

MEETING NOTES

PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

www.pasadenacac.org

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

RYSS STEM Academy – Log Cabin

The 312th meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, in the Log Cabin at the RYSS STEM Academy. The meeting notes from Oct. 22 and Dec. 3, 2024, were approved without change. Facilitator Emily Morris reviewed the agenda, which was accepted without change, and the PCAC meeting ground rules.

ATTENDEES *italicized*

PCAC Members

Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena OEM
Jed Aplaca, City of Pasadena Parks and Rec.
Vanessa Ayala-Medina
Diane Barnes, CTHS
Hal Burke, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network
Raul Camarillo, Harris Co. Pct. 2
Emilio Carmona
Azell Carter, City of Pasadena OEM
Yessenia Cervantes, RYSS STEM Academy
Monica De La Portilla
Tammy Delossantos, City of Pasadena Parks and Rec.
Tish Eubanks, City of Pasadena
Ramiro Fonseca, RYSS STEM Academy/Tejano Center
Albert Gonzales
Mandy Gosch
Rick Guerrero, Pasadena Economic Development Corp.
Ninfa Herrera
M.P. Jackson
Shawn McNair
Ellis Orozco
Margie Peña, Baker Ripley

Dominick Rezza
Christian Rocha, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
La Tonya Ross
Erin Webb, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Blake Whitaker, Harris Co. Pct 2
Cristina Womack, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

Support

Emily Morris, Incoming Facilitator

Observers or Resources

Ronnie Adcock
Ruth Askin, former member
Patti Bell, Speaker, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region
Judy Bodine
Keith Bodine
John Collins
Brett Conaway, HCOHSEM
Brandy Deason, Air Alliance
Jose Diaz
Jo Estrada, Pasadena Economic Development Corp.
Danny Forest, Speaker, American Chemistry Council
Sarah Hernandez

Anita Jones
Jerry Jones
Holly Kurth, EHCMA
William Lathan, Harris Co.
Pollution Control
Shannon McNair
George Perrett
David Wade, HCOHSEM
Tiana Washington
Steve Zach, Pasadena Public Library
Natasha Zarnstorff, Galveston Bay Foundation

CAC Plant Members

Afton Chemical: Hari Sundaram rep by Maryam Shekari, Doug Ruring, Ethan Heins
Air Products: Brian Farhadi, Gaby Lacayo
BASF: Abe Ahmed, Brian Melancon, Lia Hayes
Chevron Pasadena Refinery: Tifanie Steele rep by Joe Ebert, Jennifer Silva, Rebecca Froedge, Steph Seewald
Chevron Phillips: Andy Woods
Enterprise: Audrey Munson, Heather Makarczyk

Ethyl: Hari Sundaram rep by Maryam Shekari, Doug Ruring, Ethan Heins
Evonik: Nathan Boye, Donovan Phelan
Gulf Coast Authority: Denise Ehrlich, John Mletzko
INEOS Phenol: Mike Meyer, David Pastalaniec, Pedro Hernandez
Intercontinental Terminals Co.: Robert Surguy rep by Jesus Davila, Carlos Gracia
Ketjen: Lisa Frugé rep by Paul Hernandez, Doug Thompson, Kevin Paul
KM Export Terminal: Chris Dale
Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal: Robert Hammons, Donnie Martinez
LyondellBasell Refinery: Mark Staes, Susan Scott
Next Wave Energy: Shane Presley, David Muscat
OxyChem: Eric Delgado, Liliana Sarpong, Brandon Pearson
Sekisui: Jeff Thompson, Jenna Timtiman

Workforce Development I: Overview and the PetroChem Works Tool

Slides posted at www.pasadenacac.org

Patti Bell, Program Manager at Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, spoke to the PCAC about the Workforce Development initiative “Dream It. Do It.” Bell coordinates a team of industry volunteers that connects students, parents, and community members with career opportunities in manufacturing, petrochemical, logistics, and related industries along the Houston Ship Channel. During Bell’s presentation, she showed why Houston has the busiest ship channel in the United States (Slide 7), high-demand and high-wage jobs (Slide 9) in the Petrochem industry, and skills that are necessary to work in the industry (Slide 11). Bell pointed out that most Petrochem jobs require workers to have a TWIC card, and Bell said that students who already have the card when they

apply for a job tend to be hired before applicants who do not have TWIC. Bell's focus during the PCAC meeting was to demonstrate how to maneuver in the online [PetroChem Works Tool](https://petrochemworks.com/), which matches users to a suitable job through the "Match-Me" feature. Here are steps to use the tool:

- Visit <https://petrochemworks.com/>
- Scroll to a pulsing, gold button on the right that says "Match Me to the Perfect Career."
- The next page asks users to click on boxes of activities/skills at which they excel, and then click on My Interests.
- The next page lists 13 activities, and users are asked to adjust a slide scale next to each to indicate whether those activities are of low, medium, or high interest. Education level is next.
- On the next page, users choose their highest level of education.
- When users click next on the education page, they are taken to a list of appropriate jobs for the user's skill level, interests, and education.

Once users discover their appropriate jobs, they can click through a variety of links to find out the various pathways to specific jobs. Bell noted that the tool may match an entry-level user with an advanced job and said the tool is showing the user potential careers with the skills and interests they already possess. By looking at the pathways provided, the user can determine an appropriate job that will lead them to advanced positions.

During the Q&A portion, Bell said there is increasing demand for IT and cybersecurity professionals and mentioned a program at Texas A&M. Bell also said there is a growing use of drones in various industries, pointing out that some high schools offer drone certification through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. However, access to such programs varies by school.

Danny Forest, Director of Data Analytics for Responsible Care at the American Chemistry Council (ACC), shared information about ACC's workforce development initiatives, which include early education outreach and industry-specific programs.

1. Early Education & Higher Education

- ACC supports the Chemical Education Foundation, which promotes chemistry education at the high school level and younger.
- The FOSSI (Future of STEM Scholars Initiative) program, in partnership with the American Institute for Chemical Engineers (AIChE), provides over \$1 million annually in STEM scholarships.

2. Industry Workforce Development Programs

- **Future Leaders Program:** A yearlong initiative for early-career, high-potential professionals, offering leadership training and exposure to lawmakers and industry leaders.
- **Advancing Diversity in Emerging Leaders (ADEL) Program:** Aimed at mid-to-late-career professionals preparing for senior executive roles, provides advocacy training and leadership development.
- **Advocacy Academy:** Designed for plant managers and industry representatives, this program trains participants in effective communication with lawmakers, regulators, and the public.

3. New Workforce Development Initiatives

- In response to industry challenges, ACC has formed a workforce development committee focusing on:
 - Retirement and loss of expertise
 - Leadership experience and skill development
 - High turnover at entry-level positions
- The committee is working on toolkits, workshops, and resources to address these challenges and enhance workforce retention and growth. Forest said this program could be up and running within a year.

PCAC Discussion Input on Workforce Development I: Overview and PetroChem Works tool

1. What, if anything, were you *glad* to hear?

- The website and information about career paths
- Career assessment website
- Career assessment tool
- Having a website that shows career paths available to high school students is a great tool.
- Intuitive website – shows the career path – A+
- Good access for students w/ web
- The website is really nice
- Great job explaining & so many great tools
- Great tools to help kids create a vision for their life
- Balancing conversations w/education & opportunities in post HS plans
- Glad to hear about the opportunities
- Glad to hear there are people out there telling students about industry & the job opportunities
- Programs to guide young people into the industry
- Increasing focus on tech training & ed, not just pushing college.
- Pretty nice to see the emphasis on early career
- Mobile-friendly
- Informative
- Good info on certifications
- Great resource for students
- Good resource to other nonprofits who foster young adults' development
- Seeing a career path!
- Learning early about so many options
- Good to change opportunities
- These groups are working on the right things

2. What, if anything, *concerned* you?

- No concerns
- N/A
- Nothing really. Just might be a wake-up call for students who get matched to a position that is not entry level.
- Financial
- Presentations catered to high school students but did not include YA (16-24)
- Future workforce mindset on job
- Why is this the first time we're hearing about this?
- Opportunity to reach out to industry for more volunteers. Probably easier to fill gaps than they realize

General Issues

- More info for graduate
- Retiring staff on all levels, loss of knowledge – need mentorship
- Start earlier – 8th grade?

3. What additional questions do you have regarding the PetroChem Works Tool?

- Is this tool in all schools, the career focused schools particularly?

- Are there specific job listings?
- How wide of an area does PCW site cover for industry?
- Does the curriculum match the industry?
- How well does the algorithm match with real job posting on Indeed.com?
- How extensive is the tool, and are schools in all areas using this?
- None
- N/A

4. Any questions about any PCAC concern?

- Utilize both screens for visual
- Acoustics in the room make it very difficult to hear the speaker, especially when the speaker is using the mic
- Better sound quality, very difficult to understand when using the microphone
- None
- Get you a clicker girl 😊

HOST PLANT INTRO: BASF

Slide posted at www.pasadenacac.org

Abe Ahmed, BASF Pasadena Plasticizer Site Director, said BASF's Pasadena, TX, facility operates two major units: the Plasticizer Unit and the Alcohol Unit. The Plasticizer Unit produces DOTP (dioctyl terephthalate) with a capacity of 60,000 metric tons per year. DOTP is primarily used to enhance the flexibility of rigid PVC in applications such as flooring, coated fabrics, and wire and cable coatings. DOTP is also used in the medical field, where it makes materials flexible for various uses like hoses, medical tubing, and other devices. The Alcohol Unit produces 2-ethylhexanol (2-EH) with a capacity of 100,000 metric tons per year. This alcohol is a key raw material for DOTP production and is essential for BASF's other operations, such as producing 2-ethylhexyl acrylate at their Freeport, TX, facility. The Pasadena facility employs about 100 staff across a range of functions, including production, logistics, and other support roles.

UPDATES

Plant Updates

The Plant Update Summary was mailed to attendees by 2 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2025, with 18 of 18 plants reporting. Direct questions to Emily Morris, ekmorrisconsulting@gmail.com AND pcac.secretary@gmail.com, 832-443-3617.

In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from 18 of 18 plants
- **1 of 18** had an environmental event
- **0 of 18** had an OSHA recordable injury
- **17** had neither environmental nor safety incidents

17 plants had no environmental incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals | 6. Enterprise Products | 12. Ketjen |
| 2. Air Products | 7. Ethyl | 13. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal |
| 3. BASF | 8. Evonik | 14. Kinder Morgan Pasadena |
| 4. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 9. Gulf Coast Authority | 15. LyondellBasell |
| 5. Chevron Phillips | 10. INEOS Phenol | 16. OxyChem |
| | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | 17. Sekisui |

18 plants had no safety incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals | 7. Ethyl | Terminal |
| 2. Air Products | 8. Evonik | 14. Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal |
| 3. BASF | 9. Gulf Coast Authority | 15. LyondellBasell |
| 4. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 10. INEOS Phenol | 16. Next Wave Energy Partners |
| 5. Chevron Phillips | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | 17. OxyChem |
| 6. Enterprise Products | 12. Ketjen | 18. Sekisui |
| | 13. Kinder Morgan Export | |

Community Updates

New Pasadena alarm system: Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, explained the new City of Pasadena Alarm System. Aleman said that 30 new sirens replaced 15 outdated ones, and the city is now 99% covered. Aleman encouraged people who live and work in Pasadena to sign up to get Office of Emergency Management (OEM) alerts on their cell phones by texting **PTXREADY to 77295** or by visiting the website www.readypasadena.org. Aleman said alerts will be sent via text, social media, and news outlets rather than through sirens for all-clear notices. The first siren test was at noon on Feb. 8, 2025. *(Flier attached to email.)*

