



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting September 20, 2023 Hybrid Meeting (In-person & Virtual)

This was a hybrid meeting: In-person at Tucson Water Administrative Building, 310 W Alameda Ave, 3rd Floor West Conference Room; Virtual had a Teams link. All available materials related to the agenda items will be posted on the City Clerk's page: BCC listings, Landscape Advisory Committee [https://www.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards?board=44].

Members Present: Petr Chylik, Darbi Davis, Eric Dhruv, Rebeca Field (logged on 3:45 pm), Alison Meadow (arrived 3:38 pm), Jenni Moscato, Ron van Ommeren, Nick Shipley

Members Absent: Nichole Casebeer, Flor Sandoval, Kasy Schug

Guests/Staff Speaker: Nicole Gillett, CMO; Xochitl Coronado-Vargas, TW; 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 present (A.Meadow arrived at 3:38 p.m.)

2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- Approve June 21, 2023 minutes and Legal Action Report; motion to approve by R.vanOmmeren, second by D.Davis; no discussion; motion passed: verbal aye/approved=7, no=0, abstain=0

3. Discussion

Welcome to 2 new members: Eric Dhruv, Educator and Petr Chylik, Landscape Contractor.

- A. Blue Palo Verde Protocol: N.Shipley recapped discussion with U.Schuch and J.Brown from UArizona Ag-Extension; establishing/requiring nurseries to have growing protocol for Blue Palo Verde; potential for City of Tucson to request nursery protocol and/or developing an approved list of growers based on their protocol; Committee recommendation – have City look at LAC recommendation of what should be included in nursery growing protocol for Blue Palo Verde; motion by J.Moscato, second by D.Davis.; motion passed – yes=7; no=0; abstain=0
- B. RWH rebate update (metric collection): presented by I.Ogata: basic calculations now required for RWH rebate – explanation of built-in calculator; better metric estimates of RWH volumetric capture by earthworks; discussion of positive movement to install earthworks and removal of cap on earthworks to encourage more basin development
- C. LAC ad hoc committees: no new development from Plant List Committee: re-confirming members interested to be involved: Darbi Davis, Nichole Casebeer, Rebeca Fields, Jenny Moscato, Eric Dhruv
- D. City Updates: (i) from N.Gillette: implementing Tree Action Plan, 6 month next steps; Awarded IRA grant of \$5M that includes multiple partnership – workforce development, equity, maintenance, training; have not spoken with USDA as yet regarding award, current budget is set; potential for committee input if action plan changes in next iteration (ii) X.Coronado-Vargas: 3 projects under construction – Ironwood Horse Park, Neighborhood Center El Rio, Ward 1 targeting celebration in Dec, Lora Lyndon Park off

Escalante, stormwater into parking lot landscape with curb cuts; working with contractors on how to install GSI, involving contractors with training/learning opportunities by teaming new contractors with companies that are experienced with installation; maintenance contract have landscape contractors with experience and/or have gone through Smartscape program; but may need to expand workforce

4. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events:
 - Urban Heat Island Workshop coming in late Oct/early Nov; teaming with CLIMAS; will be hybrid with in-person located at UArizona
 - Master Gardners and Tohono Chul will be having plant sales (? Dates)
5. Call to Audience (time permitting): GeeGee Larrington-having staff changes at Parks and StonyField grant has lost some staff continuity; John Bonillas is new superintendent; Parks trying new type of turf; West Consultant working with Parks on control of goat heads at Himmel Park, they are also working on new GSI at Gunny Berreras Park; still waiting to tour facility in Red Rock
6. Future Agenda Items:
 - Tree loss due to storm – maintenance vs climate (Darbi has info)
 - Blue Palo Verde growing protocol
 - Plant List
 - Urban Forestry Action Plan implementation
 - Stonyfield grant status (?Mike Hayes)
 - Irrigation removal from installation plans
7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm