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## Landscape Advisory Committee

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### Minutes of Meeting January 18, 2023 Virtual Teams Meeting

*Pursuant to safe practices during the COVID 19 pandemic, all in-person public meetings are cancelled until further notice. This meeting will be held virtually to allow for healthy practices and social distancing. All materials related to the agenda items will be distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. Meeting materials will also be presented as part of the virtual meeting.*

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**Members Present:** Nichole Casebeer (arr 7 min late), Darbi Davis, Rebeca Field, Alison Meadow, Jenni Moscato, Ron van Ommeren, Flor Sandoval, Kasy Schug, Nick Shipley,

**Members Absent:** Eli Nielsen,

**Guests/Staff Speaker:** Nicole Gillett, CMO; David Marhefka, DTM; GeeGee Larrington, Beyond Pesticides; Irene Ogata, TW

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by R.van Ommeren; verbal roll call – 8 members present, quorum (N.Casebeer arrived after role call).

#### 2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- Motion to approve October 19, 2022 minutes and Legal Action Report. Motion for approval of Oct. 19, 2022 minutes by F.Sandoval, second by R.Field; motion passed: verbal aye/approved=8, no=0, abstain=0

#### 3. Discussion

- A. Blue Palo Verde Moratorium Discussion: R.van Ommeren provided update on discussion w/ Dr. Ursula Schuch and Judith Brown on research and findings; PCR testing showing RNA presence; best if testing done in batches, cost benefits; can accommodate up to 95 samples at a time; most effective time to test – when leaves present on trees; some plants may have virus but asymptomatic; due to grant, current testing free to commercial growers; Foothills, Palo Brea and Desert Museum not show symptoms, found in Mexican Palo Verdes; virus can be transmitted via seeds; vector is mites; mites concentrate on broom portion of trees growers should be cautious where they get seeds from; funds for testing available through 2024

Discussion: what does it mean to lift moratorium; affects only city properties; obtain trees from nurseries that have voluntarily tested; serious growers will look to test annually; lifting moratorium – adding Blue Palo Verde back on to selection list (to an already limited palette); contractors need to guarantee stock for 3 years (tho currently city has been down to 2 yr guarantee); staff should be able to spot within one growing season, if broom present; contract spec's to add replacement if tree shows symptoms within establishment period; what would special provision look like, certain nurseries that are testing be on the approved purchase list; will continue discussion regarding special provisions – what will be spelled out. Motion: by R.Field to lift moratorium contingent on proof of neg test of random sampling of nursery growing stock within last 12 months, withdrawn, pending further discussion on special provisions. Continue discussion in Feb. meeting. No Action.

- B. Meet & Greet Tucson Water Director (4 p.m.) – not present
  - C. LAC member open position(s): Educator position; currently no applicants.
  - D. LAC Committee Ad Hoc Committee Updates:
    - Tucson Plant List: E.Nielsen not present; no subsequent meetings have been held; members have received spreadsheet for plant considerations
  - E. City Updates:
    - N.Gillett: TEP franchise public meeting tonight; tree inventory started, with remote sensing to get sense of coverage, will be followed by on the ground inventory; Action Plan is being internally reviewed, will bring to LAC for review and support
    - D.Marhefka: DTM: Downtown Links almost complete; Broadway has not started establishment period; Houghton has some ponding issues; several streets in design – Grant, Valencia, Silverbell, Roger Rd will be going out to bid end of this year.
4. Chairperson’s Summary of Current Events:
- No current events
  - Climate Action Plan out for review – link dropped into chat
5. Call to Audience (time permitting):GGLarrington-Parks and organic specialists working on fungi inoculation; request update from Sean at Parks.
6. Future Agenda Items:
- Blue Palo Verde Moratorium
  - Tucson Plant List
  - LAC open position for Education Representative
  - Urban Forest Action Plan Presentation & Endorsement
7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm