



# Minutes

## City of Flagstaff

### Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, January 24, 2013  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

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City Hall, Council Conference Room  
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

A quorum of the Flagstaff City Council may be in attendance of the Open Spaces Commission meeting.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact 928-779-7660 (774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

##### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Bruce Fox, Chair  
Carrie Eberly  
Paul Moore  
Jessica Gist  
Stephen Hirst  
Rick Miller  
Bryan Burton

##### CITY STAFF:

Jill Trompeter, Real Estate Manager  
Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager  
Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner  
McKenzie Jones, Sustainability Specialist  
Erik Olsen, Sustainability Aide

#### **I. GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Fox called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

##### **2. Public Participation**

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

##### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Hirst moved to approve the December minutes. Commissioner Gist seconded the motion.

#### **4. Presentation Items**

##### **A. Update on City Property Disposition**

Jill Trompeter presented on the City Property disposition. Ms. Trompeter first informed the Commission that she received direction from Council to remove the Schultz parcel from discussions regarding the sale of City property to pay for the proposed Courthouse. Ms. Trompeter proceeded to discuss the two properties that the Commission may be interested in for conservation. This properties included: (1) N. San Francisco property; and (2) Old Fire Station #7 parcel.

##### N. San Francisco Property

Commissioner Miller inquired about whether a public meeting or hearing would be held with regard to the reclassification of these parcels. Ms. Trompeter informed the Commission that a neighborhood meeting would be conducted in addition to engaging in conversations with surrounding property owners.

Chairman Fox inquired about the size of the N. San Francisco parcel. Ms. Trompeter informed the commission that the entire parcel is 26 acres but that the proposed area for development is approximately 10 acres on the southern end of the parcel.

Commissioner Miller inquired about why the N. San Francisco parcel was acquired. Ms. Trompeter stated that the records do not specify why the City purchased the land. Ms. Trompeter also stressed that the N. San Francisco parcel was purchased with money from the general fund, not Open Space funds.

Commissioner Eberly inquired if the Commission could write up a recommendation for conservation of the N. San Francisco property during the January, 24, 2013 Open Spaces Commission meeting. Ms. Trompeter suggested the Commission should wait to write a recommendation until all of the information regarding the developability of the land has been presented by staff.

Commissioner Moore inquired about how a better land acquisition process could be facilitated. Ms. Trompeter stated to the Commission that ideally it would be better if she could notify Open Space of vacant land first, but this was not feasible in this case.

Commissioner Moore also inquired if Ms. Trompeter had a recommendation about whether it would be better to think about the whole picture regarding the recommendations for Flagstaff open space preservation and then approach Council, or make recommendations about individual parcels (such as the N. San Francisco parcel) as they arise. Ms. Trompeter informed the Commission that it would be easier to look at the broader picture. Commissioner Hirst stated that Councilmember Barotz had also said at a prior meeting that it would be best if the

Commission presented a comprehensive overview of open space preservation to Council.

Commissioner Miller inquired if the Commissioners would like to take a look at the properties in discussion.

Ms. Jones inquired if the Commission was interested in taking a tour of the N. San Francisco parcel a week prior to the next Open Spaces Commission meeting. The Commission agreed they would like to tour the property.

#### Old Fire Station #7 Parcel

Ms. Trompeter informed the Commission on the some of the important details of the Old Fire Station #7 parcel, specifically that it is located in a floodplain.

Commissioner Burton inquired about what percentage of the parcel is located in the easement of the Rio de Flag. Ms. Trompeter informed the Commission that she does not know the specifics of this but knows a large portion of the parcel is located in the Rio de Flag easement. She also stated that the Old Fire Station #7 parcel is not highly developable.

#### **B. Update on Observatory Mesa Acquisition**

Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the acquisition of Observatory Mesa. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that the City is conducting surveys of the proposed acquisition area and that the Public Comment Hearing for the reclassification of Observatory Mesa as suitable for conservation purposes has been scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. At this hearing, the State Land Department will accept testimony from the public on the reclassification of Observatory Mesa for conservation purposes.

Chairman Fox inquired if the Commission wished to have a letter written in support of Observatory Mesa entering the category of land of conservation.

Commissioner Miller inquired if a letter could be drafted that the Commission could choose to sign.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hirst to have Chairman Fox sign a letter of support of the Observatory Mesa acquisition. Commissioner Eberly seconded this motion. A unanimous vote was made in favor of Chairman Fox signing a letter of support on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hirst asked for clarification on the acreage of Observatory Mesa. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that the State Land sections on Observatory Mesa are approximately 2,260 acres.

Commissioner Hirst also inquired about the amount of the grant. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that the Arizona State Parks Growing Smarter Grant is

an up to 50% matching grant. The City has the \$5.5 million Observatory Mesa Open Space bond to use as a grant match as well as the remainder from the general Open Space bond.

Commissioner Gist inquired if the Commission was required to submit a Management Plan as part of the grant application process. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that an outline of a plan is required as part of the process including a description of trail and facility development.

**C. Update on Open Space Priority Criteria Exercise**

Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the Open Space Priority Criteria Exercise. She informed the Commission that the map should be completed by the February 28<sup>th</sup> Open Spaces Commission meeting. The results may be discussed at that time.

**D. Update on Joint City/County Open Spaces Commission Meeting**

The Commission was informed that a County Parks and Recreation Department sub-committee was invited to attend the next Open Spaces Commission meeting. At this meeting, the map developed through the Open Spaces priority criteria exercise will be discussed.

**5. Information Items To and From Commissioners to Staff**

Commissioner Hirst suggested that the Commission recommend to the City Council that they designate the length of the Rio de Flag as a greenway.

Ms. Jones announced the release of the 2012 City of Flagstaff Annual Report on Sustainability to the Commission.

Commissioner Eberly informed the Commission that the Diablo Trust will be having their 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**6. Agenda Items for Next Month**

- A. Designation of the Rio de Flag as a greenway.
- B. Discussion regarding Council attendance at future Open Spaces Commission meetings.
- C. Update on Thorpe Open Space.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

