



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting December 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, Rebeca Field, Alison Meadow, Jenni Moscato, Kasy Schug, Nick Shipley
Members Absent: Darbi Davis, Eric Dhruv, Nichole Casebeer, Ron van Ommeren Flor Sandoval
Guests/Staff Speaker: Nicole Gillett, CMO; Ben Tully, UArizona Ag Extension; John Bonillas, Parks; Irene Ogata, TW

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m. by I.Ogata; verbal roll call – 6 members present, quorum present

2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- Approve October 18, 2023 minutes and Legal Action Report; motion to approve by Kasy Schug, second by R.Field; no discussion; motion passed: verbal aye/approved=6, no=0, abstain=0

3. Discussion

- A. Urban Forestry Action Plan implementation update: Update by N.Gillett; tree inventory re-started after summer hiatus, hope to be done by March; Tree Standards being circulated through departments, roll out in 2024, accountability of contractors and staff; update of land use code, will ask assistance from LAC, several sections of Code, chapter 16 & 25 main sections (maybe LAC subcommittee); update outreach materials that have to do with trees; 2025 will be Year of Tree
- B. Invasive Plant Species: Sonoran Desert Enemy #1: Ben Tully self-introduced, Invasive Species Outreach Educator for Pima County Cooperative Extension; recapped specific issues here; funded largely via PC Natural Resource Parks & Recreation; most prominent – (1) buffelgrass, (2) Fountain grass, both buffelgrass & fountain grass fuels fires (3) stinknet, winter annual, widespread in Phoenix, smaller area in Tucson, 'Report it and Pull it'; does presentations in multiple outlets; collaborates with Desert Museum, National Park Service, Watershed Mgmt, Tucson Clean & Beautiful; challenge #1: landscaper knowledge; #2: not enough contractors for wildlands; references for stinknet & buffelgrass, will send references to share with landscape industry
- C. StonyField Grant: John Bonillas self introduced, parks superintendent, from AAA – Director of Landscape Management; getting up-to-speed with grant for application of organic chemicals back in 2022; 3-4 applications on the plot, only 1 or 2 soil samples taken; looking to pick up intention of the grant; Parks & Rec in Tempe has also been working on a StonyField grant, checking if there may be someone from Tempe who may be able to present
- D. LAC membership: 4 members have come to term October 2023: Ron van Ommeren, Alison Meadow, Rebeca Field, Kasy Schug; Rebeca and Kasy agreed for 2nd term, Flor was not re-appointed for 2nd term;

motion to recommend appointment 3 members for re-appointment by Petr, 2nd by Jenny, no discussion, motion passes unanimously; N.Casebeer now works for Pima County; email list of open positions to LAC crew; Alison can remain on LAC till find new person if she can make it; new ruling – quorum based on number of folks currently appointed

E. LAC Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- Blue Palo Verde growing protocol update: D.Marhefka and I have met and drafted a protocol; may begin planting some trees
- Plant List: committee has not met, creation of a plant list that is Tucson specific; there are folks who have volunteered; target audience = city-wide recommendation, a guideline, not mandatory, that can be used by homeowners, HOAs to be more aware of plants for this region, also consider plants for climate readiness; this list can be as comprehensive/have as much information as the subcommittee would like to work on; DTM looking for plant list that can be planted on top of water line (root depth); IO send out old ADWR plant list; Nicole suggesting locational appropriateness (i.e., under power lines, parks, R.O.W.s, etc); value will be for list to be as accessible as possible; this information is important

F. City Updates: no city staff present for updates

4. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events:

- AZ Tree Climbing Championship in Reid Park in March 2024 – updates to come
- Desert Horticulture Conference May 2024

5. Call to Audience (time permitting): no audience

6. Future Agenda Items:

- Tree loss due to storm – invite Juan Barba & Petr Chylik for informational discussion on summer storm damage
- Blue Palo Verde growing protocol – include D. Marhefka
- Stonyfield grant – invite Tempe Parks progress
- Election for new LAC Vice-Chair

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm