



## Minutes Desert Conservation Commission October 3, 2023

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on October 3, 2023, 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:**

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Chair  
Laura Stewart – Vice Chair  
Donald Burt  
Kelli Cholieu  
Hassan Elsaad  
Shereen Lerner  
Jane Neuheisel  
Elba Quintero

**Members Absent:**

Ricardo Juan Leonard

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks  
Alex Cortese, Community Services Manager  
Eric Iwersen, Sustainability and Resilience Director  
Erin Kirkpatrick, Community Services Manager  
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II  
Mercedes Payne, Community Services Manager

**Guests Present:**

Wayne Colebank, Logan Simpson  
John Southard, Logan Simpson

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

No Public Appearances

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

**August 1, 2023**

Motion by Shereen Lerner to approve the meeting minutes of August 1, 2023 as submitted; seconded by Elba Quintero. Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Vice-Chair Laura Stewart and commission members, Donald Burt, Kelli Cholieu, Hassan Elsaad, Shereen Lerner, Jane Neuheisel and Elba Quintero.

Absent: Ricardo Juan Leonard

### **Agenda Item 3 – Mill Avenue Streetscape- University Drive to Rio Salado Parkway Project**

Eric Iwersen presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Mill Avenue Streetscape- University Drive to Rio Salado Parkway Project. Presentation included the following:

- Council Priorities
- Stakeholders & staff team
- Schedule overview
- Project area
- Tempe's Culture & Art
- Streetscape concepts
  - Hardscape/sidewalk concepts
  - Street tree concepts
- Tree selection takeaways
- Next steps

### **Agenda Item 4 – Equity Study- Making Space**

Erin Kirkpatrick and Mercedes Payne presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Equity Study- Making Space. Presentation included the following:

- Overview of the Making Space project and timeline
- City priorities and plan principles
- How did we hear from the community?
- What questions did data help us to answer?
- How did we use this information?
- Navigating the StoryMaps
- Share your feedback

Staff to follow up and provide link to StoryMap- updated QR code and direct link, link to provide feedback/comments and contact information for Erin Kirkpatrick and Mercedes Payne.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Preserve Management Plan**

Wayne Colebank and John Southard from Logan Simpson presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Preserve Management Plan. Presentation included the following:

- Introductions
- Papago Preserves map
- Scope of work
  - Phase 1
    - Identify and assess:
      - Topography
      - Geology/soils
      - Drainage
      - Flora and fauna
      - Recreational amenities/use areas
    - Workshops #1, 2, 3 and 4
    - Class III survey

- Tribal outreach
  - Traditional cultural property (TCP) study
- Phase 2
  - Develop preserve management goals/metrics
    - Management goals
    - Qualitative and quantitative metrics
- Phase 3
  - Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs)
    - Formalize operating procedures/implementation
    - Responsible parties/staff training
- Phase 4
  - Near, medium, and long-term actions
    - Awareness
    - Improvements/modifications – including shovel-ready
    - Partnerships and funding
- Anticipated schedule
- Discussion/Questions

Workshop #1 will be held on 11/13, staff to send invite to Commission. Staff to provide stakeholder list used and PPT from meeting to Commission. Request for staff to provide copy of established Commission Goals & Priorities to Logan Simpson.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Operational Items**

Alex Jovanovic provided an update on the following operational items:

- Projects: Management Plan Ideas
  - Opportunity to submit related goals/ideas to have incorporated into process
- Commission Goals & Priorities
  - Annual report to review for approval at December meeting

Staff to follow up and send reminder for Commission to submit ideas by end of month to pass along to Logan Simpson.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

- Calendar 2024 meeting dates
- Commission Goals, Priorities & Annual Report

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Park Public Meeting Notices & Announcements**

- Preserve Management Plan- Workshop #1, Monday, November 13, 2023
- Next meeting is Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.**

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

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