

Minutes

Desert Conservation Commission Special Meeting- Work Session September 9, 2024

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission Special Meeting- Work Session held on September 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Pyle Adult Recreation Center- Conference Room, 655 E Southern Ave, 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
Nikki Amberg, Councilmember
Alex Cortese, Community Services Manager
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Laura Stewart.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

- Darlene Justus spoke regarding the history of the preserve area and provided a Papago Park Preserve handout.
- Challie Facemire spoke regarding conservation of flora and spider trails.

Agenda Item 2 – Preserve Management Plan Draft Review

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza provided additional history of preserve. Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Preserve Management Plan Draft Review. Presentation included the following:

- Preserve Management Plan
 - Preserve Purpose
 - Preserve means any real property designated by the City Council as a preserve.

- Purpose, to establish desert land as a habitat, protect historical resources and sites, provide appropriate public access.
 - Pristine state as possible.
 - Facilities or improvements necessary or appropriate to support City activities.
 - Limited traditional public park facilities or improvements.
 - Provide cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities.
 - Provide equestrian, pedestrian, and vehicular access.
 - Scope of Work
 - Identify and assess elements present in preserves (natural, cultural, rec, structural).
 - Management goals and success metrics
 - Best management practices
 - Action items; near, medium, long-term actions
 - Final MP document
- Preserve Management Plan – Draft Review
 - Draft Plan
 - Workshop/outreach info to be added from upcoming sessions.
 - Tribal consultation has yet to be incorporated.
 - Word format; formatting issues to be addressed in InDesign.
 - Pictures and maps to be added.
 - Review
 - Recommendations
 - Objective, implementation, and success criteria
 - Introduction & existing conditions

Commission reviewed the Draft Hayden Butte and Papago Preserves Management Plan, discussed, provided comments, edits, and additions to document. Commission to continue review at next meeting, starting under Improvements to The Preserves- Accessibility (page 29). Commission to review Funding and Partnering Opportunities and send directly to staff prior to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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

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