



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held August 16, 2005

Members Present: Christina Bickelmann, Joan Lionetti, Grant McCormick, Susanna Morales, George Richard, Paula Smith, Frank Styker, Roger Watson, and Irene Ogata.

Guests/Staff Present: Andrew Singelakis, Deputy Director of Urban Planning & Design, Gary Oaks, Urban Planning & Design, and Tina Lee, Ward III Office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Bickelmann called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

Corrections to Minutes:

Page 1

- Fernando *Molina*

Page 2, IV., Section B

- Consultant will be on board sometime mid or end of August 2005 and will start giving technical information to the Task Force by October 2005. Meeting was schedule for *July 27, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.*

Page 2, V., Section B

- Selection of *Consultant for Urban Landscape Management Plan*

Page 2, V, Section C

- *Ogata thanked everyone who attended the ASLA luncheon meeting. The landscape architects stated that they are ready to volunteer for the tree inventory and incorporate designs utilizing water harvesting techniques. A future meeting with the Arizona Native Plant Society is in the works. Ogata challenged the landscape architects to push for a five- percent increase in applications of water harvesting techniques in urban designs*

Page 3, VI., Section A

- Over the next five years, over five million dollars will be *invested* in the downtown area.
- Within the next decade downtown will be *transform*

MOTION made by Hummer seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2005 meeting, with modifications. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

III. **URBAN LANDSCAPE MANAGER'S UPDATE (Discussion)**

- A. Mayor and Council Consent action 8-3-2005 = re-appt. Jack Kelly
- B. Mayor & council Consent Agenda 9-7-2005 = AZ State Land, Urban & Community Challenge Grant
- C. Selection of Urban Landscape Management Plan Consultant
- D. Sept. 14, 2005 – Native Plant Society Meeting
- E. Potential formation of subcommittee to continue discussion of directions/goals of ULMP: vision & outreach

Kelly was congratulated on his reappointment to the LAC on August 3, 2005.

On September 7, 2005 the AZ State Land, Urban & Community Challenge Grant will be going before Mayor and Council as a consent agenda. Grant is for maximum of \$10,000 and the goal is to get the State Land to participate in what the City is doing especially in the tree inventory. State Land will not fund hardware so funds will be applied towards printing of the manuals that will be issued to the volunteers for the tree inventory and to bring in an individual from UC Davis who is experienced with training volunteers for this inventory program.

Ogata mentioned that interdepartmental talks have been initiated with Parks & Recreation. The Northeast District crew is ready and eager to start tomorrow the tree inventory. The Transportation's Information Technology people are also on board and they said that if the link between STRATUM and i-tree does not work, they are willing write the program to make it work.

Wheat-Scharf is the selected Urban Landscape Management Plan consultant. Ogata met with Parks & Recreations to discuss the tree inventory software. Ogata asked Howard Ward, who is their software guru, to explore other possible inventory software that might be available in case the City decides not to use STRATUM. There will be a kickoff meeting with the consultants to discuss dates of presentations to the LAC - one will be on findings, another one on results, and the big part will be on the Major Streets and Routes and Master Landscape.

Ogata extended the invitation to the LAC to attend the Native Plan Society Meeting on September 14, 2005, which will be similar to the ASLA meeting. There will be a potluck and then the meeting, which is schedule to start at 6:30 p.m.

Now that the consultant is on board, an Urban Landscape Management Plan Vision/Goals Subcommittee would be helpful to formulate discussions started at the workshop. This will probably entail two or three meetings. Both Christina and Roger volunteered to for this subcommittee. Findings/discussions will be brought to the LAC.

Major Streets & Routes is moving forward. Richard, Styker, Watson, and Morales asked for a copy of the MS&R maps.

IV. SUMMARY LAC TREE VOLUNTEER SUBCOMMITTEE

- A. Volunteer numbers, training, area division for LAC teams
- B. Discussion meeting w/UA Rober McArthur & Libby Davison

Ogata mentioned that there may be 80-teams consisting of 2 to 3 people per team. Up to a total of 300 volunteers. We will bring in a trainer from UC Davis, who has conducted a number of volunteer training workshops, to train the future trainers of volunteers. Volunteers will cover 5 miles per team, approx. 80 teams, for a total of 415 miles of Major Streets and Routes. Aerials will be downloaded onto the PDAs that will be used by the teams. Only trees (no shrubs) will be inventoried. Bickelman suggested holding a pre-inventory meeting. Lionetti mentioned there are about 1500 volunteers who work on a regular bases for Tucson Clean & Beautiful who could be tapped as potential reserve for this project. Ogata suggested that the LAC could be involved in coordinating this event. Smith volunteered to assist.

Both McCormick and Smith met with Robert MacArthur who has worked with elementary age children, working on projects in their neighborhood. It was suggested that the tree inventory could be interfaced with children's project in their neighborhood instead of the Major Streets and Routes. McCormick spoke with Larry Cassen, GIS Coop, who wants to meet with Ogata to talk about collaborative project to help some the technology integration with vegetation mapping.

Committee's Role:

- Require a lot of supervision and ongoing commitment
- Actual hands-on to some capacity
- Focus in quality
- Monitoring process
- Training sessions – Shauna Cozad from UC Daivs will train the trainers who in turn will train volunteers or other possible trainers. This develops a pool of local trainers so community can have on-going volunteer training, i.e., future training for Parks & Recreation inventory endeavor.
- Put curriculum in place (software training manual)
- Arborist on board

V. RECLAIMED WATER AND APPROVED PLAN LIST (Discussion)

Bickelman asked that the LAC send a recommendation to Mayor and Council to close the loopholes at a City level on allowable plants in the public right-of-way. Plan review should not approve plans that do not use plants that are on approved plan list. State only regulates groundwater and the plant list is only enforce if plants are being irrigated with ground water. The State has no jurisdiction if reclaim water is used; therefore, any place that uses reclaim water can use any plant they want. Bickelmann stated that any source of water is a valuable source of water and should not use a high water use plant in the public right-of-way. The City can refuse plans that do not use plants that are on the list. Bickelman wants the LAC to send some kind of recommendation to Mayor and Council and close this loophole.

Since the City has more restrictive regulations, Ogata will check with DSD regarding code interpretation when approving Planting Plans.

VI. RIO NUEVO UPDATE (Discussion)

A. Congress Street Master Plan or Civic & Cultural Plaza Design

Both items will be presented at next month's meeting (September 2005).

VII. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Standard Subcommittee Reports

VIII. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Smith seconded by Roger to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 p.m. The motion carried unanimously among those present.