urban Energy Plan

5.1.1. Lauren created a Google document for the group's input

Action Item: Get access to the Google document and provide suggestions

5.2.1. Framework – Document shown during meeting highlighted information on formulating a code of ethics to establish standards as a foundation to this plan. El Paso Electric's code of ethics is employee based.

Action Item: Eddie Gutierrez from El Paso Electric to send El Paso Electric Code of Ethics to distribute to the group.

5.2.1.1. City of Berkeley has an investor owned utility. It might be an option to reach out to Timothy Burroughs, the Chief Resilience Officer of Berkeley to talk about their utility structure.

5.2.2. **Education** –would like to know what can be presented to the public without conflict of interest. There is a process that needs to be followed if there is to be outreach on behalf of the City. Group may be able to use the Economic Development Department as a broader reach to more resources.

Case Study: The Futuro Initiative. This initiative can be used as a best practice to partner with our neighbors in the community. We could try to see if it is something that can be tracked.

5.2.3. Industry and Workforce Development – skills development is something that is being looked at by our partners. How do we begin to cultivate a water and energy cluster for the future? What are the jobs and how do we create the skills needed for them?

Next Steps: Freddie will present on our next meeting.

Action Item: Nicole to do research on some of the trainings that have been done in other areas. There is an energy Summit in October in Houston, it might be useful for El Paso to present, or have a presence there. We can have the RREAC group present and show the intentions of our community through this committee.

5.2.4. Further comments on the Urban Energy Plan – Reduction Standards. Members looked at peak demand reduction senate bills in place in order to look at ways in which we can come up with some standards for reduction. Will also look at building codes and updates. **Next Steps:** Will put an external group together and have people come in and formulate something.



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Economic Development perspective: Would like to know the state of jobs available locally and compare them to those of similar cities like Austin and those in Nevada. Would like to know the economic impact of bringing those heavy hitter companies. It might be an option to develop a strategy to have outside companies that focus on renewables to come to El Paso. SolSmart will be able to assist with that information.

Building pipelines in our community – As there is a focus on renewable energy, there are pipelines being built around the county. There are requirements that can deny or approve permits for the energy pipeline. We definitely need to have a look at the expansion of infrastructure in our community because it directly affects market renewables. In the future, we can sit down and talk about some of the data that we can provide and prove this.

Incentives for energy efficiency – might be beneficial at the urban level. **Next Steps:** Nicole to talk with Jessica to see how we as a city can come up with an incentive.

5.2.5. Next Steps: There needs to be further discussions and a preliminary draft of the Urban Energy Plan before going to the event in Houston on October 12th. We can meet on Tuesday before the event.

6. ADJOURNED AT 6:58 PM

- i. The next meeting will be **August 8th, 2017 from 6 pm – 8 pm in the Main Conference Room of CITY 1, 300 N. Campbell.**

Please note: The statements made on the agenda items above are the opinions of those individuals noted and do not necessary represent an official position of the City of El Paso.