



Minutes Desert Conservation Commission February 1, 2022

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on February 1, 2022, 3:30 p.m., Meeting held virtually via Cisco WebEx Events.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Laura Stewart

City Staff Present:

Craig Hayton, Staff Liaison - Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation
Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant – Community Services Administration
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager
Erin Kirkpatrick, Parks Capital Improvement Project Coordinator

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Chair Shereen Lerner.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Public speaking appearance by Kelli Marie with Clean Up Papago organization to talk about clean-ups in Papago park.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

There was a Motion made by Donald Burt Dec. 7, 2021 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Shereen Lerner

Decision: Motion Approved, 6-0-2

Ayes: Aireona Raschke, Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Laura Stewart, Donald Burt and Erika Acorn

Nays: n/a

Abstain: Ricardo Juan Leonard and Elba Quintero

Absent: Laura Stewart

Agenda Item 3 – New Commission Member Introduction

New Commission Elba Quintero introduced herself to the commission.

Agenda Item 4 – Moeur Park Improvements Update

Erin Kirkpatrick, Parks Capital Improvement Project Coordinator, provided an update on the Moeur Park improvements. The presentation includes:

- Background
 - This project addresses ramada restoration, accessibility, lighting, and landscape improvements for Moeur Park.
 - Funded through SRPMIC grant & Parks CIP
 - Upper portion within Papago Preserve, lower portion is not.
- Project Update
 - At 90% Construction Drawings with AZTEC
 - Landscape includes desert plantings on hillside, trees in turf.
 - Drinking fountain, lighting, and accessibility to upper ramadas.
- Timeline
 - Final Comment Resolution – January 25, 2022
 - Historic Preservation Commission Review – March 9, 2022
 - Plan Review, Permitting, Bidding, Council Approval – Spring/Summer 2022
 - Construction – Fall 2022
- Questions & Input

Agenda Item 5 – Preserves Management Plan

Craig Hayton provided an update on the Preserves Management Plan. The presentation included:

- Background:
 - Include both preserves
 - Context, assessment, action plan & turn-key projects
 - Focus on conservation & connection
 - Calendar year 2022
- Recently completed:
 - Project charter submitted
 - Project has been assigned to Engineering Project Manager
- Next step:
 - Scoping with a design firm (staff)
- Today's request:
 - Seeking Commission member(s) participation in planning process staff committee. Commissioner Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza expressed interest. Craig Hayton indicated at the last meeting Laura Steward indicated she was interested as well.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Goals & Priorities

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

Outline for discussion:

- Commission goals
- Review prioritization of sub-goals (#4) from December meeting
- Refine & prioritize goals #1-3
- Open discussion

Commission Goals include:

1. Identify and establish partnerships.

- What
 - Participate in planning process
 - Volunteer support
- How
 - Via letter/s for management planning process
 - Introductory letters
 - Social media, etc.
- Who
 - Ecological
 - Audubon Society- (What is in the preserve)
 - Commissions:
 - Historic Preservation Commission
 - Sustainability Commission
 - Transportation Commission
 - Tempe Organizations
 - Tempe Chamber (business community)
 - Tempe Leadership/ Tempe Youth Leadership
 - Organizations located within the preserves
 - ASU
 - SRP
 - Regional/State
 - Arizona Forward
 - CAZCA
 - City of Phoenix
 - Maricopa County
 - Other
 - Schools & Education Programs
 - Religious organizations
 - Care 7
 - Service Organizations
 - Rotary Club
 - Kiwanis Club
 - Volunteers –
 - Keep Tempe Beautiful
 - Clean Up Papago
 - Site steward program
 - Tempe Cares
 - Scouts
 - Recreation Community

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- Bike/BMX
2. Increase awareness through education.
 - Education awareness & accessibility
 - Management planning process
 - Have Resolution R2021.08 spark ideas
 - Volunteerism (Stewardship ideas)
 - 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
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 - 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
 - Map of boundaries
 - Historical and traditional uses of area and honor those uses
 - 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.
 - Plans: within & outside preserves
 - Budget: CIP; operating & maintenance; grants
 - Design: within preserves
 - 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
2. Identify appropriate uses and prioritize needs.
 - Review prioritization of sub-goals (#4) from December meeting
 - 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 7 – Operational Items

- Stinknet
 - Monitor (winter rains)
 - Map (what emerges)
 - Treat (chemically; non-glyphosate)
 - Map (what has been treated)
- Volunteer Efforts

Keep Tempe Beautiful has some upcoming volunteer events:

 - Feb. 19: LoPiano Park
 - April 16: LoPiano Park
 - Nov. 18: LoPiano Park
 - Dec. 17L Hayden Butte
- Artwork Vandalism

Craig Hayton provided an update on artwork vandalism happening in Papago Park.
Information includes:

 - Installed (2010)
 - coLAB Studio – “Extraordinarily Common”
 - 4 bronze creosote sculptures
 - Public art
 - Evelyn Hallman Park, near College & McKellips
 - Stolen (January 2021)
 - Replaced (September 2021)
 - Damaged (October 2021)

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

1. Point in time count
2. Management Planning Process
3. New Historic Preservation Officer introduction to the commission
4. Council involvement with commissions

Agenda Item 9 - Upcoming Public Meetings & Announcements

- Next meeting is Tuesday, June 7 at 3:30 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,
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