



Minutes Desert Conservation Commission April 5, 2022

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on April 5, 2022, 3:32 p.m., Meeting held in person at the Tempe Public Library (3500 S. Rural Rd., Library Board Room) and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Chair
Erika Acorn – Vice Chair
Donald Burt
Jane Neuheisel
Elba Quintero
Ricardo Juan Leonard
Shereen Lerner
Laura Stewart

Members Absent:

Aireona Raschke

City Staff Present:

Craig Hayton, Staff Liaison - Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation
Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant – Community Services Administration
Maria Laughner, Deputy Economic Development Director
Zachary Lechner, Historic Preservation Officer

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Chair Shereen Lerner.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No Public Appearances

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

There was a Motion made by Jane Neuheisel to approve the Feb. 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Donald Burt

Decision: Motion Approved, 8-0-1

Ayes: Jane Neuheisel, Laura Stewart, Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Donald Burt, Erika Acorn, Ricardo Juan Leonard and Elba Quintero

Nays: n/a

Absent: Aireona Raschke

Agenda Item 3 – Historic Preservation Officer Introduction

Historic Preservation Officer, Zachary Lechner, introduced himself to the commission.

Agenda Item 4 – Hayden Flour Mill

Presenters Maria Laughner (Deputy – Economic Development Director), Lorenzo Perez (Venue Projects) and Heidi Kimball (Sunbelt Holdings Development Team) presented the overview of the Hayden Flour Mill project. The presentation included an overview of the following items:

- Team background
- Relevant projects
- Project vision
- Inspiration projects
- Activate and program
- View and Scale
- Art and Lighting
- Finance and partners
- Historic preservation
- Existing machines

Agenda Item 5 – Commission goals & Priorities

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza and Craig Hayton engaged the commission in discussion to further refine the Commission goals and priorities.

Outline for discussion:

- Commission goals
- Review prioritization of sub-goals (#1) from February meeting
- Finalize & prioritize (#1)
- Refine & prioritize goals #2-3
- Goal #4 (complete)
- Questions

Refine Commission Goals

1. Identify and establish partnerships. (What is missing? How should this be ordered?)

- Other Commissions: PRGDBC, Historic Preservation Commission, Sustainability & Resilience Commission, Tempe Transportation Commission
- Volunteer organizations: Keep Tempe Beautiful, Clean-up Papago, Site stewards, Scouts, Master Naturalist
- Government organizations: 4 Cultural Committee Tribes, City of Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona Forward, Game & Fish, Cooperative Extension Service
- Recreation community: Bike/BMX, fishing, running, hiking
- Ecological organizations: Audubon Society, Arizona Native Plant Society, CAZCA/Desert Defenders
- Tempe Organizations: Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Tempe Leadership, Downtown Tempe Authority, Tempe Tourism

-
- Service organizations: Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club
 - Organizations proximate or within preserves: ASU, SRP
 - Other groups/organizations: schools (community college/K-12) & education programs, religious organizations, Care 7

2. Increase awareness through education. (Groupings: signage, maps, programs, info kiosks, other?)

- Education awareness & accessibility
- Management planning process
- Have Resolution R2021.08 spark ideas
- Volunteerism (Stewardship idea)
- Information in water bill
- Loma del Rio needs work for education (signage is old and readable)
- Riparian areas (unique sub-zones w/in preserves)
- Interruptive programs – Preserve Manager
- Tempe 11 (suggest different programs)
- Maps that outlined and described the parameters of the preserve, connections points or links off the maps to other areas
- Technology - such as the use of cell phones
- Hike into history (schools)
- Signage (w/QR codes tied to specific elements like plants, history, etc.)
-
- Information center
- Maps of boundaries
- Historical and traditional uses of area and honor those uses (look up first boat/s location on Salt River)
- Data gathered to learn about native plants, species. How we conserve and remove the ones that are not native. Why native plants are so important.

3. Participate in planning and design efforts. (What does the Commission want to participate in?)

- Plans: within & outside preserves
- Design projects: within preserves
- Budget: CIP; operating & maintenance; grants
- Include recreation community
- Identify preserve users
- Tribal/indigenous communities
- Neighborhood associations
- County island community
- Parks police
- Parks maintenance
- Salt River Project – SRP
- Arizona State University – ASU

4. Identify appropriate uses and prioritize needs in alignment with the Commission's mission.

- Protect, restore and enhance existing assets (cultural, natural, historical, etc.).
- Promote native biodiversity and abundance, for example, through quality habitat.
- Promote use of native plants and removal of invasive species.
- Encourage cultural use and understanding of native plants and wildlife.

-
- Comprehensively map preserves, as needed, for appropriate internal and external uses.
 - Encourage and support appropriate community volunteer activities.
 - Add, maintain and update inclusive signage.

Agenda Item 6 – Operational Items

- Moeur Park improvements
 - a. Historic Preservation Commission Review – April 13, 2022
 - b. Plan Review, Permitting, Bidding, Council Approval – Spring/Summer 2022
 - c. Construction – Fall 2022

- Stinknet
 - a. Educate community (website)
 - b. 2022 Plan
 - c. Monitor (winter rains)
 - d. Map (what emerges)
 - e. Treat (chemically; non-glyphosate)
 - f. Map (what has been treated)

- Preserves Masterplan
 - a. Background:
 - i. Include both preserves
 - ii. Context, assessment, action plan & turn-key projects
 - iii. Focus on conservation & connection
 - iv. Commission member participation: Kim Gaffney-Loza, Shereen Lerner & Laura Stewart
 - b. Next step:
 - i. Scoping with a design firm (staff)

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

1. Clean up Papago
2. Desert Conservation Commission Goals

Agenda Item 9 - Upcoming Public Meetings & Announcements

- Next meeting is Tuesday, June 7 at 3:30 p.m.
- Boards and Commissions Appreciation Event, May 6 at 5 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Prepared by: Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant, (480) 858-2215

Reviewed by: Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation,
(480) 350-5234