

Public Open House Comments

October 30 and November 4, 2009

Summary: The following represents the comments given at the Public Open Houses focusing on Open Space, Parks and Rec. and Public Facilities held at Pulliam Airport— Second Floor Mezzanine, Friday, October 30, 2009; 7 to 9 a.m., City Hall Lobby, 211 West Aspen Avenue, Friday, October 30, 2009; NOON to 2 p.m., and Highlands Fire Department #21, 568 Kona Trail, Kachina Village, Wednesday, November 4, 2009; 4 to 7 p.m.

Question posed:

Why is Open Space important to the community?

- Quality of life provide places to enjoy nature, hike, sit and relax, view wildlife, escape city, regain sanity
- The sustainable wildlife corridors maps should reflect the “Quality Wildlife Habitat” areas shown in the OS/Greenways Plan, not just the corridors that the wildlife uses
- All open spaces should be kept from the existing Regional Plan
- The Walnut Canyon study area should be permanently and entirely protected as a National Park
- What is the status of the urban service Boundary? Does it have any existing authority? How does it interface with the existing urban Growth Boundary?
- Please pay attention to the “Desired Futures” map in the OS/Greenways plan. This was truly a multi-agency document that was meant to plan the future of the growth of Flagstaff. There isn’t even a City Commission which looks at the areas outside the UGB now
- Preserve Flagstaff’s open spaces and natural resources regardless of the transect they fall in: Resources are where they are!
- Open space is the single most important quality that identifies Flagstaff as a community
- We are a mountain town surrounded by the world’s largest stand of ponderosa pines
- Open space is the #1 reason people choose to live here
- Open space is necessary to a good quality of life and in fact is necessary to sustain all of life on this planet
- It is not ours to destroy wantonly
- We have a duty to preserve it for it’s inherent value, for all generations
- It would be so wonderful for school classrooms to visit our historical sites (Walnut Canyon) and for visitors to our area to be able to enjoy it too!
- Please keep development away from Fisher Pt. / Walnut Canyon. Lets preserve this important area for future generations
- Bring together resources (already existing) for a Conservation Land System. Volunteers are available to develop concept for inclusion in Regional Plan
- Clarify Planning Reserve Areas
- Restore Section 30 as in original Regional Plan
- Conserve Section 4
- Make Transportation Plan contingent on existing as well as future Regional Plan. Higher density needs to be balanced with more open space
- When Forests are closed for fire or not accessible due to weather there needs to be open space and opportunities in town
- Horse owners need to have routes to access the open spaces from their existing horse zoned properties, This should be in the LDMC also
- Is the “sustainable” wildlife corridors map the same as an existing wildlife corridors map?
- We need to know where the wildlife are now so we can avoid and protect them
- Paradigm shift, lets think of the whole city as a multi-use park
- Open space is a resource that is one of the most important assets to the city of Flagstaff

- Open space is why we live here
 - It is important to preserve both viewsheds and biologically important areas both inside and outside the City of Flagstaff
 - Please Preserve: S. McMillan Mesa viewshed from the city land and FUTS trail north of the property owned by the Catholic Church. The viewshed to the south will be ruined by the proposed parking lot.
 - Why did the city staff not take this viewshed into account?
 - Why did the staff only consider the viewshed from Rt. 66?
 - Lesson: The viewsheds from public open space are vitally important!
 - Please Preserve (views, and wildlife corridors) : Observatory Mesa, A-1 Mesa, Walnut Canyon, Rio De Flag and all places/open spaces that make living here so special
 - Bad ideas in the transportation Plan include: 89A by pass through Picture Canyon
 - Road connecting Switzer Dr. S. through the Rio de Flag Canon JWP.
 - 180 bypass proposed near A-1 Mountain
 - Open Spaces provide that “large backyard” that most folks can’t afford individually (and it is not effective use of land)
 - Open spaces provide visual relief, educational opportunities, exercise, social gathering, highlight natural features, and enhances Flagstaff’s image
 - Happy to see “R” symbol on the land just N of the Pullium Air Park
 - In favor of this land to be developed as “proposed Park etc.” instead of commercial or light industrial
 - Fearful of having High Country Dr. extended to JWP
 - So much growth residentially in that area, open space would be an asset
 - Keep open space between the residential area of Ponderosa Trails and the airport
- Steve Knutsen commented: let’s think of our whole community as a Park within our city limits. Plant a tree canopy across the whole town shading and cooling us in the summer. If we can turn our community into a shady grove we will not be able to keep people away because it will be such a livable space.

Question posed:

How do our recreation amenities contribute to the character of Flagstaff?

- Quality of life issue, adequate softball and soccer fields
- More grad separated pedestrian and bike paths
- Only reclaimed wastewater for parks, fields, golf courses
- Green space Rec-renfaire etc.
- We need more passive recreation such as watchable wildlife
- Areas need to be kept open to horseback riders
- Disc golf areas are out of control, losing cover and subject to heavy erosion, lots of trash, broken bottles, no oversight, the are becoming a sacrifice
- FUTS trails between horse owning communities should be open to horseback riders
- Majority of Flagstaff’s residents prefer outdoor recreation activities such as hiking biking, skiing, etc. Providing convenient access to these activities from neighborhoods throughout the community should be considered
- Recreation activities are the character of Flagstaff
- Priorities for the plan should include open space (active, low impact use) FUTS completion and wildlife corridors in coordination with transportation planning, limited road development in sensitive areas
- City should coordinate with future planning for the protection of buffer zones for Walnut Canyon
- Recreation amenities are an economic draw,
- Purveys a uniquely Flagstaff image in connection with our surroundings, this includes not only the intensive facilities but the trails, bike ways, linear paths and pocket parks

- Extra amenities add a lot, like emphasis on fences, urban trails that are low maintenance
- Trail interconnection and connections to recreation facilities, dog amenities and scenic placement are all positive features
- Our character reflects our value, Trails green space environmental blessings are unique and attractive to Flagstaff
- Recreational amenities have great value to our character

General Comments:

The online comment “polls” are very stilted. Every question should allow an ‘other’ box for another answer. It should be possible to skip questions if one wants. The answers to these polls are skewed.

With all of the pie in the sky planning, are there plans to build and more Million \$ footbridges when a lighted crosswalk was to be built at Gemini within 1/10th of a mile? As if this was not known prior?

Ron Goulet, 3035 W. Brenda Loop

Question posed:

How can local government provide Public Facilities and Services most efficiently?

- Conveniently located
- Adequate parking
- Bike and ped access
- Grouping of similar functions so people don't have to run all over town to business done
- Buildings appropriate to Flagstaff character
- Green buildings
- Build public facilities that fit the Landscape and reflect the character of our mountain town
- Sustainable, energy efficient
- Create the smallest environmental impact (Willow Bend)
- Preserve Walnut Canyon study area including section 30
- Suggest UGB stage 2 shown at base of Mt. Elden be deleted from Open Spaces Plan, this is fragile habitat and rough topo would probably wind up in very expensive SFR zoning
- Agencies need to work together to provide a more comprehensive product takes into account visual character and services, fire stations can provide interaction with trails, etc.
- Say no to Red Gap Ranch water pipeline
- Refocus on goal of 100% home and businesses reusing rainwater and grey water, Pipelines do not encourage sustainability
- Prioritize grey water over expanding reclaimed water lines
- Point of use grey water is more sustainable than reclaimed water lines
- Avoid duplication and strive for partnerships, FUSD, City, NAU, county, etc.
- Create a civic center, part of A.R. S.
- Is there adequate space now?
- Has there been a space allocation study?
- Are sewage facilities properly located to maximize land utilization densities?
- Locate Public yards in industrial areas, even if it means acquiring private property
- This approach of infill should be practiced by the city as well
- New Public facilities should not be built in green fields.

General Comments:

We need a local carbon tax to slow big construction and give incentives to building sustainably and affordably. Steve Knutson, 2918 N. Tindal Blvd

By doing what you are doing here, namely listen, listen, listen to the people, hold our values and unique characteristics high and honor our beautiful land and environment. Even if it costs us more, it is worth it.