



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held March 18, 2008

Members Present: Harold Hummer, Jack Kelly, Joan Lionetti, Grant McCormick, Susana Morales, Paula Smith, Ron Stoltz, and Roger Watson.

Guests/Staff Present: Les Shipley, new member nominee; George Richard, former member; Jamie Brown, OCSD; Glenn Lyons, Downtown Tucson Partnership; Chris Kaselemis; Irene Ogata and Roseanne Bent, UPD.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Minutes for approval: February 19, 2008 meeting (**Action**)

Motion made by Watson and seconded by Hummer to approve minutes from February 19, 2008. Motion passed unanimously by those present.

3. Discussion –Old Topics

A. Downtown Infrastructure Update

Nothing new, still negotiating

B. Patterns Project Update

Project is going along well, it should be done in one month. Close to being the finished product. The project is actually ahead of schedule.

C. Urban Landscape Manager Update

1. Urban Landscape Framework - Mayor & Council presentation

Kudos to Ron and Susy for their presentation at the Mayor and Council study session. The plan was unanimously endorsed. They all said good things about the endorsement. This is considered soft policy and one we can cite for rezoning conditions.

2. Update on appointments of LAC nominations

Nominees; Les, Libby and Nancy. It is to be on M&C agenda but date not known yet.

4. Discussion

A. Introduction to Glenn Lyons, Chief Exec. Downtown Tucson Partnership (DTP)

He spent 30 yrs in Calgary. He built three 3 acre parks and three pedestrian malls. Most immediate involvement here is with the infrastructure plan. Want to make sure we do a good job. Anything done downtown needs to be done smart. We have a number of spaces where events are put on but no designated event area. Library space is difficult to use for events. We want to look at new or existing area for the event area. Downtown Tucson Partnership is non-City related but does work together with the City on some projects. The City does provide some funding for DTP projects. Rio Nuevo oversees the TIF spending. DTP is sort of the rebirth of the Downtown Alliance.

A landscape architect is only as good as its client. If the client does not care and just wants the job done and done fast, the architect will get it done and it won't look that interesting. The LAC is worried about the end product. \$37 million for the Infrastructure work. 1 or 2 changes can make a big difference. It does not take a lot to make a street or streetscape look nice. The current project is mainly Congress and Scott. We want to try and have something that beautifies. A big problem with the City is putting plants in spaces instead of making spaces for the plants. Better to create places for the plants in the planning process. Seems there were mistakes made and have to find ways to repair/fix them. There needs to be one person in charge of the projects.

B. Maintenance Subcommittee Update (**Action**)

Paula, Jack and Les are on the subcommittee. Initial meeting was with Risk mgmt and street maintenance staff. Issues covered included cutback on the chemical spray for the weeds and traffic circles in the neighborhoods where the residents have neglected to help. Need further discussion (include Council members) regarding volunteer assistance from neighborhood groups. Transportation has plans from neighborhoods (Back to Basic grants) for more medians but not enough in budget for maintenance. Can have adopt-a-circle/island program (team w/ Tucson Clean & Beautiful). City needs to be encouraged to keep in contact with the neighborhood associations quarterly about improvements, acknowledgements, and to give kudos for good work.

*Motion: Subcommittee to look into adopt-a-circle/island program.

Made by Hummer, Lionetti seconded and passed anonymously by members present.

C. Thor Memorial

The LAC can do something as a group. Special Tree on Joan's Ranch in Cochise County or in Tucson. Item to be on next month agenda.

April 27th, there will be a celebration for Thor in Tombstone.

D. Retreat/Social Gathering of LAC members

It would be useful to have a picnic or something similar to get to know one another. Might enhance/help the communication of the group. Grant will offer to host. Need to post if more than 3 members. Location on Roger and first on Saturday, May 3rd. It could be a late afternoon potluck.

E. Amendment proposed in 2000 for Protection of Trees in R.O.W.

The draft ordinance was done in 2000. If someone damages trees in the public right of way, they are responsible to pay for the repair. Ogata to re-examine with the attorneys. Put on the next meeting.

5. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events

Desert Horticulture conf. May 16th.

Ogata; Urban Forestry fund to pay for LAC members to go.

6. Call to Audience

7. Call for Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

9. Tour of new CALA facilities & landscape