



## Minutes Desert Conservation Commission April 4, 2023

**Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on April 4, 2023, 3:30 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  
Laura Stewart – Vice Chair  
Hassan Elsaad  
Donald Burt  
Shereen Lerner  
Jane Neuheisel  
Ricardo Juan Leonard  
Elba Quintero

**Members Absent:**

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic – Deputy Community Services Director – Parks and Recreation/Staff Liaison  
Tanya Chavez, Mayor and Council Chief of Staff

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

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

No Public Appearances

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

There was a Motion made by Donald Burt to approve the Feb. 7, 2023, meeting minutes.

Seconded: Kimberly Gaffney-Loza

Decision: Motion Approved, 8-0

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

Nays: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Absent: n/a

### **Agenda Item 3 – Earth Day Opportunities**

Alex Jovanovic provided an overview of Earth Day Opportunities. Alex indicated he will email the commission with the information. The activities included:

- April 6: ASU Sustainability Walking Tour
- April 11: ASU Colorado River/Water conservation speaker
- April 15: Monthly Park Cleanup – Papago Park (Keep Tempe Beautiful event)
- April 19: Annual Stormwater Workshop (water plant tour, stormwater pollution education)
- April 20: ASU Earth Festival
- April 22: Earth Day
  - eARTh night at TCA Gallery (eco-friendly art-making booths, live music and happy hour drinks) #TrashTag Cleanup – Tempe Town Lake (Keep Tempe Beautiful event)
  - ASU Earth Day celebration (live music, art)
  - Phoenix/Arizona Green Living community event
  - SRPMIC Earth Day community event Saturday, April 22. Commissioner Ricardo Juan Leonard provided additional details about the event and invites the commission to come out to the event.
- April 28: Arbor Day
- April 29: Zero Waste Day, Tempe Tree Plantings
- April 30: last day of paperless water bill \$500 visa gift card promotion AZ State

### **Agenda Item 4 – Earth Day Communication**

Vice Chair Laura Stewart engaged the commission in discussion about the possible approaches to get the word out about the Earth Day opportunities. Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza indicated that in the future the Desert Conservation Commission could work with the Sustainability Commission involving programming or providing educational opportunities in schools. This could be a future item to work on for next year. Commissioner Shereen Lerner said it is a great idea to develop programming and define goals. Kim asked if we could form committees for certain projects. It was agreed by the commission to add this topic as an agenda item and provide a lengthy amount of time (25-30 minutes) to have a discussion at an upcoming meeting.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Operational Items**

Alex Jovanovic provided an update on the following operational items:

- Moeur Park Improvements Update
- Stinknet
- Preserves Management Plan
- Hayden Ferry Days

### **Agenda Item 6 – Park Ranger Program**

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Park Ranger Program. Presentation included the following:

- Performance measure
- Data-driven opportunities
- Desert parks
- Mission & benefits
- Program & approach
- Tiered response
- Ranger functions

- Supplemental request
- In-process/next steps
- Questions

**Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

- Potential projects or contributions the commission can contribute towards
- Report on symposium on Stinknet (Kim)
- Historic Preservation Foundation – Logan Simpson, proposal study at Double Butte Cemetery

**Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Public Meetings & Announcements**

- Next meeting is Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.**

Prepared by: Tanya Chavez, Mayor and Council Chief of Staff, (480) 858-2215

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks and Recreation  
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