



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting February 21, 2024
Hybrid Meeting (In-person & Virtual)

This was a hybrid meeting: In-person at Parks Administration, 900 S. Randolph Way, Mesquite 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: Nichole Casebeer, Petr Chylik, Eric Dhruv, Jenni Moscato, Flor Sandoval, Kasy Schug, Nick Shipley

Members Absent: Rebeca Field, Darbi Davis

Guests/Staff Speaker: Nicole Gillett, Stephen Addison, CMO; Juan Barba, Consulting Arborist; Irene Ogata, TW

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m. by I.Ogata; verbal roll call – 7 members present, quorum present

2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- Approve December 20, 2023 minutes and Legal Action Report (January 17, 2023 meeting canceled); motion to approve by J.Moscato, second by P.Chylik; no discussion; motion passed: verbal aye/approved=7, no=0, abstain=0

3. Discussion

- A. COT Standards and Best Practices for Trees: Presentation by Stephen Addison and Nicole Gillett; internal roll-out; creating city care standards (vs ANSI); basic care of trees based on industry standards and specific to desert environments; all care based on start as containerized trees; March-April roll-out to Ward offices; Discussion – currently not covering palm care; suggestion to think of community outreach/education in this roll-out. No action.
- B. Storm Damage of Trees: Discussion with ISA arborists Petr Chylik, Kasy Schug and Juan Barba; Education and information very important that can offset damage/lawsuits; climate change has affected frequency of microbursts; storms will affect pruned/unpruned trees; pro-active care is important: documentation, setting budgets, implementing care practices; collaboration of city w/ TEP important for customers to understand challenges; K.Schug provided short videos; TEP-COT coordinate newsletter topics: May/Jun summer-storm/wildfire season; suggestion to add risk assessment in tree standards; standards do not address structural pruning; be aware there will be failures, be aware of structural pruning and most trees will withstand 30-40 mph winds above 40 is dangerous. No action.
- C. LAC membership: No new applicants at this time for Ecologist or Urban Planner/Architect. Motion to elevate Vice-Chair Darby Davis to Chair by K.Schug, second by E.Dhruv; no discussion; motion passed 7- aye, 0-nay, 0-abstain. Will hold off election of new Vice-Chair till next meeting.
- D. Ad Hoc Committee Updates
 - Blue Palo Verde growing protocol update: discussion postponed to next meeting

- Plant List: no recent activities
- E. City Updates: no city staff present for updates
4. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events:
- AZ Tree Climbing Championship in Reid Park in March 15-17, 2024
 - Landscape Expo, March 15, Ag-Extension Parking Lot off Campbell
 - Desert Horticulture Conference May 10, 2024
 - River Research Days, April 24-26, Sonoran Institute
5. Call to Audience (time permitting): no audience
6. Future Agenda Items:
- Landscape Maintenance
 - Blue Palo Verde growing protocol
 - Vice Chair Selection
 - Trees transpiring at night (ask Ursula)
7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm