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# Landscape Advisory Committee

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Minutes of Meeting Held February 20, 2019

**Members Present:** Katie Gannon, Roger Howlett, Jackie Lyle, Laura Mielcarek, Deborah Munoz-Chacon, Ron van Ommeren, Ashley Pedersen, Flor Sandoval

**Members Absent:** Ellen Alster, Jim Bennett, Nick Shipley

**Guests/Staff Present:** Melissa Mauzy, Ward 6 Aide; Irene Ogata, Tucson Water

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m. by J.Lyle

2. Minutes for Approval

- December 19, 2018 minutes: scribner's corrections – Members Absent, common after bennett; Guests/Staff, 'Davis-Monthan'; #2. Cross out second '2018'; #3 B. 'Davis-Monthan.' Motion by R.Howlett to accept with minutes with corrections, second by D.Munoz-Chacon; approved – yes=8; no=0; abstain=0.
- January 11, 2019 minutes: scribners corrections - #2. December 19, 2018. Motion by R.van Ommeren to accept with corrections, second by R. Howlett; approved – yes=8; no=0; abstain=0.

3. New Discussion

A. BioGravel – Eli Neilson, not present; moved to next month agenda

B. LAC members:

1. Urban Planner/Architect: R.Howlett completed 2 terms; agrees to stay on till new member appointed
2. Ecologist/Wildlife specialist – 1<sup>st</sup> term will end March 2019; will do another term, unless Committee would like to select someone else. Motion to recommend Ron van Ommeren for 2<sup>nd</sup> term by J.Lyle, second by L.Mielcarek; approved – yes=8; no=0; abstain=0.
3. Election Vice Chair. Laura Mielcarek to move into Chair position. Ron van Ommeren agreed to move into Vice-Chair position, motion by J.Lyle to elect R.van Ommeren as Vice-Chair, second by by K.Gannon; approved – yes=7; no=8; abstain=0.

4. Old Discussion

A. LAC subcommittee Updates:

- Revisit Blue Palo Verde Moratorium: Plant subcommittee recommend to continue moratorium for another 3 years; Ag Extension Agent has done research and found cause – a virus transmitted by mites; but no solution as yet for treatment. Pima County DOT spec's out Blue Palo verde in seed mix; moratorium only addresses nursery-grown, specify does not apply to seed mix, or only to nursery grown specimens; understand virus is in the wild but predominantly present in nurseries; if solution found less than 3 years, this committee would re-evaluate and make appropriate recommendation. Motion to recommend moratorium for another 3 years by K.Gannon, second by J.Lyle – approved yes=7; no=0; abstain=0. Will re-evaluate situation in 3 years.

B. LAC January recap: 3 subcommittees – (1) Parks, (2) Plants, (3) Education & Policy (will check regarding Tree Preservation if shift topic over to Plants); committees will arrange meetings on their own and update the larger LAC at regular meetings; can check availability of Mesquite Room prior to LAC meetings, or Parks Director's Conference Room, or place of their choosing. Parks subcommittee will schedule meeting with Brent regarding parks bond projects, water harvesting and maintenance.

C. Community Landscape Maintenance – Brent Dennis +

D. IPM Update – Brent Dennis: combined item C & D: need to look at cultural practices; soil nutrients; other cities in AZ looking at Tucson and how implements program; need flexibility to change; what is measure of effectiveness, what is appropriate window for spraying, need to keep some synthetics in the tool box; need to balance where those appropriate places/zones are; Arizona-Sonoran desert Museum would like to partner with City on public education and need for glyphosate to combat invasive buffelgrass (currently very little else available; tremendous loss if buffelgrass wildfire occurs – loss of saguaros); took tour of City parks – examples exist where currently using organic products on fields; but many parks have no treatments; challenge to meet expectations may be 203 years before noticeable effects – can attain given resources and time; concern departments have been changing and restructuring to achieve greater efficiency, goal to keep policy as flexible as possible.

5. Staff reports

- A. TDOT Report – staff not present
- B. Parks Report – staff not present

6. Chairperson’s Summary of Current Events

- Desert Horticulture Conference, May 31, 2019 at Starr Pass
- ACTC Sat., March 2, 2019 Climbing competition at Reid Park?
- SmartScape, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Sustainable Landscape Expo at Cooperative Extension on Campbell
- Arbor Day event at Sears Park (west of Park Mall), April 27, planting 50 trees
- Month of February – Save our Saguars (formerly beat Back Buffelgrass), proclamation by Mayor Rothschild
- Ward 6: Community room displaying Council Member Kozachik’s mother’s artwork

7. Call to Audience: N/A

8. Future Agenda Items

- Ursula Schuch on blue Palo verde Witches Broom study
- Partner with TCB and look at Presidio Plaza as water is being shut off for Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> installation (TCB has been caring for pots at TCC)
- Zoo Plaza Grand Entrance arrival experience

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm