



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held October 19, 2005

Members Present: Christina Bickelmann, Harold Hummer, Joan Lionetti, Susanna Morales, George Richard, Paula Smith, Ronald Stoltz, Frank Styker, and Roger Watson.

Guests/Staff Present: Albert Elias, Director of Urban Planning & Design, Irene Ogata or Urban Planning & Design, and Tina Lee, Ward II Office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Bickelman called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

MOTION made by Watson seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2005. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

III. Presentations (Discussion)

- A. Home Rule
- B. Urban Landscape Management Presentation

Elias discussed the “Home Rule” Option--Proposition 400 with the LAC. The Proposed Alternative Expenditure Limitation Proposition 400 will go to city voters on the November 8, 2005, General Election. The approval of Proposition 400 will authorize the City of Tucson to set an expenditure limitation that is determined by the City’s annual balanced budget. Only revenues collected from existing fees and taxes will be used to cover the costs of services.

Ogata’s presentation was on focused on the City’s future appearance. City of Tucson is comprised of 18 percent of parks & open space and 60 percent streets & mediums. Ogata stated that the General Plan is the “guiding” document for the Urban Landscape Management Plan. Ogata brought up some questions that need to be addressed: how is the Urban Landscape going to be adapted to create a healthier environment; how can drainage capture the water at the point source and use it for vegetation onsite, including

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the roadways; and what are the plant communities being established? In 1998 the Landscape Task Force conducted a resident telephone survey on the importance of planting programs and urban forestry and concluded that a planting program would be supported both financially and otherwise. There are different challenges for different goals starting with how do we define a healthy community and how do we go back and make the community healthy, how do we achieve a sustaining optimum health, heal injured sites, respect water, drive less, energy utilization, and maintain to sustain. Tucson Clean and Beautiful in partnership with Pima County planted over 50,000 in the metropolitan area. One third of that within the City of Tucson.

IV. General discussion

- A. RTA Letter
- B. Sustainability/Green Cities Accord

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) letter was email to the LAC. Green Cities declarations being addressed by City staff in response to request by Mayor and Council. Staff summarizing what measures the City current has or is in the process of implementing. Bickelmann asked for an updated after the Mayor and Council meeting.

V. Urban Landscape manager's Update (Discussion)

- A. Tucson Clean & Beautiful Presentation
- B. Tree Inventory Update
- C. DDO Memo Response – Next Step

Ogata updated the LAC on the Tucson Clean & Beautiful presentation that was attended by Lionetti, Richard, Smith and Hummer.

Tree Inventory is still moving along. GIS coop is very excited. Pima Association of Governments (PAG) volunteered to do some aerial mapping. In addition, we have applied for a Grant from StateLand for \$10,000.

Ogata distributed Walter Tellez's memo in response to LAC inquires from September 21, 2005 meeting. Ogata agrees that professionals should be the ones who make the recommendations. Richard expressed some concerns in reference to the last paragraph, "Development Services Department is **willing** to meet and discuss future code amendment with Urban Planning and Design." Ogata scheduled to meet with the Design Review Board (all design professionals) to express the importance and value of their role in reviewing development plans and making recommendations to DSD staff.

VI. CALL TO AUDIENCE

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Three Urban Heat Island workshops are schedule for December 6 and 7, 2005 at the University of Arizona, Harvard Building. Elected officials, department directors, and city staff has been invited to attend.

Stoltz mentioned that Julius Fabos would be speaking October 31, 2005 as part of his visit with the UA MLA program. In addition, Bruce Babbit (author of *City's in the Wilderness*) will be in town November 17, 2005.

Lee announced that the Storm Water Ordinance was passed.

Michael Torey who was not present at the meeting asked that the following not be shared with the LAC:

- Heard someone from your committee speak at the Environmental meeting on heat island effect etc.
- It would be nice to see plans for canopy trees in the giant parking lots; CouncilWomen West and Dunbar have mentioned shade trees for the asphalt lots.
- Layouts and cost estimates along with water runoff to the trees and plants might be quite interesting to the Council.
- Not just shade but aesthetics is involved which would relate to natural plants shapes colors and smells.
- Even solar power might be considered for onsite water distribution with cistern holding tanks of aesthetic design.

VII. CALL TO FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Watson seconded by Hummer to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously among those present.