



## Minutes Desert Conservation Commission June 7, 2022

**Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on June 7, 2022, 3:32 p.m., Meeting held in person at the Tempe Public Library (3500 S. Rural Rd., Library Board Room) and virtually via Microsoft Teams.**

**Members Present:**

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Chair  
Erika Acorn – Vice Chair  
Donald Burt  
Jane Neuheisel  
Elba Quintero  
Ricardo Juan Leonard  
Laura Stewart  
Aireona Raschke

**Members Absent:**

Shereen Lerner

**City Staff Present:**

Craig Hayton, Staff Liaison - Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation  
Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant – Community Services Administration  
Maria Laughner, Deputy Economic Development Director  
Erin Kirkpatrick, Community Services Manager

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

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

No Public Appearances

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

There was a Motion made by Donald Burt to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Jane Neuheisel

Decision: Motion Approved, 7-0-2-1

Ayes: Jane Neuheisel, Laura Stewart, Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Donald Burt, Erika Acorn, Ricardo Juan Leonard and Elba Quintero

Nays: n/a

Abstain – Ricardo Juan Leonard

Absent: Shereen Lerner

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### **Agenda Item 3 – General Plan 2050 Technical Advisory Group**

Craig Hayton provided additional information on the General Plan 2050 Technical Advisory Group. He provided a brief overview of the group and the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the group. Craig asked if any commissioners were willing to serve as a Desert Conservation Commission representative. He would like a primary and secondary commissioner to serve. Commissioner would report back to the group and take feedback to technical advisory group as well.

Jane Neuheisel is interested but may have a conflict of interest. Elba Quintero indicated she is willing to be the back-up. There was a motion by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to appoint Jane Neuheisel as the Desert Conservation Commission representative and Jane Elba Quintero as the alternate. Donald Burt seconded the motion.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Clean Up Papago Introduction**

Marion Cholieu with Clean Up Papago provide information about the local nonprofit that started in April 2022 to keep Papago Park and preserve and its surroundings free of litter; maintain and enhance Papago trail system; and educate trail users about “leave no trace” practices by engaging them in community events

Clean up Papago organizes monthly clean-ups and major clean-ups encompassing the entire preserve two to three times a year. Pillars of action include keeping the desert clean and maintaining our local trails. The organization is interested in working with City Officials to improve signage in the Papago area. Additional information can be found at, [www.cleanuppapago.org](http://www.cleanuppapago.org).

### **Agenda Item 5 – Tempe Butte Trailhead**

Maria Laughner (Deputy – Economic Development Director) introduced Peter Buseck, Private Citizen to provide a presentation on a possible public/private partnership for the Hayden Flour Mill project. The presentation included an overview of how to create a beautiful, educational, public park on the west side of Tempe Butte. The goal is to create a landscape plan that helps protect and beautify Tempe Butte by using Tribal traditions and indigenous plants. A synopsis of the presentation included:

- A public park next to downtown Tempe is a unique opportunity to:
- Honor indigenous history, culture, and traditions
- Facilitate botanical and cultural education, including signs in English & O’Odham
- Show the glory of desert vegetation, similar to the Botanical Garden
- Enhance the beauty and outdoor experience of Tempe
- Highlight Tempe as a far-sighted tourist destination that permanently conserves and displays the desert and its heritage

### **Agenda Item 6 – Outgoing Commission Member**

Craig Hayton announced that this would be the last meeting for Aireona Raschke. She will be moving out of state and no longer able to serve on the Board. Craig thanked Aireona for her service, as did other commission members.

### **Agenda Item 7 - Community Services Manager for Parks Introduction**

Craig Hayton introduced the new Parks Manager, Erin Kirkpatrick to the commission. He indicated that she would taking over the liaison role for this commission.

**Agenda Item 8 – Commission Goals & Priorities**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed until the next scheduled meeting.

**Agenda Item 9 – Operational Items**

Craig provided an updated on the following items:

- Moeur Park Improvements
- Stinknet
- Preserves Management Plan
- Supervisor Recruitment

**Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items**

- Commission Goals & Priorities

**Agenda Item 11 - Upcoming Public Meetings & Announcements**

- Next meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 2 at 3:30 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.**

Prepared by: Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant, (480) 858-2215

Reviewed by: Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation,  
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