



## Minutes Desert Conservation Commission April 2, 2024

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on April 2, 2024, 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ. and virtually through Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:**

Laura Stewart – Chair  
Donald Burt  
Kimberly Gaffney-Loza  
Dushawn John-Armenta  
Shereen Lerner  
Jane Neuheisel

**Members Absent:**

Kelli Cholieu – Vice Chair  
Ricardo Juan Leonard  
Elba Quintero

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks  
Alex Cortese, Community Services Manager  
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director  
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II

**Guests Present:**

Aaron Collins, Arizona Mountain Guides

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Laura Stewart.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Mike Hoffman spoke regarding funded grant by the Arizona Department of Forestry Environmental Management for Keep Tempe Beautiful. The community challenge grant is called Tempe's Treasured Trees and will identify and tell the story of 24 trees within the City of Tempe. Seeking volunteers to assist with project, anyone interested can reach out directly. Staff to follow up and provide contact information.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2024**

Motion by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2024 as submitted; seconded by Jane Neuheisel. Motion passed on an 6-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Laura Stewart and commission members, Donald Burt, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Dushawn John-Armenta, Shereen Lerner and Jane Neuheisel.

Absent: Vice-Chair Kelli Cholieu, Ricardo Juan Leonard and Elba Quintero.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Community Fishing Program- Evelyn Hallman Park**

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Fishing Program- Evelyn Hallman Park. Presentation included the following:

- AZ Game & Fish
- Recreation fishing opportunities
- Traditional Strategy
  - Kiwanis Lake
  - Evelyn Hallman Pond
- Expansion Strategy
  - Tempe Town Lake
- New 5-year agreement
- New fee structure; inflationary costs, 32.5% cost share
- \$50,000 shortfall
- Expansion of fishing waters, less than five miles
- Recommendation
  - Expansion waters/strategy

Following due discussion by the board, motion by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to support staff's recommendation to move forward with the expansion stocking strategy at Evelyn Hallman Park; seconded by Jane Neuheisel. Motion passed on an 5-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Laura Stewart and commission members, Donald Burt, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Shereen Lerner and Jane Neuheisel.

Absent: Vice-Chair Kelli Cholieu, Ricardo Juan Leonard and Elba Quintero.

Abstain: Dushawn John-Armenta (attended online- sound issue when voting occurred).

### **Agenda Item 4 – Operational Items**

- **Preserve User Groups: Climbing**
  - Aaron Collins from Arizona Mountain Guides attended meeting to provide information and Q&A as needed by the Commission on the climbing areas.
- **Work Day Report**
  - Bike Jumps Site Visit
  - Stinknet
- **Papago Park Camera Pilot Program**
  - Live View Technology
  - 60-day free trial
  - Live video
  - Talk down function
- **Projects: Management Plan; Review Format, TCP, Tribal Outreach**
  - Management Plan
    - Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)
      - Property eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places based on associations with cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of a living community. Rooted in a traditional community's history and important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.
    - Draft Plan Review Format
    - Tribal Outreach (3/21)

- Site visit
- Follow-up meeting
- **Upcoming: Earth Day, Management Plan Future Work Session**
  - Earth Day
  - Future work session; Preserve Management Plan

Staff to follow up and send out calendar for Earth Month.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Historic Preservation CIP**

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Historic Preservation CIP. Presentation included the following:

- Hayden Butte (parks CIP)
  - Erosion, trails, signage
- Loma del Rio (parks CIP)
  - Site study, restoration
  - Maintenance, trails
  - Educational signage
- Double Butte Cemetery (general governmental, bond)

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items**

- Future work session/retreat for review of Draft Preserve Management Plan
- Maryann Corder neighborhood grant application for educational ramada at Evelyn Hallman Park
- Different user groups to present for educational purposes

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Upcoming Park Public Meeting Notices & Announcements**

- Tempe Neighborhood Celebration at Kiwanis Park, Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am

**Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.**

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

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