



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held April 17, 2019
900 S. Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716

Members Present: Katie Gannon, Laura Mielcarek, Deborah Munoz-Chacon, Ashley Pedersen, Nick Shipley, Ron van Ommeren

Members Absent: Jim Bennett, Jackie Lyle, Flor Sandoval

Guests/Staff Present: Irene Ogata, Tucson Water; Parker Filer, UA Ag Extension Agent

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 3:35 p.m. by L.Mielcarek

2. Minutes for Approval

- March 20, 2019 minutes: Motion by D.Munoz-Chacon to accept with minutes, second by A.Pedersen; approved – yes=6; no=0; abstain=0.

3. New Discussion

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

B. Meet and Greet TDOT Landscape Architect – not present; moved to next month

C. Meet and Greet New Cooperative Extension Agent – Parker Filer, Horticulture Agent: Oversees Tribal Extension, Master Gardner program; Smartscape program = has both English and more participation in Spanish program, teaching more green practices, Tucson primed to be leader of desert climate practices; prior Extension Agent was Peter Warren; prior was with 4-H program, Village Farm; worked in Prescott with landscape contractor, was in Peace Corp – international and rural development; worked in NY with migrant ag workers; Farmers Market in Austin, TX; moved to Tucson 3 yrs ago; considers himself a deliberate generalist, will defer to this group for expertise; Tribal extension agents (18 total) spread out and specifically working with Native American population – includes agricultural, youth programs;

LAC: 2 critiques on Smartscape: more hands-on (i.e., tree, irrigation); teachers were experts but not good teachers. Other comments: opportunities to take additional educational classes after taking Smartscape is great; ability to tell clients employees have gone through classes; more effective if can focus on professional skills (i.e., landscape contractors)

4. Old Discussion

A. LAC subcommittee Updates:

- Parks/Maintenance (Flor, Laura, Deborah): no new updates;
- Plants – waiting to meet with Val Little; list involved “yes” or “no” responses; no discussion; initial proposed list needs further discussion; what is next step; V.Little intent to get a sense of what folks were thinking [group out of CA, ?WCA, has list of trees water use]
- Policy/Education: did get together to look at policy framework; next step, look at policy to match goals (i.e., tree policy guidelines vs ordinance); challenge how to map out doing that (especially with Roger off of committee); get together to talk about UHI workshop; contacting Phoenix and their HeatLook book reaching out to neighborhood about Transportation and Housing – how to do community outreach

B. Community Landscape Maintenance – (combined with C below)

C. IPM Update – B. Dennis not present; update by I.Ogata: on-line COT vegetation management staff

meeting with City of Irvine Superintendent Dennis Chiotti; also included in meeting with PC RFCD and NRPR on how they have been training staff to identify top 5 weeds that appear seasonally, training manual includes methods of eradication – manual to spray; lessons learned from Irvine – do manageable pilot projects, track effectiveness, listen to contractors what’s working/what’s not, be willing to experiment; lessons learned from PC – do not expect staff to identify ‘all’ possible weeds, narrow down to top 3-5 weeds, be aware that weeds are seasonal and will need to learn different weeds based on season, small pocket-sized info guide (with phone numbers if need assistance) staff can carry is helpful; Mayor & Council Study Session April 23, 2019, scheduled to start at noon. City pilot projects: Parks = Reid Park; Tucson Water: 3 urban well sites + test plots at Avra Valley; have not heard from TDOT or Housing; ES waiting to see what recommendation and will use; in the Administrative Directive there were properties exempt from this policy – Zoo, Golf Course, A-Mountain and Avra Valley properties. Update to Landscape Manual has not been moving forward: TCB to provide new pruning picture (ISA does have videos we might be able to post); will add section on IWM.

Suggestion to TDOT: Kolb – Valencia to Nogales Hwy – medians and shoulders

5. Staff reports
 - A. TDOT Report – staff not present; LAC had questions regarding how TDOT places complaints in queue and timing of responses; will request Paul Rosenboom to attend to address questions, regular staff has not been attending
 - B. Parks Report – will be as need basis
6. Chairperson’s Summary of Current Events
 - Mayor & Council Study Session, 4/23/2019 – Integrated Weed Management, session start at 12:00
 - WRRRC Brownbag – Tanya Quist, 4/24/2019 @ 12-1
 - Desert Horticulture Conference, May 31, 2019 at Starr Pass
 - Monday, April 29, 2019 @ 8:30 a.m.; tree planting Broadway/5th, 7 trees by TDOT/Downtown Tucson; celebrate Earth Day; hand water for 6 month, no other irrigation
 - April 27, 2019; Arbor Day Festivities at Sears Park, 8:00 a.m., 52 trees
7. Call to Audience: None
8. Future Agenda Items:
 - TDOT Street Irrigation
9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm