

Minutes

Desert Conservation Commission

August 6, 2024

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on August 6, 2024, 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Cottonwood Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ. and virtually through Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Laura Stewart – Chair
Kelli Cholieu – Vice Chair
Donald Burt
Kimberly Gaffney-Loza
Dushawn John-Armenta
Ricardo Juan Leonard
Shereen Lerner
Elba Quintero

Members Absent:

Jane Neuheisel

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks
Evelyn Brumfield, Youth Climate Action Coordinator
Alex Cortese, Community Services Manager
Brianna Fisher, Climate Action Manager
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II
Gabriel Sabori, Community Services Supervisor

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

Alix Monty spoke regarding support of AZ Hugs, not wanting to see Austin Davis prosecuted and asked City of Tempe to stay out of the way of those trying to provide help and support to the houseless neighbors of Tempe.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2024

Motion by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to approve the meeting minutes of June 4, 2024 as submitted; seconded by Elba Quintero. Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Laura Stewart, Vice-Chair Kelli Cholieu and commission members, Donald Burt, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Dushawn John-Armenta, Ricardo Juan Leonard, Shereen Lerner and Elba Quintero.

Absent: Jane Neuheisel

Agenda Item 3 – Monarch Pledge

Evelyn Brumfield presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on Mayor's Monarch, Rain to Roots. Presentation included the following:

- Sustainability & Resilience Office
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge
 - National Wildlife Federation
 - 2024 Action Items
 - Why native plants?
 - Zoom out: Climate Action Plan Update
 - Green Stormwater Infrastructure
 - Benefits of GSI
 - Common GSI strategies
 - Current examples of GSI
 - Rain to Roots Master Plan
 - Project Purpose
 - Areas of Opportunity

Commission members asked questions and made comments regarding the following:

- How does the average person start?
- Part of the Neighborhood Grand Program
- Suggestion of a few locations throughout the city and incorporating into existing city projects
- Request to extend list of plants on existing list
- Rainwater project classes available with Salt River Project
- Consider adding plants into preserves/parking lots

Agenda Item 4 – Preserve Management Plan

- **Uses**
 - Preserve Purpose
 - Papago Preserve Ordinance
 - Appropriate Uses
 - Discussion
- **Existing Conditions**
 - MP draft existing conditions
 - Introduction
 - Existing Conditions
 - Unsheltered inclusion
 - Tribal input
 - Use of appropriate/inappropriate terms
 - Public engagement; demographics, challenge/opportunity
 - Monarch butterfly
 - The "A"
 - Challenges & Opportunities
 - Potential name change
- **Work Study Session**
 - Future Work Study Session

- Length
- Weekday/weekend
- Morning/mid-day/evening

Following due discussion by the Commission, staff will provide the following for review prior to work session:

- Draft Preserve Management Plan for review when available
- Resend Management Plan Draft Existing Conditions
- Current City Code for preserves
- Send poll to determine best date for Work Session on the Management Plan Draft

Agenda Item 5 – Future Agenda Items

- Future work session/retreat for review of Draft Preserve Management Plan
- Further information/update can be provided at a future meeting regarding Public Appearance if requested by the Commission.

Agenda Item 6 – Upcoming Park Public Meeting Notices & Announcements

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

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

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