



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting February 18, 2026 Virtual Meeting

This was a Virtual meeting with 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: Darbi Davis, Teresa Dekoker, Rebeca Field, Kasy Schug, Jenny Moscato, Ryan Stevenson, Bo Yang

Members Absent: Petr Chylik, Flor Sandoval

Guests/Staff: Amy Martin, PC NPN; Leslie Ethan, COT PDSO; Irene Ogata, TW

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. Minutes and LAR for Approval

- January 21, 2026 LAR + Minutes; Motion to approve both LAR and Minutes by R.Field, second by J.Moscato; no further discussion. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion passed

3. Discussion

- A. Tree Watering: Bo Yang, UA CAPLA presentation: background – climate issue & water shortages; provide smart watering procedures; have many resources available, this is applied research; grant from Regents Grant; Objective – (1) assess technologies, (2) quantify water savings, (3) other performance benefits; description of methodology at UA Campbell campus; control baseline – current city practice; 4 tree species, 8 each in north & south location (48 total trees); post 2 years – can utilize 50% less water use, other than oak, no mortality, increased growth; water focus – sensors below ground, 2023 pic. Illustrates good tree growth, irrigation mimicking handwatering; use of hydrogels as alternative watering – mixed into soil; Mar-Aug higher application; excavated one tree root to examine root development; developing resources to summarize study. Discussion: plan to see how RWH basin only performs; open to explore ideas (drip w/ basins; basin can increase soil moisture by 6%); site is open and can give tours to those interested; all data on dashboard, including tree growth data; question if how nursery grows trees affects growth during research; question of ag soil vs construction soil, does grouping of plants affect growth; still recording tree growth – with no irrigation. No action..
- B. Meet & Greet Amy Martin, potential LAC Ecologist/Wildlife Habitat Specialist: LAC members self-introduced themselves; Amy self-introduced self; interesting position to serve community; arborists since 2013, also Tree Risk & Trac Qualification; manager of PC Native Plant Nursery, 2021; worked with Civano nursery for 5 years; has worked in various roles within this field; currently getting bachelor degree from UA; spare time – play guitar in a band. Motion to recommend Amy Martin as Ecologist/Wildlife Habitat Specialist for appointment by Mayor and Council – by K.Schug, second by T.Dekoker; no further discussion. Motion passed: yes=7, no=0, abstain=0.
- C. Amend LAC By-Laws: postponed to March meeting.
- D. Review Plant List: review regulatory process vs non-regulatory (guidelines); move to keep as guidelines (not regulatory – can recommend regulatory later); R.Field expressed Guidelines seemed more the intent

when began list; Next steps – share list with others for review, and where to house the list; R.Stephenson also lean toward guidelines for now, need to explain difference and why this list, start with guidelines, administrative, then maybe regulatory; this list appropriate for urban areas, some of non-native plants may not be appropriate for edges, less urban area; group does not feel it needs to be regulatory; this is important work and LAC needs to get the list in front of others. Next steps: need more process planning to propose as GUIDELINE: (i) clean up list (excel sheet – io), (ii) what is format – maybe pdf, booklet with link for download, (iii) which COT website, (iv) have non-editable version to pass around to Ward office.

E. City Updates: N.Gillett currently, at this time, having informational meeting for Tree Care City-wide RFP. No action.

4. Chairperson’s Summary of Current:

- Cyclovia – Sunday April 12, 2026: Downtown to Amphi, 9 a.m to 3 p.m. (4th & Fontana Ave.)
- SURGE meetings: opportunities to provide ideas (Sonoran Urban Resilience & Green Infrastructure Exchange)
 - Nichole Casebeer & Matt Luther overseeing program
 - March 18, 2026: 1:30 -3 p.m. brownbag: Bo Yang & Team sharing Tree Watering Research
- Palo Verde Festival: Sat. March 28: Kino Sports Complex, Hispanic Chamber sponsoring
- PC NPN tour tomorrow – sponsored by AzASLA southern section
- Landscape Architecture coordination team next week to re-accredit Landscape program

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

6. Future Agenda Items:

- Plant List
- By-Laws

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 4:57 pm