Upcoming City of Pasadena events: Christian Rocha, Membership Coordinator at the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, announced that outgoing Mayor Jeff Wagner will give his final address at the State of the City Luncheon on Feb. 20 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Rocha also announced the [Mayoral Forum](#) to be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at San Jacinto College Central Slocumb Auditorium. *(Flier attached to email.)*

Fill the Bus: Trish Eubanks, with the City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network, announced the Fill-the-Bus campaign, which is the city's Annual Teacher Supply Drive that benefits 4,000+ Pasadena ISD teachers. School supplies will be collected at the Pasadena Convention Center on July 28. *(Flier attached to email.)*

PCAC Business

PCAC to meet on Thursday in March: Morris reminded attendees that the March meeting has been moved to Thursday because of the Mayoral Forum, which takes place during the PCAC's normal meeting time. The PCAC meeting will be held in the Log Cabin on Thursday, March 27. The topic is the Annual Report on Worker Safety in PCAC Plants.

Morris email change: Morris mentioned that she's been having problems with her new email ekmorrisconsulting@gmail.com bouncing back. She asks that you check your Spam/Junk folder, report that email address as "Not spam," and also to please add Emily Morris to your email contact list with the email address ekmorrisconsulting@gmail.com. Morris said she will continue to use the pcac.secretary@gmail.com

account for the near future but would prefer to use her new email address in the event that she gets an assistant who needs to use the pcac.secretary email address.

NEW NAMETAGS!!: Morris announced that she has started to use reusable nametags to reduce waste and also the time it takes to produce nametags. She said that attendees who RSVP will have a nametag waiting on the check-in table. She asked attendees to leave their nametags on their table when they leave the meeting so she can pick them up and have them ready for the next meeting. Morris said that when PCAC gets a logo, she will add that to the nametags instead of the generic image on the nametags now.

QR Code Check-in: Morris pointed out that since Diane Sheridan retired, Morris is doing all jobs on her own, so she is relying on technology to assist her. Morris said she placed signs with a QR code on each table, including the nametag table, to assist with check-ins once the meeting has begun. Prior to the Call to Order, Morris will be standing at the door to greet attendees and check them in as they arrive.

UPCOMING PCAC MEETINGS

Dinner available at 5:30 p.m. Call to order at 6:00. Adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – Workforce Development II: Tour of the Pasadena ISD Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School**

PCAC will meet at PISD's Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School for an overview during dinner about the school's history, purposes, features, and programs, followed by a tour of its facilities. Kirk Lewis CTHS is at 1348 Genoa Red Bluff, Houston, TX 77034. Directions are on the PCAC 2-25-25 meeting agenda, which was emailed on Feb. 6. (*Host plant: Air Products*)

- **Thursday, March 27, 2025 – Annual Report on Worker Safety in PCAC Plants**

NEW meeting DAY this month (to avoid scheduling conflict with Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Mayoral Forum)

PCAC facilitator will collect OSHA recordable injury and illness data for PCAC plants, covering both employees and contractors, and will create a report and presentation. The report will contain details about each plant plus summaries showing the totals for all plants and the trends. Jesus Davila, Safety Specialist/VPP Coordinator with ITC, will present. (*Host plant: ITC*)

PCAC DATES FOR 2025

Unless otherwise noted, all are 4th Tuesdays. 5:30 dinner – 6:00 call to order – 7:30 adjourn

Tues., Jan. 28

Tues., Feb. 25

Thurs., Mar. 27*

Tues., Apr. 22

Tues., May 27

No June or July meetings

Tues., Aug. 26

Tues., Sept. 23

Tues., Oct. 28

No November meeting

Tues., Dec. 2

No late December meeting

* Tues., March 25 is Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Candidates' Forum