



Minutes Desert Conservation Commission June 6, 2023

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on June 6, 2023, 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ. and virtually through Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Chair
Donald Burt
Kelli Cholieu
Shereen Lerner
Jane Neuheisel
Elba Quintero

Members Absent:

Laura Stewart – Vice Chair
Hassan Elsaad
Ricardo Juan Leonard

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks
Evelyn Brumfield, Sustainability and Resilience Program Coordinator
Andrea Escobar, Sustainability and Resilience Program Coordinator
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II
Gabriel Sabori, Community Services Supervisor- Maintenance and Operations

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No Public Appearances

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2023

Motion by Jane Neuheisel to approve the meeting minutes of April 4, 2023 as submitted; seconded by Donald Burt. Motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Kimberly Gaffney-Loza and commission members, Donald Burt, Kelli Cholieu, Shereen Lerner, Jane Neuheisel and Elba Quintero.

Absent: Vice-Chair Laura Stewart and commission members Hassan Elsaad and Ricardo Juan Leonard.

Agenda Item 3 – New Commission Member & Introductions

New commission member Kelli Cholieu was welcomed, and introductions were provided.

Agenda Item 4 – Operational Items

Alex Jovanovic provided an update on the following operational items:

- Moeur Park Improvements Update
- Stinknet
- SRPMIC Cultural Sensitivity Training
- Arizona Site Steward Program

Agenda Item 5 – Preserves Management Plan

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Preserves Management Plan. Presentation included the following:

- Preserve Management Plan
 - Logan Simpson proposal
 - Prioritize
 - Turnkey projects
- Phases (4)
 - Identify, inventory, asses
 - Goals and metrics
 - Best management practices
 - Near, medium, & long-term actions
- Next steps
 - Finalize scope through engineering team
 - Contract approval
 - Approximately 14 months' timeline
 - Concurrent phases
 - DCC presentations; months 2 & 14
- Questions

Staff to let commission know when going to regular council meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Park Ranger Program Update

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Park Ranger Program Update. Presentation included the following:

- Update overview
- Performance Measure
- Data-driven opportunities
- Desert parks
- Mission, program & approach
- Tiered response
- Ranger functions
- Updates
- Questions

Staff will come back to the commission with additional information as the program moves forward.

Agenda Item 7 – Park Monument Signs

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on Park Monument Signs. Presentation included the following:

- Presentation overview
- Existing signage
 - Overview
 - Condition assessments
 - Challenges
- Replacement options
- Public input
- Public preferences
- Considerations
- Recommendations
- Questions

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Upcoming 2023 Annual Report
- Apple snails
- Horse tunnel under Curry Road
 - Lighting
 - Road coming through
- Add graffiti art of Native American history
- Possible guest speaker, Weed Stinknet specialist from University of Arizona John Scheuring
- Addressing spider trails and better signing- QR codes
- Replanting efforts for second jump park for plants destroyed or removed

Agenda Item 9 – Upcoming Public Meeting Notices & Announcements

- Next meeting is Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II, (480) 350-8352

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks, (480) 350-5811