

# Minutes

## Desert Conservation Commission

### October 1, 2024

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on October 1, 2024, 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Members Absent:**

Jane Neuheisel  
Elba Quintero

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks  
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**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**August 6, 2024 and September 9, 2024**

Motion by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to approve the meeting minutes of August 6, 2024 and September 9, 2024 as submitted; seconded by Donald Burt. Motion passed on an 6-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Laura Stewart, Vice-Chair Kelli Cholieu and commission members, Donald Burt, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Ricardo Juan Leonard and Shereen Lerner. Absent: Dushawn John-Armenta, Jane Neuheisel and Elba Quintero.

**Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report Draft**

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission the 2024 Annual Report Draft. Presentation included the following:

- Ordinance description
- Board members; term, attendance, chair, vice chair
- Meetings

- Vacancies
- Subcommittees
- Mission statement
- Accomplishments; meeting topics, action taken, event attendance
- Commission goals

Motion by Shereen Lerner to approve the 2024 Annual Report with additions as noted; seconded by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

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

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Preserve Management Plan**

- **Draft Plan Review**

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission the Preserve Management Plan – Draft Review. Presentation included the following:

- September 9<sup>th</sup> work session
  - Recommendations
    - Hayden Butte & Papago Preserves goal and objectives
    - Management actions
    - Maintenance practices
    - Improvements to preserves; accessibility
  - Funding and partnering opportunities
- Review
  - Recommendations; improvements, accessibility
  - Objectives, implementation, and success criteria

Commission continued review of the Draft Hayden Butte and Papago Preserve Management Plan, discussed, provided comments, edits, and additions to the document. Staff will provide draft edits to Logan Simpson. Once updated draft is prepared it will be distributed to Commission along with the details of the next public meeting information.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Future Agenda Items**

- Vice-President Leonard- history of when and how it became Papago
- 2025 Calendar & Officers

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Upcoming Park Public Meeting Notices & Announcements**

- Saturday, October 19- Nature Fest PHX at Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, 2801 S 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Phoenix, AZ from 8am-12pm (Laura will provide a flyer to distribute to the Commission)
- Saturday, October 26- Ecological Restoration with Native Plants at Chandler Nature Center, 4050 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ from 10:30am-12:30pm

#### **Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.**

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

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