



## Capital Improvement Department

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017

**TIME:** 4:15 PM

**PLACE:** City Hall - *MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR*  
300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, Texas 79901

### REGIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL (RREAC) MEETING NOTES

#### Attendance

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

#### 1. Meeti1. Me

##### 1. Meeting called to order with quorum at 4:24 pm

- 1.1. Amendment to agenda: Only District 1 has a vacancy and District 8 seat has been filled
- 1.2. Amendment to agenda: Move up Fareed Klayel's presentation to the beginning of the agenda.

##### 2. Request to Excuse Absent Members

- 2.1. District 1 (vacancy)
- 2.2. Members excused (Crystal Arrieta)

##### 3. Approval of Minutes from 6/13/2017 Meeting

- 3.1. Minutes approved

##### 4. **Goal 8:** Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community

- 4.1. Presentation on the *Futuro Initiative* (Fareed Klayel, Member)
  - 4.1.1. 16 acres of undeveloped Tigua-owned property near North Loop
  - 4.1.2. Hopefully going to tap into some federal grant money for sustainability initiatives
  - 4.1.3. Building with adobe, having an urban farm on the premises, installing photovoltaics

**Mayor**  
Dee Margo

#### City Council

*District 1*  
Peter Svarzbein

*District 2*  
Alexandra 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*  
Cissy Lizarraga

**City Manager**  
Tommy Gonzalez



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- 4.1.4. Want to use this area as a test site to collect the data we need to make the case for solar
  - 4.1.5. If you're interested in learning more about this project please reach out to Fareed Klayel
  - 4.1.6. Hoping to start construction in one year (October 2018) and just trying to figure out financing options
  - 4.1.7. El Paso Electric will be servicing the area so we would love to partner. We need infrastructure, power lines, grid, etc..
  - 4.1.8. The Tiguas will be building a hospital on that land
  - 4.1.9. This will be the first project that will be built will solar from the beginning and I'm still trying to navigate that project
  - 4.1.10. From the RREAC, I would like to get everyone's input
5. **Goal 1:** Cultivate an Environment Conducive to Strong, Economic Development
- 4.1. SolSmart Certification, Press Update and Next Steps
    - 4.1.1. There has not been a release yet because it was considered not time-relevant. The Public Affairs Office is asking for a specific event to tie the SolSmart Certification too (Lauren Baldwin, City of El Paso Staff).
    - 4.1.2. The Eco El Paso Conference on Oct. 25 and 26 would be a good option. Any solar installation would also be a good option for a press event (Shelby Ruff, Vice Chair).
      - 4.1.2.1. Would be good to have City Council and Senator Rodriguez there because it's a big deal (Blanca Gadney-Moss, Member)
    - 4.1.3. Need ongoing cross-training for City staff and RREAC could organize the next one. Our last workshop was in April. The next workshop should be soon and we would love RREAC's help (maybe in partnership with RREAC) (Fred Dalbin, Member).
  - 4.2. Borderplex's role
    - 4.2.1. How is Borderplex involved? We would like them to be engaged since they're such a critical part (Xavier Miranda, Chair).
      - 4.2.1.1. I will mention it at the next Entrepreneurship Taskforce meeting (Gustavo Arriaga, Member)
  - 4.3. Economic Development Update
    - 4.3.1. See *attached presentation*
    - 4.3.2. We could get installers who have already worked with developers to provide their plans and this could help other



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- developers build solar-ready or consider solar (Shelby Ruff, Vice Chair).
- 4.3.3. Eco El Paso will offer a one-hour presentation about how to prepare for solar readiness for planning and design (Fred Dalbin, Member)
  - 4.3.4. Eco El Paso, Chamber of Commerce, or another organization or non-profit could have an FAQ Solar page: ideal financial picture for homeowner interested in solar, how to evaluate a general installer, credentials or certifications residents or businesses should ask for when evaluating a potential installer, potential lenders, and a list of potential installers for solar on their website (Fred Dalbin, Member)
    - 4.3.4.1. I can look for the plan or roadmap that other cities have used that we could use as an example (Shelby Ruff, Vice Chair)
  - 4.3.5. Do we want to plan a meeting with the RREAC and SolSmart members during the Eco El Paso conference when SolSmart representatives will be here? (Lauren Baldwin, City of El Paso Staff)
  - 4.3.6. Economic Development has Transit Oriented Development and Infill incentives available for businesses interested in building in a way that encourages walkability or includes mixed use: <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/economic-development/business-services/incentives> (Stephanie Santiago and Paula Gallegos, City of El Paso Economic Development Staff)
- 6. **Goal 7: Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network**
  - 5.1. Urban Energy Plan Update
    - 5.1.1. Can we pull out all of the points we did not earn in SolSmart and put them into a Word Document to have specific tasks moving forward? (Shelby Ruff, Vice Chair)
    - 5.1.2. I will add them to our Google Doc (Lauren Baldwin, City of El Paso Staff)
- 7. Discussion on RREAC meeting schedule
  - 7.1. Meetings will be the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm. Meeting date may be adjusted to the third Wednesday if the room is unavailable on the second Wednesday.
  - 7.2. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2017 at 5:30 pm.**
- 8. Other comments or questions
  - 8.1. Update from the rate case (Eddie Gutierrez, El Paso Electric)



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8.1.1. EPE has settled with the City of El Paso and other intervening parties, pending final approval from the PUC. The residential impact will range between \$3.50 - \$5.00 / month. For private solar residents, the provision stands that, effective after the final order, there will be a minimal bill of \$30. Anyone that already has an interconnection agreement at the time of the final order will be grandfathered in and the minimal bill will not have an impact. The net metering provision stands. EPE will share the information once it's available, in the last quarter of this year (anytime in the next few months).

9. Meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm