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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:04]

Mayor Ortega: I call the December 5, 2024 City Council Special Meeting to order. City Clerk, Ben Lane, would you please conduct the roll call.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Ben Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor David Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Barry Graham.

Vice Mayor Graham: Present.

Ben Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Here.

Ben Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Here.

Ben Lane: Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Here.

Ben Lane: Kathy Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Here.

Ben Lane: And Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

Ben Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

Jim Thompson: Here.

Ben Lane: City Attorney Sherry Scott.

Sherry Scott: Here.

Ben Lane: And the Clerk is present. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Excellent. We have one Item on this Agenda for the Special Meeting, and that's to appoint boards and commission members. At this point, I will turn the meeting over to Vice Mayor Graham, who will be chairing this portion of the meeting.

ITEM 1 – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND TASK FORCES INTERVIEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

[Time: 00:00:56]

Vice Mayor Graham: It's my honor. Thank you, Mayor. The Scottsdale City Council is responsible for establishing City policies and enacting laws in support of those policies. The Council relies on volunteer, citizen-based boards and commissions to research issues and make recommendations in support of the Council's mission and goals. The information and recommendations provided by Council-appointed advisory boards is a valuable tool in helping Councilmembers in their deliberations.

This afternoon, the City Council will be appointing Scottsdale residents interested in serving on various boards and commissions. I want to thank the individuals both in this room, and those attending and participating electronically, for their willingness to volunteer their time in service to this community.

Following the set of interviews, we'll vote on an appointment for the board or commission. As I call your

name, please approach the podium, and briefly cover the following: Please state your name and address and how long you have lived here. Tell us how your education, employment, and volunteer experience relates to this board or commission. And what you think is the top issue facing the board or commission for which you are applying. Please limit your comments to two minutes. We have a timer by the screen to help you manage your time.

Following each nominee's response, I will ask Councilmembers if they have any follow-up questions and then we will vote. So, the first commission we will start with is make sure these are in alphabetical order.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

[Time: 00:02:22]

The Environmental Advisory Commission provides guidance on the prioritization of future environmental activities and recommends environmental policies to City Council. Special qualifications: As specified in the Scottsdale City Code, the membership of the Board shall reflect both scientific and non-scientific interests. There are three vacancies and six nominees. Mr. John Knapp has withdrawn his application from consideration. The nominees are: Ute Brady, Scott Newell, Andrew Scheck, Joshua Stearns, Siobhan Ulreich-Power, Judah Waxelbaum. So, we'll start with Ute Brady and then we'll go to Scott Newell. Because Mr. Scheck is participating electronically, I will probably go to Mr. Sterns after that then Ulreich-Power and Mr. Waxelbaum. So, I invite Ms. Ute Brady to the podium. Thank you.

[Time: 00:03:09]

Ute Brady: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers, I'm Dr. Ute Brady, I live at 8207 East Jackrabbit Road and have been a Scottsdale resident since 1995. When we moved to Scottsdale, my husband and I specifically chose our home because of the vicinity to the park and the Greenbelt. I can't imagine a day when I'm not out running or walking our dogs and there are not many cities that you can do that to the sounds of coyote and owls or watch bald eagles catch fish in the lake. It is this love of the wild urban city and the desire to contribute to the environmental stewardship that led me to apply to the commission in the first place.

Looking back at the past three years of service on SEAC, I have to say what I didn't expect is for to be touch an incredible rewarding experience. My fellow commissioners are of the most passionate and dedicated people that I ever met. They bring knowledge and experience to the commission, and I have learned so much from their perspectives. This diversity of knowledge has allowed us as a group to provide you with solid environmental recommendations on issues like the green energy codes and the Sustainability Plan which will help to improve our city's adaptability to environmental change. I have to share one of my favorite moments on SEAC, which was the Earth Day event a few years ago when we had a table at the farmer's market and spent the morning giving away desert tree saplings and talking to citizens about our pilot tree inventory project and it was really inspiring morning. And I aim to facilitate more of these moments when commissioners can directly engage with the public, listen to their needs

and advocate for things that make our city such a remarkable place to live in.

In summary, three years ago, I joined SEAC to give back to my community by sharing my expertise as an environmental social scientist. As a commissioner, I did that and got so much more in return. I would be honored to continue serve our beautiful city for another term on SEAC. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Ms. Brady. Mr. Newel. Has anybody seen Mr. Newell? Okay, I will move on to Mr. Stearns, who oh, I see he will be participating electronically. Let me go to Rommel or whoever I'm communicating with. Let me finish the people in person if I may. I will go to Siobhan Ulreich-Power. I apologize if I mispronounced your name.

[Time: 00:06:10]

Siobhan Ulreich-Power: No problem. Good afternoon, Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers, my name is Siobhan Ulreich-Power. I know name tags don't help me at all. I live on East San Raphael Drive. I lived in Scottsdale since 1998. First in south Scottsdale and now currently in McCormick Ranch. I'm here today because I want to help Scottsdale become an environmental leader by providing a thriving city for future generations.

If I may, I want to read a simple definition of sustainability that I love. I just came across it recently. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability requires attention to social, economic and environmental conditions and best project addresses all three of those. My M.B.A. and project experience and along with my passion to improve efficiency will help to assess projects to make sure that they do.

One the many challenges facing Scottsdale is how to engage with residents on sustainability-related projects. Together we can increase engagement on several fronts. I will use my training in development to partner with schools, organizations, clubs and libraries. We heard from several inspiring young people on Tuesday. Their voices need to be heard and acknowledged to increase their engagement with the city since their decision-making partnership will affect their future. We can make these connections through high school eco and science clubs here in Scottsdale schools. My passion for the environment is reflected in the work I have done helping Girl Scouts and schools introduce recycling and compost programs at several Scottsdale schools. I'm a problem-solver and passionate about sharing tips to make incremental changes towards a healthier and more comfortable environment. I would appreciate contributing my knowledge and skills to SEAC. Thank you. Siobhan.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you very much, Siobhan. I will invite Mr. Waxelbaum up.

[Time: 00:08:36]

Judah Waxelbaum: Mayor and Councilmembers, my name is Judah Waxelbaum I live on East 93rd Place I'm a 25-year resident of the city of Scottsdale and currently serve as the Chief Legislative Liaison at the

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona and I'm a proud two-time graduate of Arizona State University, holding a Master of Public Policy, concentrating in Environmental Policy.

At WIFA, we believe Arizona does not have to choose between natural resources and growth. I believe the same is true for Scottsdale. Scottsdale has led for decades on water and environmental policy. I know I am equipped to continue that proud legacy for our city. My career has awarded me the opportunity to travel to all corners of our great state, seeing the \$200 million in conservation grants WIFA distributed in action. Away from my government responsibilities, I led the Arizona Chapter of the American Conservation Coalition, an organization that seeks to bridge the political divide to protect our beautiful ecosystem and environment. In short, my career goal is to be the Lorax. I have a proven track record of bipartisanship and success rooted in the campsite rules of leaving this place better than we found it.

This mindset has earned me the privilege of working for the previous and the current governor administrations, also resulting in me being named a 2024 Flynn Brown Fellow, Arizona's premier fellowship for those who care about the future of Arizona through civility and bipartisanship. I have been following the work of the commission for years now. I have attended all the Sustainability Plan meetings at the Council. I usually sit here in the front row. I'm wearing my Smoky the Bear socks right now. I am happy to answer any questions, and I promise you if I'm given the opportunity to serve on this commission, I am ready to hit the ground running.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Waxelbaum. I haven't been asking my colleagues but if you have any questions, please holler. Let me know. Those are the, that's the balance of the in-person applicants and now I will see if we can get Mr. Scheck and Mr. Stearns who are participating electronically. I don't know if there's a visual conference component.

[Time: 00:11:05]

Andrew Scheck: Can you hear me Vice Mayor Graham?

Vice Mayor Graham: Yes, thank you Mr. Scheck.

Andrew Scheck: I don't know if you want to start with me or the other person.

Vice Mayor Graham: You are earlier on my list. So, I suppose we will start with you. You have two minutes and please begin.

Andrew Scheck: First thank you very much. I want to make a quick note before I begin to Councilman Betty Janik, to Mayor Ortega, Councilman Durham and Councilwoman Caputi. Thank you so much for your I wish I was there in person. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do and I'm sure after still distribute to Scottsdale. Thank you very much.

With that being said, the current Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Commission, serving with

Chairman Brady, it's as she stated and my commissioner yesterday, we've treated this as an honor. We treat it like a full-time job. I'm extremely passionate about what we do and what we continue to do for sustainability for the people of today and the people of tomorrow in Scottsdale. It would be an honor to serve once more and to deliver the same passion that that commission has and to deliver great work for the people of Scottsdale. I thank everybody for their time, and again it's been a privilege so far.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Scheck. And now I will turn to staff to see if we can bring in Mr. any questions? I see none. I need to remind myself to give my colleagues a chance to ask questions if they desire. I will look now to city staff to see if we can bring in Mr. Joshua Stearns.

[Time: 00:12:39]

Joshua Stearns: Good afternoon, this is Joshua Stearns here. I have been a Scottsdale resident since 2015. I live at 2630 North Granite Reef Road, Scottsdale. I've moved here in 2015 from the great state of Texas, and I have been very intimately involved with the real estate market. I'm on the board of directors, now board of Government Affairs Committee of the Scottsdale Association of Realtors. I also am completing my MBA right now in Environmental and International Business, a big thing about this is getting more involved in the community that can drive a personal but also professional and taking into consideration within the Environmental Advisory Commission.

I do believe that some of the large things that we talk about on a daily almost basis in the real estate market is things that affect us as far as like, you know, urban heat mitigation and wastewater reduction and that's really what has sparked my interest and pushing me forward personally and professionally and being a part of this and the greater future of what Scottsdale will be. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Stearns. I am seeing no questions from my colleagues, and I will just check in, make sure Councilwoman Littlefield is on the line.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Yes, I am. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Okay, Kathy, Councilwoman Littlefield, I will start with the vote. I will start with Councilwoman Caputi, and I will probably wrap up with you so we can keep the flow going. So, I will start with her and finish with you every time if that's okay. And I see Rommel Cordova is ready to receive votes. We will start with Councilwoman Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Ute Brady, Andrew Scheck and Siobhan Ulreich-Power.

Councilwoman Janik: Unite Brady, Andrew Scheck and Siobhan Ulreich-Power.

Mayor Ortega: Ute Brady, Andrew Scheck and Siobhan Ulreich-Power.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Ute Brady, Andrew Scheck and Siobhan Ulreich-Power.

Councilmember Durham: Ute Brady, Andrew Scheck and Siobhan Ulreich-Power.

Vice Mayor Graham: I will vote for Scott Newell, Siobhan Ulreich-Power and Judah Waxelbaum. And Councilwoman Littlefield?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Ute Brady, Scott Newell and Andrew Scheck.

Deputy City Clerk Rommel Cordova: Okay, Ute Brady, Andrew Scheck and Ms. Power have been appointed.

Vice Mayor Graham: I would like to thank the remaining Environmental Advisory Commission candidates for their presentation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

I will move on to the Historic Preservation Commission. The Historic Preservation Commission oversees the Development and management of Scottsdale's Historic Preservation Program. Special qualifications: As outlined in the Scottsdale City Code, each member shall have demonstrated special interest, knowledge, or experience in at least one of the following: Building construction, history, architectural history, real estate, historic preservation law or other historic preservation related field. There are two vacancies and three nominees. Courtney Lage has withdrawn her application. There are two vacancies and three nominees. The nominees are: Kat Djordjevic, Brandon Fadden, Ryan Hilbun. And I will call Kat Djordjevic. And I will kindly ask you to correct me if I mispronounce.

[Time: 00:17:05]

Kat Djordjevic: Kat Djordjevic. Hello and thank you for having me. My name is Kat Djordjevic, and I live in south Scottsdale between 68th Street and McDowell in one of four Scottsdale historic neighborhoods Village Grove. I lived there for over eight years and have become quite familiar with the process and the guidelines of Village Grove. My background is in technology, supply chain and real estate. I'm also a sustainability practitioner and the need to Preserve what you have before you buy or build new is part of my DNA. Living in a neighborhood, I'm uniquely positioned to truly understand the need and the points of those that live in the neighborhood.

The Historic Preservation is the only commission that affects very specific Scottsdale citizens rather than the general public, yet there's not a requirement for representation of those residents on the commission. Since being published, the guidelines have not been updated or brought back to homeowners for feedback or revision. As new owners move in and realize the heating and cooling costs it becomes very challenging for them to both retain the historic nature of their home, update to modern standards and do modern standards and do so with the neighborhood guidelines.

Rather than touting the issues and not doing anything about it, I'm here to express my interest in this appointment and work towards bridging the gap between those that live in their neighborhood, and

those that govern it. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you very much, Ms. Djordjevic. Again, I will remind my colleagues have questions, just let me know. Mr. Fadden. And then after that, if Mr. Ryan Hilbun can be ready.

[Time: 00:18:47]

Brandon Fadden: Good afternoon, Council. Thank you for having me. My name is Brandon Fadden. I live at 8702 East Solano Drive, 85250. I have been a resident of Scottsdale now for ten years. I graduated with a degree in construction management from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. With that, I worked in all different types of construction from heavy civil to commercial. Most recently, about four years ago, I started my own general contracting firm. We do small commercial and residential. With a lot of the residential work that we've had, we had the pleasure on working on a lot of historic homes throughout the valley. We understand the nuances and the challenges that the different stakeholders face. But at the same time, a lot of joy and appreciation for the historic side of them.

With that, I want to work with the commission and the stakeholders. Everyone from the neighbors, the tenants themselves, the residents and being able to achieve their goals but being able to Preserve the different historic preservation side of it. And that goes for the residential and commercial buildings all throughout our great city.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Fadden. I will invite Mr. Hilbun up.

[Time: 00:20:15]

Ryan Hilbun: Mayor and Councilmembers, my name is Ryan Hilbun. Thank you for this opportunity. I live at 2324 North 81st Way, also in Village Grove. I have been a Scottsdale resident for 15 years. I received my undergrad from A.S.U. in Aviation, and I worked in that industry for a number of years before joining the Army, I served as a helicopter pilot in the Army for eight years before moving back here. Scottsdale is my home. I grew up in a military family. So, I never really had a place to call my home. Scottsdale is a special place to me, and I call it my home. Now it's important to me to give back to my community and contribute in a positive manner and I believe I can do that through this board and commission. After that, I received my master's from A.S.U. in Real Estate Development, and I work in that capacity ever since.

I would say the main skill that allows me to be successful at my job is collaboration and I believe this board needs collaboration, and it's the main thing that can help us work together with different stakeholders and moving preservation, and heritage forward with valuable growth for the community. I find that the major obstacle to overcoming challenges is shared values, interests and goals, and that's another major skill that I bring to the table. I genuinely like to get to know people, find their interests and goals, find common paths that we can walk together along, and that's what I bring to the table, and I appreciate your time.

Vice Mayor Graham: You're just setting off alarms. Very good. Thank you, Mr. Hilbun. I will take votes now. I will invite Mr. Cordova to the podium. I will finish with Councilwoman Littlefield, and I will start with Councilwoman Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you. Brandon Fadden. Ryan Hilbun.

Mayor Ortega: Brandon Fadden and Ryan Hilbun.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Brandon Fadden and Ryan Hilbun.

Councilmember Durham: Brandon Fadden and Ryan Hilbun.

Vice Mayor Graham: Mr. Fadden and Mr. Hilbun.

Councilwoman Caputi: Brandon Fadden and Ryan Hilbun.

Councilwoman Littlefield: No additional.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, for the voting, you do cast a vote. That's for the nominations.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Brandon Fadden, Ryan Hilbun.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Thank you. I believe Mr. Cordova has tallied the votes and appreciate everyone for their application and interest in the commission.

LIBRARY BOARD

With, that I will move on to the Library Board. This Library Board advises the City Council on general policy relating to the programs, services and future development of the Scottsdale Public Libraries. There is one vacancy and one nominee. We will probably have a very short section here. I will invite Janice Shimokubo to the podium if she so desires to give us a speech. Thank you.

[Time: 00:23:31]

Janice Shimokubo: Good afternoon, Mayor Ortega and Vice Mayor Graham and the Councilmembers. I would like to say a few words because it is an honor to be here today. I'm Janice Shimokubo, I live at 6114 East Sonoran Trail zip code is 85256. I lived in Scottsdale for 13 years, five years at McCormick Ranch during the 1990s and then I returned to Scottsdale in 2016.

The experiences I will bring to the Library Board are twofold. First of all, my M.B.A. degree and corporate experience at Fortune 100 companies manages marketing programs and leading lines of businesses taught me the value of fact-based decision making, the importance of market research and understanding customer needs and the importance of innovation to make sure a business grows and

prosper. I would bring those business principles to the Library Board, but secondly, I love libraries. I have been a card-carrying library patron since the age of 8 when I got my first library card at the city of Chicago library system. Through the years, and multiple corporate relocations I held library cards in 11 different public library systems. I have experienced good, very good, and outstanding libraries, and I believe the Scottsdale Library System is in that very top tier.

The top issue facing the Library Board is to help our library system stay relevant and fiscally strong. Through board initiatives like advocating and promoting library programs and services, through our neighborhoods, as well as through the community, collaborating with other organizations like the friends of the library of which I am a member to raise funds and visibility. And when necessary, to bring recommendations forward to city council on critical library opportunities or issues as they may arise. I believe that the Scottsdale Library System will continue to thrive and flourish in the years to come. It would be an honor to serve on the board and I thank you for your consideration.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, we thank you for your application, thank you Ms. Shimokubo. And with that, I will finish with Councilwoman Littlefield, and I will start with Mayor Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Janice Shimokubo.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Janice Shimokubo.

Councilmember Durham: Janice Shimokubo.

Vice Mayor Graham: Ms. Shimokubo.

Councilwoman Caputi: Janice Shimokubo.

Councilwoman Janik: Janice Shimokubo.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Janice Shimokubo.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Thank you and congratulations.

LOSS TRUST FUND

[Time: 00:26:14]

And as Mr. Cordova's wrapping that up, I will invite well, I will begin the next section, Loss Trust Fund Board. The Loss Trust Fund Board is responsible for recommendations to the City Council regarding you can come up Mr. Stephens the administration of the Loss Trust Fund. Special qualifications: As specified in the Scottsdale City Code, the City Council shall appoint five joint trustees, of whom no more than one

shall be a member of the City Council and no more than one trustee may be a City employee. One vacancy and one nominee. Mr. Stephens thank you for being here.

[Time: 00:26:48]

Mark Stephens: I reside at 12982 N. 116th Place in the Ancala Development. I have been there for almost five years. From there, I spent from 1997 to 1998 on East Poinsettia. That's 15 years. I had a break in between where I transferred to San Diego. I have been here for 15 years.

As far as qualifications, my background is I spent 36 years with the big four accounting firm as an audit person. I was also the managing partner for eight years of the Phoenix office, having a couple hundred people reporting for me and then San Diego four years before I retired. So, I'm now retired full-time.

As far as the relevant expertise, probably the most thing of interest while I was working around 2010, I was a member of the 10-person group of business leaders that looks over the city San Diego budget with the purpose of trying to identify and address the structural deficit that was there and put together a report after meeting for almost a year and giving city council a shopping list of things to consider from which they chose those that they thought were the most relevant in order to address the structural deficit. That was successful. Kudos to you all. I noticed you tried to look at structural elements. Congratulations to your board and what you had in your budget for that.

The other thing that might be of interest a couple years, I did an Arizona City, so I audited the audit partner in another Arizona City. So, I have an awareness and with my 36 years of being an auditor at Ernst & Young, we have done a lot of claim types things that I understand the trust fund is available. The largest area of concern or needed attention. I went through a lot of the Minutes. I went through the attachments through the Minutes, and I scanned the 2024 budget and frankly, I didn't see anything glaring that popped out. I'm frankly more interested in what you are looking for from my role on this and I look forward to being an engaged part of the Loss Trust Fund.

Vice Mayor Graham: Questions?

Mark Stephens: There won't be any questions.

Vice Mayor Graham: I will invite my colleagues to pose questions. I'm seeing none. Thank you for your speech. And I will invite back up Mr. Cordova and we can start the vote. I will finish with Councilwoman Littlefield, and I will start with Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Mark Stephens.

Councilmember Durham: Mark Stephens.

Vice Mayor Graham: Mr. Stephens.

Councilwoman Caputi: Mark Stephens.

Councilwoman Janik: Mark Stephens.

Mayor Ortega: Mark Stephens.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Mark Stephens.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Thank you and congratulations.

MCDOWELL SONORAN Preserve COMMISSION

McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, I will invite Nicholas Hartmann up. McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission provides citizen oversight for acquisition, preservation, management and stewardship of the McDowell Mountain and related Sonoran Desert for the benefit of this and future generations. There is one vacancy and three nominees, and they are: Nicholas Hartmann, Pruitt Layton, Michael Pomarico excuse me. Mr. Hartmann has come to the podium, and I will invite him to begin. Thank you.

[Time: 00:30:04]

Nicholas Hartmann: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and members of Council. My name is Nicholas Hartmann, I live at 8813 North 85th Court in McCormick Ranch and I lived in Scottsdale for 11 years now.

Long before I moved to Scottsdale, I visited here and I was an enthusiastic user of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, which I found to be a unique, refreshing, calming place to be. And I found that to be even more enjoyable when I lived here. I also served as a member of the Preserve and Protect Scottsdale Task Force last year and before that. We recommended Proposition 490, which the voters approved and in the course of that, I learned a lot about how some of Scottsdale city government works. I had a chance to work with a number of the professional staff who manage the Preserve and uniformly impressed with their professionalism. And I qualified several years ago as a steward in the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. So, I have seen that entity from the inside and I understand how it works. I appreciate the professionalism and enthusiasm of those stewards. And I understand how that organization is beginning to develop and change to meet new challenges.

I believe with those three are pieces of experience, a love of the land itself, an understanding of how Scottsdale itself manages this land that that it owns, and an inside look at the conservancy and its steward, I would be well-equipped to work on this commission and contribute to preserving this extraordinary piece of land that is unique to this city. I hope to have that opportunity. Thank you. Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Hartmann. I invite Mr. Pruitt Layton, and I will kindly ask for Michael Pomarico to be ready on next on deck. Thank you, Mr. Layton.

[Time: 00:32:04]

Pruitt Layton: Thank you, Mayor Ortega, Councilmembers for this opportunity. My name is Pruitt Layton. I've been in Scottsdale since about 2010. I currently live at 11755 North 135th Place. I appreciate and understand the importance of the Preserve to the city of Scottsdale, I would like to participate and make any recommendations regarding the sustainability of the Preserve for future generations. Although the land has essentially been acquired there's still much to do to maintain the desert, landscape and the wildlife habitats.

I believe my background, experience and previous work with the Preserve will allow me to make a significant contribution to the commission. My career spanned about 40 years in aerospace, including 24 here in the valley with Honeywell where I had multiple vice president level roles in sales, marketing and customer management. When I retired in 2020, I read that the biggest retirement challenge is finding purpose. I think that about that daily, mainly because it's on a sticky note over my computer screen, I look at it every morning. Over the past four years I've found my purpose seems to be pushing me or pulling me more and more into the Sonoran Desert and specifically the Scottsdale Preserve. So, a role on the Preserve Commission seems to be a nice compliment or supplement to me finding my purpose.

I'm an avid hiker, I've been a steward of the conservancy since 2018 volunteering more than 1,600 hours patrolling as an ambassador, construction, maintenance, fire wise, working with the fire department, youth education and many other projects.

I was also active in helping the citizens of Scottsdale understand the importance of passing Prop 490 so there will be dedicating funding allocated to the Preserve. It's my understanding that the Preserve will have an oversight role in helping figure out how those funds which are allocated to the Preserve will be spent. I have also read the 2024 Ecological Resource Plan. So, I understand how the Preserve Commission will play a role in making sure that the research frequencies and the priorities contained in that plan are balanced with budget considerations.

So, in summary, I'm very interested in this role. I believe I can add value to the work of the commission, and I appreciate your support.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Layton. Mr. Pomarico, please. Has anyone seen Mr. Pomarico? Well, very well. I guess we will begin voting then. I will I think it's Mr. I'm up to Councilmember Durham to start there and I will finish with Councilwoman Littlefield, and I will ask my colleague Mr. Durham to please cast his vote.

Councilmember Durham: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Pruitt Layton.

Vice Mayor Graham: Mr. Layton.

Councilwoman Caputi: Pruitt Layton.

Councilwoman Janik: Mr. Layton.

Mayor Ortega: Mr. Layton.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Mr. Layton.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Michael Pomarico.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Congratulations, Mr. Layton. Thank you and we thank our applicants.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Neighborhood Advisory Commission, one opening and one nominee. The Neighborhood Advisory Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council on policies, plans, strategies and programs to preserve, improve and revitalize of Scottsdale's housing and neighborhoods. Mr. Hewitt's term has expired and he's eligible for reappointment. Thank you for being here and you have two minutes, please begin.

[Time: 00:35:54]

Larry Hewitt: Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council, Larry Hewitt, I reside at 8208 East Montebello, 85250 and I have been a resident of Scottsdale for six years. I currently serve as the chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to interview here tonight and to serve as a second term as a commissioner on the commission. I'm proud of the past three years that I served on the commission. I feel myself and my fellow commissioners have suggested and implemented some great changes when it comes to neighborhood enhancement grants as well as the Spirit of Scottsdale Awards.

There's still work to be done, as I mentioned in my application. STR's are still an issue for the neighborhoods in Scottsdale. The city has made amazing strides in controlling STR's despite being handcuffed by our state legislature. It's important that the citizens of Scottsdale know that there's a city commission that's focused on STR's. I look forward to serving another three years on the Neighborhood Advisory Commission and continue to work with our amazing city staff. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Hewitt. And I will start with myself on this go-around. I will invite Rommel Cordova to tally the votes. And I will vote for Mr. Hewitt. And I will go to Councilwoman Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Larry Hewitt.

Councilwoman Janik: Larry Hewitt.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Larry Hewitt.

Mayor Ortega: Larry Hewitt.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Larry Hewitt.

Councilmember Durham: Larry Hewitt.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Larry Hewitt.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good, thank you. Congratulations.

[Time: 00:37:28]

PATH AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Graham: Paths and Trails Subcommittee. The Paths & Trails Subcommittee advises the Transportation Commission and provides a public forum for issues surrounding paths and trails. Special qualifications: The subcommittee shall consist of five members: two Transportation Commissioners, one Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and two non-commission members. Non-commission members are appointed by the City Council for terms of three years with a maximum of two years. There is one citizen representative vacancy and two nominees. Jack Roberts has withdrawn his application from consideration. The nominees are: Sarah Hecht and Molly Rosin. I will invite Sarah Hecht to the podium. Ms. Hecht oh, pardon me, she will be participating electronically.

Rommel Cordova: Vice Mayor Graham, she's actually not on the line at the moment. She didn't join the meeting.

Vice Mayor Graham: Oh, okay. Well, I guess we will give her we'll invite Molly Rosin to the podium, and if by the time Ms. Rosin finishes and Ms. Hecht has connected, we invite her that is if Molly Rosin is in the building.

Rommel Cordova: Vice Mayor Graham, excuse me, it doesn't appear she's either. So, if you want to skip to the next group. We will put down Paths and Trails Subcommittee. Give them a little more time. We have one more commission before we complete our task before us today.

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Veterans Advisory Commission advises the City Council on veteran programs, policies and practices and serves as a community connection point for veterans and the community in which they live. There are four vacancies and seven nominees. Tyler Pencek has withdrawn his application from consideration.

The nominees are: Mark Ashley, Stephen Casares, Steven Jackson, Hank Scherf, Mike Smothermon, Donna Tew, and Pauline Zaro. There's at least one person, Pauline Zaro, participating electronically. I believe sir, are you Mr. Ashley?

[Time: 00:39:45]

Mark Ashley: Yes.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, very good. I will invite Mr. Casares and Mr. Jackson to stand by and be ready because you will be after that, and I will invite Mr. Ashley to begin.

Mayor, members of Council, my name is Mark Ashley. I have lived at 9330 East Dreyfuss since 1994. I'm a long-term public servant. I've recently retired. My veterans experience includes at the federal level, Veterans Advisory Council, and I'm finishing my term here. I have also sung with the Veterans chorus.

In terms of issues for the commission, we have a winner in Scottsdale Salutes. I want to commend my fellow commissioners and members and the city staff for making that happen. If I'm reappointed, I will help to sustain that program and hopefully make the event even better. I want to thank you for your giving me the opportunity to serve, and hope that I get to saddle up for a second term. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Can you give us a small chorus example? No, I'm just kidding. I won't make you do that. Mr. Casares please come to the podium.

[Time: 00:40:47]

Stephen Casares: Hello, good evening. Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor, Council, staff and all those in attendance. I'm Steve Casares. I live at 19777 North 76th Street, Unit 3213, as a matter of respect for my parents who are watching, they live at Tom's Thumb and WestWorld. So hi, mom. Hi, dad. Hi, stepdad.

I would like to be a member of the Advisory Commission. I believe my skill set and my experience directly aligns with the objectives of the Veterans Advisory Commission. I'm a West Point graduate, class of 2009. I represent our Congressional district. I spent five years at the Pentagon and two years at Arlington National Cemetery and just recently finished teaching at West Point in Ethics. I have the unique experience of being the son of Army officers and brother of Army officers.

I believe I'm uniquely positioned to do outreach. We have 19,000 veterans, give or take here in Scottsdale. 119,000 veterans remaining of World War II, unknown about Korea, and I believe my experience, the Iraq and Afghanistan generation needs to step up. They need to step up and have outreach. The mean age according to the Bureau of Labor statistics is 38.1. I'm 37, about to be 38 next year. Don't ask me where the .1 came from but I believe it's time for outreach and the young generation to represent veterans in Scottsdale. Thank you for your consideration and your time.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Casares and I will invite Mr. Jackson up, unless of course there are

questions from my colleagues. Don't be afraid to holler. As Mr. Jackson approaches the podium, I will make note that Mr. Hank Scherf is unable to participate in today's interviews but still very much interested in being appointed to the commission. I will kindly ask Mr. Mike Smothermon to stand ready to go next.

[Time: 00:42:44]

Steven Jackson: Hi, everybody. Thank you for all you have done on the Council. I appreciate everything you have done. My name is Steven Jackson, I live at 8416 East Fairmont and 85251 right behind the police station. I have been here for 12 years. I have been on the commission now for a few years and as the Chair, we had the honor to set up the Scottsdale Salutes program, and we have been able to identify and preserve a lot of history for veterans is here in the city of Scottsdale through that program. We interview about 40 people every year, and we have nominations throughout the city, and we have had some really just insanely talented people, people who have served alongside John McCain, people who served this country great. Our commission has done a really good job of trying to make sure that all of Scottsdale's heroes are honored that includes setting the standards as well for the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen, something that we worked with the Scottsdale city staff to do, so that moving forward we can still add people in our current generations who are fighting or who have fought in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

The other thing I would like to say is, you know, my background is unique. I'm one the only enlisted people on the on the commission. So, we don't really have too many enlisted people who actually work these commissions. Officers are are very leadership oriented, but I believe I'm one of the two, Justin Lehman who is a great leader who I hope will be our Chair moving forward is the other enlisted person on the commission.

As a lawyer, I volunteered here in Scottsdale with the with the Afghanistan refugees, resettlement program here. In creating asylum claims for people who served next to us in Afghanistan and Iraq, in order to gain asylum here in the United States. These are people that love the United States, they are people who served alongside of us, they are people that do drug enforcement and work with the D.E.A. and other organizations. I think we need a ton of outreach in the city of Scottsdale. The main thing that we have done is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. That's going to be bigger every year. We have people who come from Australia and Prescott and all kinds of places around state because there are no Vietnam Veteran Memorials. I want to continue that. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you very much Mr. Jackson. I will invite Mr. Smothermon to the podium and as he's approaching the podium, I will ask Donna Tew too to stand by. Thank you. Please begin.

[Time: 00:45:22]

Mike Smothermon: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council. My name is Mike Smothermon. I live at 9808 North 64th Place, 85253, I have been there since 2000 after retiring from the Air Force. Finished as a Squadron Commander, F-16 Squadron Commander out at Luke Air Force Base and have been over here in

Scottsdale ever since.

My 20 plus years in the Air Force, I served as staff officer, doing special projects for Four-Star General and several other command positions. And the Scottsdale Salutes Program is what got me here. I saw that, actually nominated my father and he was selected. He's he passed away recently, but he was in the retirement or the Alzheimer's unit there at Sunrise the Scottsdale. When he saw his picture up there on that banner, he was so proud. He spent 34 years in the Air Force. And every time we went somewhere, to lunch, breakfast, anywhere in Scottsdale, he would thank the people the servers there because he thought that they had a vote in him being on that banner. So that was great. I think that's an outstanding program. That's what brought me here. I would like the opportunity to help out and find and make that program bigger and better and add some additional programs if possible. Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mr. Smothermon. And I will invite Donna Tew, and I will share that Pauline Zaro is participating remotely. Thank you, Donna, please begin.

[Time: 00:47:10]

Donna Tew: Thank you Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers. My name is Donna Tew. I have lived in Scottsdale for five years. I live at 8485 East Pierce Street, Scottsdale, 85257. I'm seeking an appointment to the Veterans Advisory Commission. I served 24 years in the Air Force. I recently retired as a I was a nurse in the Air Force. I held multiple positions and leadership roles anywhere from intensive care to flying air vac. I worked for the Air Mobility Command Inspector General Team for four years, and I ended up in Scottsdale as an active-duty instructor embedded at Honor Health after I retired, I stayed on at Honor Health. I worked for the military partnership, and I work as a skill rich specialist.

I deployed four times in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. As a skilled nursing specialist at Honor Health, I implement the Department of Defense program that supports active-duty members who are transitioning back to the civilian workforce. I helped place the members in internships and gain experience leading to high probability of full-time employment at the end of their internships. I'm a graduate of the Scottsdale Leadership Class 38 best in state. I serve on the Scottsdale Chamber's Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. I'm the Workforce Development Subcommittee Chair. And I'm also the Chair at the Honor Health Veteran's Employee Resource Group. I believe that my experience in healthcare and workforce development, specifically in the skill bridge and working relationships with multiple community partners would complement the current Veterans Advisory Commission members. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, thank you, Ms. Tew. I will invite Ms. Pauline Zaro, is if she's on the line to give us her two minutes. Thank you.

[Time: 00:49:15]

Pauline Zaro: Oh, thank you. I am on the line. I was a resident of McDowell Mountain Ranch for 30 years

and we just downsized to 7633 East Adobe Drive. I am going to tell you I'm very impressed with everybody and the reason that I joined or even put my name on the ballot was because I took the city of Scottsdale course, and they said there were going to be four openings, and they said that they were concerned that they would not be filled. Two of my three sons are active-duty marines. One is a Captain deployed in the Middle East. The second one is a Sergeant, and he's stationed at Myanmar. I will withdraw my name and I'm overly impressed with everybody and I feel that everything has been covered and I wanted to make sure you had enough people because we need to continue with our veterans in Scottsdale and both my sons were nominated and accepted this year and their banners were up, and let me tell you, as a mother two of Marines, it was very emotional for me and I wanted to make sure somebody is keeping up on all of our veterans. So, thank you to the other candidates and I do withdrawal. Thank you for your time.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, Pauline, that's a new one for me to be so impressed, although we have all been very impressed with all the applicants here. I think that says a lot about Pauline to do that. So, I hope that we keep her application on file for a future opening. And so, with that, I will finish with Councilman Littlefield, and I think am I back at Councilwoman Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: I'm not sure you started though yet.

Vice Mayor Graham: I did start one. I did. I think we are back to you. Make four picks. Thank you.

Councilwoman Caputi: Mark Ashley, Stephen Casares, Steven Jackson, and Donna Tew.

Councilwoman Janik: Mark Ashley, Stephen Casares, Steven Jackson, and Donna Tew.

Mayor Ortega: Mark Ashley, Stephen Casares, Steven Jackson, and Donna Tew.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Always so impressive. So, I just want to say that as well, and thanks to Pauline for her sons' service and stay in the stay on the list. With that, I will vote for Mark Ashley, Steven Casares, Steven Jackson, and Donna Tew.

[Time: 00:52:00]

Councilmember Durham: I will vote for Mark Ashley, Steven Casares, Steven Jackson, and Donna Tew.

Vice Mayor Graham: I will cast my votes for Mark Ashley, Hank Scherf, Mike Smothermon, and Donna Tew. Was that we have, Councilwoman Littlefield.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield, are you with us?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Yes, I am.

Vice Mayor Graham: Okay, please.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Yes, I am. I vote for Mark Ashley, Steven Jackson, Hank Scherf and Michael Lichi.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield, I don't think the fourth one was an option.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Oh, was he taken off list?

Vice Mayor Graham: Do you mean Mike Smothermon. Can you just restate your four selections.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Okay. Mark Ashley. Steven Jackson, Hank Scherf, and Donna Tew.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good.

Rommel Cordova: So, Mark Ashley and Steven Jackson, and Donna Tew have been appointed.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good.

Councilwoman Janik: But there's four.

Rommel Cordova: I'm sorry. There's four. I'm sleeping here at the wheel. I'm sorry. So those three are appointed and sorry, Stephen Casares, I skipped over them. Mark Ashley, Stephen Casares, Steven Jackson and Donna Tew are the four.

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. Well again we thank all the applicants for the Veterans Advisory Commission. We got through that one. And now I will revert back to I think it was Paths and Trails earlier.

PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

[Time: 00:54:11]

We were entertaining, we have one opening and we were going to vote for Sarah Hecht or Molly Rosin. And I will just ask my colleague staff, anybody on the line or in the house, the building?

Rommel Cordova: Vice Mayor, she's in the process of connecting to the meeting.

Vice Mayor Graham: Do you know how long that process might take?

Rommel Cordova: Just a quick minute, she will be joining.

Vice Mayor Graham: And that was that was Molly Rosin.

Rommel Cordova: That would be Sarah Hecht. Sarah Hecht.

Vice Mayor Graham: Sarah Hecht, okay and you've not seen Molly Rosin?

Rommel Cordova: Vice Mayor, no, she's not here.

Vice Mayor Graham: Okay. I suppose we will spend just a quick moment here to allow her to connect so she can speak to us for a couple of minutes.

[Time: 00:55:06]

Sarah Hecht: Hello?

Vice Mayor Graham: Yes, Mrs. Hecht, if you are connected, we would invite you to speak for two minutes for the Paths and Trails Subcommittee.

Sarah Hecht: Okay, I'm just trying to log in. I'm really sorry about this, we were moving today, and so that's I'm just getting to the computer now.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, we can hear you loudly and clearly and if you are comfortable, you can begin when you are ready.

Sarah Hecht: Okay. Sure. So, my name is Sarah Hecht. I'm a resident of the city of Scottsdale. We live in north Scottsdale pretty close to Browns Ranch. And we enjoy like, hiking and mountain biking and just getting out with nature. I'm currently applying to become a volunteer at the Browns Ranch facility also.

So, first of all, I guess I lived here from 2019 to 2021, then I moved to Naples, Florida, to help my mom who was ill and then now now I'm back. I just we moved back like a week ago. So that's why, you know, I'm moving into a new house anyway. But yeah, I was excited to hear about the opening for the path and trails department and position, and I would love to be a part of it if you still need help. I did do some volunteering at the Naples Conservancy. I was a boat captain there. We did the boat tours, and we talked about the mangroves and history, Florida wildlife and plant life. So, I did that for a couple of years while I was down there and really enjoyed that. And yeah, so that's one of my qualifications. And before that, I was a general contractor for 31 years. So, this has been something that I'm passionate about as is nature and getting outside. So, this really appeals to me.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, your time has expired Ms. Hecht, and we appreciate you for connecting and for your comments. Thank you very much.

Sarah Hecht: Okay.

Vice Mayor Graham: And now I will open the votes to my colleagues for one opening and two applicants. And I will start with I will finish with Councilwoman Littlefield, and I will start with Councilwoman Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Sarah Hecht.

Mayor Ortega: Sarah Hecht.

Sarah Hecht: Yes, hi.

Councilwoman Whitehead: We're voting for you. You don't have to respond.

Sarah Hecht: Oh, I'm sorry.

Councilwoman Whitehead: I will vote for Sarah Hecht.

Councilmember Durham: Sarah Hecht.

Vice Mayor Graham: Ms. Hecht.

Councilwoman Caputi: Sarah Hecht.

Vice Mayor Graham: Councilwoman Littlefield?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Sarah Hecht.

Vice Mayor Graham: Congratulations, Ms. Hecht, if you are still on the line, you have been appointed to the Paths and Trails Subcommittee.

Sarah Hecht: Wow, great.

[Time: 00:59:26]

Vice Mayor Graham: Congratulations. Well, as we always talk about how fortunate and blessed we are as a city to have all the people with so much talent and experience offer that skills, knowledge, and experience to serve their city, free of charge, and volunteer, it's something that, you know, is easy to overlook, but we always remind ourselves to be grateful for that, for how many great people we have in this community, so this concludes our appointment process for the day and thanking our nominees for their interest. Thank you for being here and speaking as well. And we are fortunate to continue to receive qualified applicants for these boards and commissions. If you were not appointed today, please know that your application will remain on file for consideration at a future date, if there are additional vacancies.

For those appointed, city staff will contact you this evening or at their next opportunity and provide you with information on next steps regarding your appointment. As I was mentioning the city of Scottsdale is very fortunate to have such dedicated and talented individuals who were so willing to serve and ready to help our city. It's my honor to lead this part of the meeting. And with that I will turn it back over to

the Mayor. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you very much. I do want to point out the city of Scottsdale has 2,600 full-time employees but we have over 4,000 volunteers and that's a great statement about our great city and the willingness to serve and many good candidates were presented. At this point, I move to adjourn the Special Meeting. Do I have a second.

Councilwoman Janik: Second.

Mayor Ortega: A motion and a second. Please record your vote.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Yes.

Mayor Ortega: We are unanimous, and we are adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 01:01:17]