



Minutes Desert Conservation Commission August 1, 2023

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on August 1, 2023, 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ. and virtually through Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Chair
Laura Stewart – Vice Chair
Donald Burt
Kelli Cholieu
Hassan Elsaad
Ricardo Juan Leonard
Shereen Lerner
Jane Neuheisel
Elba Quintero

Members Absent:

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks
Alex Cortese, Community Services Manager
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II
Gabriel Sabori, Community Services Supervisor- Maintenance and Operations

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza.

Guests Present:

Kate Dukette, Arizona Game and Fish Department- Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No Public Appearances

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2023

Motion by Elba Quintero to approve the meeting minutes of June 6, 2023 as submitted; seconded by Jane Neuheisel. Motion passed on a 9-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Vice-Chair Laura Stewart and commission members, Donald Burt, Kelli Cholieu, Hassan Elsaad, Ricardo Juan Leonard, Shereen Lerner, Jane Neuheisel and Elba Quintero.

Absent: none

Agenda Item 3 – Apple Snails- Arizona Game & Fish Department

Kate Dukette, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on Apple Snails Invasion of Our Waters. Presentation included the following:

- Apple snails
- Distribution- July 2023 iNaturalist app
- AZGFD's objectives for control
- How to control the populations
- Potential collaborators for control and public awareness messaging
- Examples of collaborations

Staff to follow up and provide AZGFD's Kate Dukette and Jeff Sorensen contact information.

Agenda Item 4 – Operational Items

Alex Jovanovic provided an update on the following operational items:

- Park Ranger Survey
 - 462 views
 - 380 responses
 - Neutral green, neutral tan, bright neon uniform
 - Safety & security presence
 - Enforcement of park rules
- Park Monument Update
 - Possible design updates
 - CPTED
 - Traffic Engineering
- Horse Tunnel Lighting
 - LED lighting install completed
 - Assessing the panel

Staff to follow up and provide Park Ranger Survey results when available.

Agenda Item 5 – Black Folx Rock / Cornerstone Conservation Grant

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Black Folx Rock / Cornerstone Conservation Grant. Presentation included the following:

- Organizations
 - Community based organizations
 - Black Folx Rock
 - Atabey Outdoors
 - Chromatic Climbers
 - The American Alpine Club Arizona
- Cornerstone Conservation Grant
 - Diversity in Conservation
 - August 2023 through October 2024
 - Papago Preserve
 - Trail work, native plant restoration, erosion control, clean up
 - Bridge creation and installation for crags
- City involvement

- Assist with meeting the MP goals
- Willingness to work with rock climbing communities
- Promote diversity & inclusion
- Co-designed land improvement & conservation project
- Must fit with approved MP uses/goals/priorities

Staff will have American Alpine Club present to Commission after Management Plan is completed.

Agenda Item 6 – Preserves Management Plan

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Preserves Management Plan. Presentation included the following:

- Management plan goals
 - Address resource preservation, maintenance, asset management
 - Identify improvements
 - Establish maintenance practices
 - Prioritize investments
 - Turnkey projects
- Management plan phases
 - Phase 1- Identification and assessment
 - Phase 2- Goals & success metrics
 - Phase 3- Management of resources
 - Phase 4- Actions
- Master plan document
 - Narrative for natural, cultural, recreational and structural elements
 - Standalone reports for flora/fauna and cultural resources, summarized in MP document
 - History & background
 - Goals, BMP's and future actions
 - Narrative, photos, illustrative maps, precedent images, references
- Master plan timeline

Agenda Item 7 – Commission Goals & Priorities

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Commission Goals & Priorities. Presentation included the following:

- 2023 Commission Goals
 - Identify and establish partnerships
 - Increase awareness for preserves
 - Participate in planning and design efforts
 - Identify appropriate uses and prioritize needs in alignment with the Commission's mission
- 2024 Commission Goals Next Steps
 - Review 2023 goals
 - Alignment with Council Strategic Priorities
 - Provide goal recommendations
 - October discussion & finalization

Staff to follow up and send 2023 goals that were listed in the 2022 Annual Report for Commission to review and submit feedback/additions/edits/suggestions. This will be an agenda item at the October meeting for the 2023 Annual Report.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Mill Avenue Streetscape
- Equity Study
- Commission Goals, Priorities & Annual Report

Agenda Item 9 – Upcoming Park Public Meeting Notices & Announcements

- 8/22/23 Meet Your City Staff Open House
- Alex Cortese was introduced as the new Community Services Manager- Parks
- Next meeting is Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Prepared by: Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II, (480) 350-8352

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks, (480) 350-5811