



SUMMARIZED MINUTES

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE PROTECT AND PRESERVE SCOTTSDALE TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING

**4:00 p.m., Monday, February 21, 2024
Eldorado Park and Community Center, Room 1
2311 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Scottsdale Protect and Preserve Task Force was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cynthia Wenstrom, Chair
Raoul Zubia, Vice Chair
Carla, Member
Nicholas Hartmann, Member
Jace McKeighan, Member
Daniel Schweiker, Member
Mark Winkleman, Member
John Zikias, Member

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications and Public Affairs Director
Ben Lane, City Clerk
Sherry Scott, City Attorney
Gina Kirklin, Finance Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Kirklin advised the Task Force that Mr. Eaneman has given his resignation effective February 1st and she has asked the City Council to appoint another member. It was also noted that it is very near the appointment deadline.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wenstrom called for corrections to the minutes. Member Carla presented three corrections.

VICE-CHAIR ZUBIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2024, AS AMENDED, MEMBER ZIKIAS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIR WENSTROM, VICE CHAIR ZUBIA AND MEMBERS CARLA, HARTMANN, MCKEIGHAN, SCHWEIKER, WINKLEMAN, AND ZIKIAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT

Chair Wenstrom reviewed the Annual Report with the Task Force. Member Carla noted two areas where "Preserve" needs to be capitalized.

VICE-CHAIR ZUBIA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL REPORT AS PRESENTED WITH THE CHANGES PRESENTED BY MEMBER CARLA. MEMBER MCKEIGHAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIR WENSTROM, VICE CHAIR ZUBIA AND MEMBERS CARLA, HARTMANN, MCKEIGHAN, SCHWEIKER, WINKLEMAN, AND ZIKIAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. ADDITIONAL BALLOT LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Ben Lane, City Clerk, provided some updates to the Task Force including the State Legislature passed a bill which the Governor signed. The bill changed some components of the upcoming election cycle. The major change is the Primary Election Day has been moved from August 6th to July 30th, which will change many of the due dates. The General Election Day remains November 5th and so will not impact the work of the Task Force.

He also reminded the Task Force that, while city resources cannot be used to influence the election outcome, they can be used for neutral informational pamphlets, routine city communications, and to report official actions of the governing body.

Mr. Lane reviewed alternate ballot language for the Task Force's consideration and possible recommendation to the City Council. The proposed ballot language changes are mainly for clarity purposes:

- The Official Title – the alternate version itemizes where the proposed tax funds will be allocated for improvements and maintenance.
- The Descriptive Title – the alternate version clarifies the order, and "City" was removed before "Ordinance".
- Yes/No Statements – the alternate version again itemizes where funding will be allocated and for what purposes.
- The Tagline Text – the alternate version tidied up the language.

After discussion on each item, Member Carla recommended the following changes to the alternate versions:

- Adding "increased police and fire resources for the Preserve" to number two of the Yes/No statements so citizens understand they get increased resources for both.
- Amending number three of the Yes/No statements to "with all being specifically determined by City ordinance", which keeps this part consistent.
- Switching the order of the Tagline Text to "Citywide Parks, Recreational Facilities, and the Preserve", which is consistent with the draft ordinance.

VICE-CHAIR ZUBIA MOVED IN FAVOR OF RECOMMENDING THE ALTERNATE BALLOT LANGUAGE VERSION AS AMENDED THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION OF THE PRESENTATION FOR THIS ITEM. MEMBER CARLA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIR WENSTROM, VICE CHAIR ZUBIA AND MEMBERS CARLA, HARTMANN, MCKEIGHAN, SCHWEIKER, WINKLEMAN, AND ZIKIAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. ADDITIONAL ORDINANCE LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Sherry Scott, City Attorney, provided an overview of the additional language added to the ordinance. The first thing focused on was differentiating this from the current 0.15% tax and it has been recommended to call it the 2024 0.15% tax. Many of the changes capture Task Force comments from the last meeting. Discussion included as follows:

- 10% to Scottsdale FD was expanded to "for City-wide related needs within the purposes of the "2024 0.15% Tax which specifically includes, but is not limited to, technical rescue team(s) for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and City Parks and fire fuel mitigation around the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and in and around the City parks for the protection and maintenance of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and City parks."
- The 7% appropriation had a minor adjustment recommended, to now read "... and City Parks police ranger unit(s)".
- After discussion with the City Treasurer, Category C for unused 2024 0.15% Tax revenue would be reserved for debt requirement as set forth in Section B should remain as is because it is unlikely there will be unused revenue.
 - It was determined the annual accounting of the 2024 0.15% Tax revenue is a function of the City Treasurer.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission will serve as the oversight committee for the implementation of the 2024 0.15% Tax.
 - In response to Member Carla's question, Ms. Andrews explained WestWorld will be apportioned a debt service amount for the limited improvement projects which will be approved and serviced for twenty years and there will be no further allocations.
- An overview of the powers of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission within the Preserve section was provided including recommending to the City Council an annual budget for use of the 2024 0.15% Tax Revenue.
 - A discussion ensued regarding recommended language; it was suggested wildlife habitat protection be included.

In response to Member Carla's question, discussion as follows notes the City Council will decide 'about the sequence of the ordinance and they may choose to wait and see what happens at the ballot prior to implementing the ordinance. A draft ordinance will be published.

MEMBER CARLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AS DISCUSSED AND AMENDED IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THIS ITEM AND STAFF WILL GO BACK AND WORK ON THE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OF WILDLIFE IN THE PRESERVE SECTION AS DETERMINED BY MEETING AND CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY. MEMBER HARTMANN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIR WENSTROM, VICE CHAIR ZUBIA AND MEMBERS CARLA, HARTMANN, MCKEIGHAN, SCHWEIKER, WINKLEMAN, AND ZIKIAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. TASK FORCE WORKING STUDY SESSION

5.1 DISCUSSION ON DRAFT COUNCIL WORK STUDY PRESENTATION

Task Force members reviewed the draft work study presentation for City Council and recommended changes and items for consideration, including:

- Staff will review and confirm the number of Task Force meetings and the percentage of attendance.
- Collaboration will include other City subject matter experts.
- Slide 10 will be replaced with an EMC slide that reflects 94% approval and better

reflects the City found a way to fund maintenance and improvements to the Preserve and other Parks and Recreational Facilities without increasing the tax rate.

- Slide 16 will be amended to read Indian Bend Wash and Other Citywide Park Improvements and include a statement regarding an almost equally divided funding between North, South, and Central Scottsdale.
- A discussion ensued related to the length of the WestWorld portion of the presentation.
- A discussion ensued regarding why the tax was extended and noting the City Council's direction to the Task Force was to look at extending the tax. It was also noted that there is no overlap between the tax rates.
- Ms. Andrews advised City Council asked for slides to be added that explain the remaining 0.15% 2004 Preserve Tax.
- Slide 111 will be amended by adding 2004 before 0.15%.

5.2 DISCUSSION ON DRAFT COUNCIL WORK STUDY REPORT

It was noted that this report would be included in the City Council's packet for review and would not be presented by the Task Force.

Member Carla provided grammatical corrections to the report.

MEMBER ZIKIAS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT COUNCIL WORK STUDY PRESENTATION AND DRAFT COUNCIL WORK STUDY REPORT AS AMENDED. MEMBER SCHWEIKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIR WENSTROM, VICE CHAIR ZUBIA AND MEMBERS CARLA, HARTMANN, MCKEIGHAN, SCHWEIKER, WINKLEMAN, AND ZIKIAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

6. IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL TASK FORCE MEETING DATES

The City Council meeting is on February 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Dates for the next meeting in April will be circulated.

7. IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were identified.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Member Hartmann and seconded by Member Zikias, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

AYES: Chair Wenstrom; Vice Chair Zubia; Members Carla, Hartmann, McKeighan Schweiker, Winkleman and Zikias

NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:
eScribers, LLC