

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SA Climate Ready Technical & Community Advisory Committee**  
**October 5, 2021**  
**4:00 PM**  
**PreK for SA North Center**

**SA Climate Ready Technical & Community Advisory Committee Members:**

DeeDee Belmares At large	Dr. Neil Debbage At large	Vacant At large
Ashley Bird At large	Ashley Harris At large	Dr. Jimmy Perkins At large
Rick Cavender At large	Stephen Lucke At large	John Plescia At large
James Cooper Jr. At large	Dr. Kelly Lyons At large	Rosalinda Sanquiche At large
Estella Cota-Treviño At large	Francisco Manon At large	Ryan Weber At large
Matt Cox At large	Richard McDonald At large	

Melissa Bryant Partner Agency, SARA	Miriam Juckett Research Partner, Southwest Research Institute
Karen Guz * Partner Agency, SAWS	Marvin Pair * Partner Agency, Joint Base San Antonio
Kammy Horne Partner Agency, VIA	Angela Rodriguez Partner Agency, CPS San Antonio

*\*Indicates Not Present*

Office of Sustainability Staff: Douglas Melnick, Minerva Defee, Murray Myers

NRDC & IMT Advisors: Adil Chowdhury, Tara Brown

Chair or Vice-Chair of the Technical & Community Advisory Committee: Melissa Bryant

Facilitator: Nick Burgett

Assistant City Manager: David W. McCary

Texas Creative: Ashley Landers, Marcie Treviño Ripper

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Douglas Melnick at 4:06 p.m.

**II. Public Comments**

No citizens signed up to be heard.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minerva Defee presented the minute meetings from October 5th, 2021, for approval. Minutes were sent to committee members ahead of time and were attached to the November meeting agenda.

Motion Cavender motioned for approval.  
Lyons seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Belmares, Bird, Cavender, Cooper, Debbage, Lucke, Lyons,  
Manon, McDonald, Sanquiche, Weber, Bryant, Rodriguez  
Nays: N/A  
Virtual: Cox, Perkins, Plescia, Juckett  
Abstain: Cota-Treviño, Harris, Horne  
Absent: Pair, Guz

Action: Motion passed with 13 ayes, 0 nays, 3 abstain, and 2 absent.

#### IV. **Individual Items for Consideration**

##### Staff Update on 2022 Budget:

Douglas Melnick reported on the 2022 budget highlights, including \$50,000 in facilitation and equity consulting services for the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committees, and \$40,000 for City of San Antonio employee SA Climate Ready training series. In addition, Melnick highlighted climate action and sustainability budget items in other departments such as improvements for the Infrastructure Management Program, improvements for the Advanced Transportation District and Bicycle Infrastructure Program, and additional funding for resiliency initiatives to include development of resilience hubs.

##### Next Steps on Committee Priorities:

Melnick re-introduced the committee priorities that were selected by the Advisory Committees during the August meetings, energy benchmarking, resilience hubs, engagement and communications, the 2022 Bond, the Unified Development Code, and the International Energy Conservation Code. Water was suggested as an addition to the benchmarking process but was tabled as the tracking mechanisms are different. Next steps for energy benchmarking include the creation of the Subcommittee with a goal for City Council consideration of the recommendations made by the full Advisory Committee in April or May of 2022. The conversation around resilience hubs is currently on hold until the City Manager's office provides additional direction on expectations and the role of the different departments involved.

Regarding the 2022 Bond Program, the Advisory Committee's role will be to review the set categories and provide recommendations for additional sustainability considerations such as a scorecard that is tied to the strategies and/or goals of the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. Furthermore, a small group of Advisory Committee members, including Kammy Horne, Dr. Kelly Lyons, and Stephen Lucke, will draft a position paper emphasizing the need for sustainability considerations for the 2022 Bond Program and advocating for a dedicated subcommittee for all future bond programs.

Mike Shannon, Director of the Development Services Department (DSD), presented an overview of the Unified Development Code update process. The International Energy Conservation Code will also be updated using the same process with a shorter timeline. Amendments of any type are being accepted by DSD starting in October and can be submitted by anyone, however, those that go beyond edits or clarifications will have to be reviewed by the planning commission prior to

implementation. For the Advisory Committees, the Office of Sustainability will oversee compiling and submitting the selected recommendations, up to 10 total due to the small number of staff. Rosalinda Sanquiche and Francisco Manon offered to assist the Office of Sustainability with developing the process for collecting recommendations from the Advisory Committee members. The amendment process is scheduled to be finalized by October 2022.

#### Subcommittee Updates:

Melissa Bryant provided an update on the Climate Equity Screening Tool Subcommittee. The group is currently drafting the new climate equity assessment tool, integrating climate equity matrix, and brainstorming ways to collect community feedback on the draft. The next milestone for the Subcommittee will be to present the initial draft to the full Advisory Committees for feedback in December.

#### Decarbonization Subcommittee Discussion & Vote:

DeeDee Belmares introduced the proposed action to create a Decarbonization Subcommittee. Some of the reasons behind this proposal include “the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest report in which UN Secretary called a “code red” for humanity. . . CAAP calls for our city to be carbon neutral by 2050. . . In just 9 years we need to have a 41% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. By 2040 we will need to cut GHG emissions by 71%. . . The two Spruce Coal units are the largest single greenhouse gas-emitting facilities in Bexar County, spewing nearly 8 million metric tons of carbon pollution every year. The coal units, located on the southeast side have serious health impacts on our most vulnerable: 80% of the population that live within 12 miles of the coal plant are people of color; 23% live in poverty.”

The following would be the main goals of the subcommittee 1) call for the closure of the Spruce Coal Plant no later than 2030 and transition the two units to renewable energy sources-solar, wind and battery; and 2) work with CPS Energy to further decarbonize our energy supply through the Flexible Path to meet the 2030 emissions reduction target. Time commitment for this subcommittee would include one-hour meetings twice a month.

Various members of the Committee noted that they are not fully informed on the steps that CPS Energy is currently taking to decarbonize. Angela Rodriguez stated that CPS Energy can provide a briefing on the FlexPath and status of the plan. The Committee also requested a briefing from an outside organization and a briefing from a community representative. Although the original motion was to create a Decarbonization Subcommittee, the motion was changed to move the Decarbonization discussion to the December meeting in order for the Committee to receive additional briefings and review additional resources.

Motion	Bryant motioned for approval. Cavender seconded the motion.
Vote:	<p>Ayes: Bird, Cavender, Cooper, Cota-Treviño, Debbage, Harris, Lucke, Lyons, Manon, McDonald, Sanquiche, Weber, Bryant, Horne, Rodriguez</p> <p>Nays: Belmares</p> <p>Virtual: Cox, Perkins, Plescia, Juckett</p> <p>Absent: Pair, Guz</p>
Action:	Motion passed with 15 ayes, 1 nays, and 2 absent.

Texas Creative Updates:

Ashley Landers shared additional results from the Attitudes, Awareness & Perceptions Quantitative Study, including the following findings: a total of 86% of those surveyed believe that climate change is occurring, most residents agree that climate change is impacting the planet, the U.S. and San Antonio, too little is being done at every level (government, business, personal), and policies aimed at reducing the impact of climate change will generally help the economy.

Defee updated the Committee on the grassroots grant initiative, noting in preliminary results that residents are concerned with health, resilient infrastructure and power grid, lack of green spaces, equitable transportation options, and current and future impacts of climate change. She also added that the Office of Sustainability has recently executed a contract with The Health Collaborative to complete a similar project, engaging with and collecting insights from health providers, and preparing a data-driven report on the connection between health and climate change.

**V. Determination of Next Meeting Date**

The SA Climate Ready Technical & Community Advisory Committee voted to add a meeting in November to discuss the Unified Development Code and 2022 Bond Program. The first available date will be identified through an online survey. The regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for December 6th, 2021, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, this meeting will be in-person. The Climate Equity Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5th, 2021, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and will also be in-person.

Motion Harris motioned for approval.  
Cota-Treviño seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Belmares, Bird, Cavender, Cooper, Cota-Treviño, Debbage,  
Harris, Lucke, Lyons, Manon, McDonald, Sanquiche, Weber,  
Bryant, Horne, Rodriguez  
Nays: N/A  
Virtual: Cox, Perkins, Plescia, Juckett  
Absent: Pair, Guz

Action: Motion passed with 16 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.