



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting March 15, 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.

Members Present: Nichole Casebeer, Darbi Davis, Alison Meadow (2 min. late), Jenni Moscato, Flor Sandoval, Kasy Schug, Nick Shipley,

Members Absent: Rebeca Field, Ron van Ommeren

Guests/Staff Speaker: John Kmiec, Director Tucson Water; Nicole Gillett, CMO; Erin Posthumus, USFS; Irene Ogata, TW

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by D.Davis; verbal roll call – 6 members present, quorum (A.Meadow arrived after role call).

2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- Motion to approve January 18, 2023 minutes and Legal Action Report. Motion for approval of January 18, 2023 minutes by N.Casebeer, with amendment to add approval of Legal Action Report for 1/18/2023 second by F.Sandoval; no discussion; motion passed: verbal aye/approved=7, no=0, abstain=0

3. Discussion

- A. Blue Palo Verde Moratorium Discussion: summary by N.Shipley; sample once a year not full proof all stock will be virus-free, but a start; routine inspection by 3rd party – currently UA Cooperative Extension can test commercial nurseries for free; if nurseries are testing, exhibits some seriousness of situation by grower; start by lifting the moratorium
- Discussion: testing to exhibit grower is growing stock with no indication of virus; begin by lifting moratorium and city agencies to purchase from nurseries that have tested; potentially add into contract, maybe have an approved vendor's list; sample to be taken once/yr; Desert Hort can be venue/good platform to keep professionals updated, what are best practices, how to get onto an approved vendor list, or to have a specific course (maybe ask J.Barba to add to upcoming course ID); potentially have other Dept's list who approved vendors have been accepted; what would be strategy to lift moratorium – what would be baseline; vendor approval based on testing, will be somewhat self-selecting based on if nursery testing; purchase from vendor would be up to PM overseeing installation; need to provide some sort of policy regarding review and acceptance of plants from approved vendor list (how to ensure if new person reviewing understands requirement) – where to house the policy need to be explored; some responsibility may be incorp into procurement, so PM on city-side is aware of requirement; maybe Civano host a tour of how Civano protocol is being instituted – share information with other growers; keep discussion going on what entails 'approved testing'

Motion: by N.Shipley to lift moratorium contingent on proof of neg test of random sampling of nursery growing stock within last 12 months to be on the approved vendor list, 2nd by Kasy Schug; discussion – future LAC discussion to what entails ‘approved testing.’ Motion passed 7=aye, 0=no; 0=abstained

- B. Meet & Greet Tucson Water Director (4 p.m.) – self-introduced; has been in the water business, was last Director for Marana Water; came to TW in 2019 as Deputy Director; exciting Tucson is a national leader utilizing recycle water; Tucson Water supports direction of water conservation – Desert Dwellers campaign, being a responsible desert homeowner, using right plant and water source; Discussion – CAP allocations being discussed, how TW will manage resources will be discussed with CWAC and Mayor and Council; Pima Mine Rd facility will continue to operate as it is; OneWater Summit (US Water Alliance) to be held in Tucson Nov 14-16 at Starr Pass, national water conference, inviting members if interested in attending
 - C. Urban Forest Action Plan: N.Gillett – place on agenda for April, will send out action plan and tree standards prior to April meeting; this is separate from Climate Action Plan
 - D. LAC member open position(s): Educator position still not filled; also Eli Nielson resigned – so Landscape Contractor position open.
 - E. LAC Committee Ad Hoc Committee Updates:
 - Tucson Plant List: no updates
 - F. City Updates: Tree Inventory happening; if anyone would like to follow the data collectors, let Nicole know
4. Chairperson’s Summary of Current Events:
 - Desert Horticulture Conference, May 5th, in-person meetings at El Conquistador
 - March 27th, Professional Grounds Maintenance (GPM) conference, UArizona, Student Union
 - Shades of Urban Greening Symposium, April 3 at ENR2 (Flor will send IOgata registration information)
 - May workshops being planned by SERI
 5. Call to Audience (time permitting): Erin Posthumus – articles (NYTimes, Washington Post), about the National Phrenology Network pointed out by A.Meadow (added link to Washington Post)
 6. Future Agenda Items:
 - Blue Palo Verde testing protocol
 - OneWater Plan update
 - Urban Forest Plan
 7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm