



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held November 21, 2019
900 S. Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716

Members Present: Rebeca Field, Parker Filer, Jackie Lyle, Alison Meadow, Laura Mielcarek, Deborah Munoz-Chacon, Kasy Schug, Nick Shipley, Ron van Ommeren

Members Absent: Katie Gannon, Flor Sandoval

Guests/Staff Present: Linda Suhen, student University of Arizona; David Marhefka, TDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by L.Mielcarek

2. Minutes for Approval

- October 16, 2019 minutes: scribner changes: Guest-‘Marhefka’; 3A- ‘capital’; seed mix was referencing Kolb/Valencia project
- Motion by R.van Ommeren to accept minutes, second by J.Lyle; approved – yes=9; no=0; abstain=0.

3. New Discussion

A. TDOT Irrigation Improvement Schedule, presented by Paul Rosenboom, TDOT Maintenance & David Marhefka, TDOT;

- David has own project – Campbell 6th to Speedway, irrigation completed, waiting for additional funding to install new landscaping; Phase 1 & 2 – Irvington=Valencia to Drexel, Drexel to Irvington – irrigation replaced, new rock, new vegetation, bioswales, total cost \$201K for 1 mi, \$225K for 1.2 mi; planning Phase 3 – Benson Highway, join at north end with Campbell/6th; Phase 1 & 2 extra funds available; David’s projects funded from Litter Tax - \$100K for irrigation only, trees will be trimmed;
- Discussion: no dedicated funding for systematic irrigation upgrades; future projects – willing to get input from others how to prioritize, need to take Wards into consideration, looking at gateways first; older irrigations installed around mid-80’s with no improvements; TDOT has 4 irrigators for over 400 mi oversight; LAC can request info about budget, assist with contract scope of work; would like to see lowering of water bill; best way to report leaks – 791-3154 @ TDOT or call David (cell: 520-403-5074), have people on stand-by 24hr;

4. Old Discussion

A. LAC subcommittee Updates:

- Plants (Jackie, Nick, Ron) – ADWR plant list?
- Original list of trees compiled by VLittle; discussion of trees to eliminate:
 - what did not survive; some trees had conflicting information about; unclear if recommendation was from first round or if from this group; in opinions, some confusion if group putting forth opinion only or recommendation; everything in yellow – was this committee’s recommendation to eliminate (yellow vs orange-original recommendation); some recommendation was to move to shrub
 - question: unclear if cold hardiness consideration also taking into consideration length of freeze?; so much variability to take into consideration when considering cold hardiness; too many factors
 - main consideration of group: N.Shipley: has this tree lived here, and how has it performed;

also need to consider what was popular

- ADWR list was about water use; list sent to Parks but not feedback as yet; may get push back on eliminating *salicina* ; developers want evergreen, thornless; in right microclimates, sensitive trees can survive; keep on list but add qualifier; question why not all plants with similar hardiness were not eliminated
 - Overall 22 removed; 7 added; this is list recommended by LAC – take a vote and majority rules; hard to have everyone agree; thought LAC did not have to go M&C based on meeting with Ward 3 – clerk’s office will place on M&C study session agenda
 - Add to list: interesting selection: why add oleander (is listed as a shrub)
 - Standards for shrubs not as stringent: added a lot of native; K.Gannon would like fountain grass removed due to visual confusion, too easily even if sterile grass is listed
 - Other sections: 1 grass removed; no vines removed
 - This is a powerful list; next step is to keep discussion – should group go by categories; send out a week earlier and ask members to be prepared to discuss; no way this group could research comments from first round; look at those in yellow and those in green as a start; keep in back of mind – climate change extremes – bigger, stronger storms; hotter, drier temperatures
 - Policy/Education - none
 - Parks/Maintenance – none
- B. IPM & Community Landscape Maintenance Update- none
5. Staff reports: report from Streets previously
 6. Chairperson’s Summary of Current Events:
 - Sat. is ALCA annual gala: local company getting a statewide award
 - Smartscape program having quarter century celebration: LAC invited, 11:30-1:30 at UArizona; will send invite to Irene to get to all of you; need to RSVP
 7. Call to Audience: none
 8. Future Agenda Items:
 - Continue plant discussion
 - Budget for maintenance
 9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm