



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting April 19, 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, Rebeca Field, Darbi Davis, Alison Meadow, Ron van Ommeren, Nick Shipley,

Members Absent: Jenni Moscato, Flor Sandoval, Kasy Schug

Guests/Staff Speaker: Nicole Gillett, CMO; Ann Audrey, consultant; Eric Dhruv, Ironwood Tree Experience; Petr Chylik, BrightView; GeeGee Larington; Irene Ogata, TW

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by R.van Ommeren; verbal roll call – 6 members present, quorum

2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- Motion to approve March 15, 2023 minutes; with scribner correction item 6-“Phenology,” no ‘r’; and Legal Action Report. Motion for approval of March 15, 2023 minutes by D.Davis, second by R.Field; no discussion; motion passed: verbal aye/approved=6, no=0, abstain=0

3. Discussion

- A. Urban Forest Action Plan: Lead Nicole Gillett, presentation by Anne Audrey; this is final draft for comments; copy sent to LAC prior along with plant list; program shaped around Tree Equity; 15% canopy; Plant water, plant tree; be smart with tree placement; choose climate ready trees; maintenance; outreach; inventory; resources; internal city review has occurred, 5/5 will be external review period; send comments to Nicole Gillett; would like action on this plan at next meeting; A.Audrey assumption = looked at LAC subcommittee plant list (that has not been completed), has been working on AZ & NM climate resilient plant list; included list of tree/shrub – tall shrubs that cast some shade, important for R.O.W.; smaller shrubs important in urban environment; natural range included for all, and elevation for larger shrubs & trees; would be helpful to have input from nurseries; what is intent of end document, seems more like a community outreach tool; most important feedback = what is on list that should not, or what is not on list that should be; this is a ‘suggested’ list, focus on native and near-natives; ADWR list has a lot of non-natives; this will be a helpful outreach tool; audience is anyone who will engage with city projects; N.Shipley – review Sweet Acacia, around Tucson after dry summer, they stress out and do not hold up; they can also be aggressive and take over site; if have comments, can get into next revised version;
- B. Blue Palo Verde Testing Discussion: Moratorium was lifted at last meeting; need to provide direction/recommendations for annual testing by nurseries; not sure who would approve a vendor list; city may not be ready to put out an ‘approved’ vendor list; it may be self-selecting and vendors identify

themselves as testing; will get memo out to ANA about testing of trees required for City properties; growers in Phoenix may not understand situation, next step is to get information out to growers; next steps – moratorium has been lifted by LAC, recommendation that if purchasing Blues, nurseries need to be testing stock; should LAC be recommending a protocol (i.e., how often nurseries should be test, sample size); next meeting – Civano will send members their protocol, this is all new information so protocol may change as new information discovered, grower should be able to present their mitigation plan to the city

- C. LAC open member positions: 2 positions = Educator and Contractor; meet and greet with Petr Chylik and Eric Dhruv; P.Chylik open to join forces with LAC if I can be of assistance, passion is trees, and arborist, but also working in one of the largest landscape contractors; Eric passion for the Sonoran Desert community, had excellent mentors about the natural environment. Will continue next month.
- D. LAC Ad Hoc Committee Updates: No Updates.
- E. City Updates:
 - Urban Forester gave update
 - No other updates
4. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events:
 - Desert Horticulture Conference, May 5th, in-person meetings at El Conquistador
 - May workshop by SERI, Maybe Rainwater Harvesting workshops
 - LAC members, if interested in accompanying field work with Davey Trees; about 1/3 way through, let Nicole Gillett know
5. Call to Audience (time permitting): GeeGee Larrington- Sam Hughes neighborhood working with WestConsultants on weed management for Himmel Park; waiting for tour of their Red Rock operation; 2 city fields pilot with Beyond Pesticide and Osborne Consultants, waiting for monsoon; not much support for fields (vs trees), 2 organic playing fields being tested
6. Future Agenda Items:
 - LAC position recommendations
 - Blue Palo Verde testing protocol – N.Shipley
 - OneWater Plan update – postpone to June
 - Urban Forest Plan – additional comments
 - Potential to remove irrigation on streetscapes
 - Short list of project not on irrigation
 - Heidi Brown & Bo Yang: CLIMAS (Parks and Rec on Green Space mapping)
7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm