



Minutes

City of Flagstaff

Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, September 26, 2013
4:00 – 6:00 pm

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:

Rick Miller, Chair
Carrie Eberly
Paul Moore
John Fall

Nicole Woodman, Sustainability
Manager
McKenzie Jones, Sustainability
Specialist
Erik Olsen, Sustainability Aide
Martin Ince, Multi-modal Planner

CITY STAFF:

Bruce Fox
Christopher Ives
Stephen Hirst
Bryan Burton

David McIntire, Real Estate Manager

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 Miller moved to approve the September 12, 2013 meeting minutes. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

4. Presentation Items

A. David McIntire, the City Real-Estate Manager, gave a presentation to the Commission on City staff recommendations for the 17 City-owned parcels under review. Please see the attached presentation. Mr. McIntire will present staff recommendations as well as the commissions' recommendations at the October 28th, 6 pm City Council meeting. The Commission will discuss their position on the staff recommendations at their October 16 meeting.

5. Discussion Items

A. Update on Observatory Mesa Acquisition

Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the current status of the Observatory Mesa acquisition. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that the City of Flagstaff was awarded a \$6 million Growing Smarter Grant by the Arizona State Parks Board for the acquisition of Observatory Mesa. The use of this grant is contingent on the acceptance this monies by the City Council at the November 5th Council meeting. The Observatory Mesa auction will be held on Friday, December 13, 2013 at 1:00 pm on the Courthouse steps.

Chair Miller inquired if there will be enough funds to acquire all of the desired acres on Observatory Mesa. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that there will be enough funds.

B. Review of City-owned Parcels for Open Space Prioritization

Parcel #9: McAllister Ranch

Ms. Jones also noted that immediately north of this parcel are the sections of State Land that the City is working to protect on Observatory Mesa.

Commissioner Hirst informed the Commission that the southern portion of the parcel under review contained a dense Ponderosa Pine population. McAllister Ranch as well as a historic barn are located in the center of the parcel, and according to Commissioner Hirst, are worth conserving. Commissioner Eberly agreed with Commissioner Hirst, stating that these structures should be conserved, especially for their historic value.

Commissioner Hirst stated his opinion that the McAllister Ranch area is the only section of this parcel worth conserving. Commissioner Hirst informed the Commission that currently this parcel is not publicly accessible.

Martin Ince, the City of Flagstaff Multi-modal Coordinator, informed the Commission that FUTS trails cross through this parcel.

Chair Miller inquired if a FUTS trail connector could be developed within this parcel. Mr. Ince informed the Commission that a FUTS connector could be developed within this parcel.

Nat White informed the Commission that the McAllister Ranch was purchased in the late 1930s and is approximately 75 years old. This parcel lies within the Clay Wash retention basin where the tree growth area is located above the floodplain. Mr. White proposed that because of these factors, this parcel would be an ideal location for a new Public Works yard and the Commission should propose it as such to the City Council.

Commissioner Hirst made a motion to preserve the section of the parcel north of the railway, the retention basin, FUTS trail alignment, and historic buildings as open space. Commissioner Moore seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parcel #11: Schultz Trailhead:

Mr. Ince informed the Commission that this parcel contains the Schultz Y-trailhead. Additionally, there is a development and homes on large lots to the west and Forest Service land to the east.

Commissioner Hirst informed the Commission that this parcel provides the only access to the Schultz Creek trailhead during winter and therefore is very important for accessibility.

Mr. White informed the Commission that this parcel can be categorized as what he refers to as Heritage Land. It was purchased by the City from Ms. McMillan at the turn of the century and has been under City ownership for more than 100 years. This parcel provides access to the forest and the original retention basin for peaks' spring water. Ruts from the Beale Road also exist here. According to Mr. White, conserving this parcel for open space is an opportunity for the City and County to develop an interface to the forest.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to recommend that parcel #11 be designated as open space in its entirety. Commissioner Eberly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parcel #16: Between Switzer and Ponderosa

Commissioner Hirst informed the Commission that the majority of this parcel lies between Turquoise and Ponderosa, is heavily forested, and contains a riparian area.

Mr. White informed the Commission that this parcel contains one of the last remaining escarpments on McMillan Mesa and would be excellent for an urban trail tributary.

Commissioner Eberly inquired if there are any proposed FUTS trails within this parcel. Martin Ince informed the Commission that there are proposed FUTS trails along Switzer Canyon Drive.

Mr. Ince informed the Commission that new FUTS trails are proposed to be developed along Turquoise and exit onto Terrace, traveling in a north-south direction through the parcel under review.

Commissioner Eberly inquired if any social trails are present within the parcel. Commissioner Hirst informed the Commission that some social trails are present.

Gwen Waring spoke to the importance of the ecological importance of the escarpments within this parcel.

Commissioner Ives made a motion to recommend that parcel #16 be designated in its entirety as open space. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parcel #17: Near Herold Ranch Rd.

Commissioner Burton stated that “For Sale” signs are presented on land east of parcel #17. Mr. Ince informed the Commission that Canyon de Rio land is for sale and is adjacent to parcel #17.

Commissioner Hirst informed the Commission that the parcel does not provide valuable connectivity and is in close proximity to traffic.

Commissioner Ives inquired about the area surrounding the parcel. Commissioner Burton informed the Commission that the parcel is surrounded by private property that is not yet developed.

Mr. White recommended that the Commission recommend to the City Council that this parcel not be sold until Little America is developed, which would increase the value of parcel #17. Chairman Miller expressed his concern that the Commission does not have the expertise to make such a recommendation.

Commissioner Hirst stated that the Commission should express that the parcel has commercial value.

Commissioner Ives expressed his concern that with possible development the parcel might have future value to a community. Commissioner Miller stated that the Commission has only recommended five parcels not be designated as open space and therefore he feels that open space has been well represented in the prioritization process.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to recommend that parcel #17 not be designated as open space at this time. Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**
 - A. Open Spaces Symposium at Lowell Observatory, October 16, 2013, 8:00am-5:00pm**
- 7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – October 16, 2013, 4 pm**
- 8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.

Public Attendance

City of Flagstaff
Open Spaces Commission
Thursday, September 26, 2013
4:00 - 6:00 pm

<u>Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>
Rose Houh	824 W. Cherry
Geoff Barnard	2642 Wild Turkey Way
John Grahame	No address provided
Robert Mark	3644 Stone Crest
Lee Webster	1721 N. Turquoise
Cecilia Cuevas	10 E. Pine Ave
Matilde Liebe	1401 W. Lil Bentel
Arline Martens	No address provided
Therese Gribbins	1451 N. San Francisco
Alaina Macauley	5 W. Pine Ave
Jeanette Macauley	3445 N. Schaffer Ln
Pipp Piatchek	1709 N. San Francisco St
Ian Torrence	863 N. Pinecliff Dr
Emily Harrison	863 N. Pinecliff Dr
Moran Henn	16 E. Route 66
Holly Gramm Stahl	429 E. David Dr
Cynthia Nicas	1929 N. Turquoise Dr
Jamie Whelan	1819 N. San Francisco St
Benita E. Boyd	501 E. Clooer Creek Dr
Dan Chisholm	102 W. Oak Ave #3
Nancy Helin	1800 N. Hereford Dr
Randy Marlatt	505 W. Fir Ave
Nat White	1120 N. Roeld Ridge
Andi Kleinman	1821 N. Meadowlark Dr
Kate Gales	520 W. Navajo Rd
Stacey Hamburg	219 W. Cedar Ave
Gwen Waring	412 W. Juniper Ave
Linda Stedman	9580 Antoinette Way
Kyra Oellig	No address provided
George Averbeck	P.O. Box 22446/86002
Jeane Walker	2368 N. Whispering Pines Way