

# Minutes

## Desert Conservation Commission

### February 4, 2025

Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on February 4, 2025, 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cottonwood Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ. and virtually through Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:**

Laura Stewart – Chair  
Kelli Cholieu – Vice Chair  
Donald Burt  
Kimberly Gaffney-Loza  
Dushawn John-Armenta  
Shereen Lerner  
Jane Neuheisel  
Elba Quintero

**Members Absent:**

Ricardo Juan Leonard

**City Staff Present:**

Alex Jovanovic, Staff Liaison- Deputy Community Services Director – Parks  
Alex Cortese, Community Services Manager  
Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II  
Gabriel Sabori, Community Services Supervisor

**Guests Present:**

Wayne Colebank, Logan Simpson  
John Southard, Logan Simpson

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Laura Stewart.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**December 3, 2024**

Motion by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to approve the meeting minutes of December 3, 2024 as submitted; seconded by Elba Quintero. Motion passed on an 6-0 vote.

Ayes: Chair Laura Stewart, Vice-Chair Kelli Cholieu and commission members, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Dushawn John-Armenta, Jane Neuheisel and Elba Quintero.

Technical sound issues: Donald Burt

Absent: Ricardo Juan Leonard and Shereen Lerner.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Preserve Management Plan**

Wayne Colebank and John Southard from Logan Simpson presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Hayden Butte and Papago Preserves Management Plan.

Presentation included the following:

- Workshops/DCC
- Purpose of a preserve
  - Papago Preserve
  - Hayden Butte Preserve
- Land acknowledgement
- Cultural resources
- TCP Study
- The Preserves
  - Hayden Butte Preserve
    - Contemporary features
    - Trails & trailheads
    - Flora
  - Papago Preserve
    - Contemporary features
    - Trails & trailheads
    - Flora
  - Conservation sub-areas
- Management plan goal
- Management plan objectives
- Recommendations process
  - Management
  - Maintenance
  - Improvements
- Success criteria (example)
- Funding and partnerships
- Next steps

Workshop #4 will be held on 2/26, staff to send information to Commission.

### **Agenda Item 4 – CIP/Bond Update**

Alex Jovanovic presented to the commission a PowerPoint presentation on the CIP/Bond Update. Presentation included the following:

- CIP/Bond update
  - Implementation of Preserves Mgt. Plan
  - Hayden Butte Restoration
  - Loma del Rio Restoration
  - Indian Bend Wash
  - Lake Improvements (alternate water source)

### **Agenda Item 5 – Tribal Community & Connection to Land**

Tabled to future meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 – Operational Items**

- **2025 Commission Objectives/Priorities**  
Tabled to future meeting.

**Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

- Preserve Management Plan- as action item at next meeting for possible commission support. Laura Stewart will provide draft to work from.

**Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Park Public Meeting Notices & Announcements**

No additional announcements were provided.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.**

Prepared by: Bobbi Lloyd, Management Assistant II, (480) 350-8352

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks, (480) 350-5811