



Minutes

City of Flagstaff

Open Spaces Commission

Wednesday, October 16, 2013
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Lowell Observatory
1400 W. Mars Hill Rd., 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
Jessica Gist
Christopher Ives
Stephen Hirst

CITY STAFF:

Nicole Woodman,
Sustainability Manager
McKenzie Jones,
Sustainability Specialist
Erik Olsen, Sustainability
Aide

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Bob Fain
John Grahame
Andi Kleinman

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:15 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 Eberly moved to approve the September 16, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. Outcomes from Regional Open Space Symposium

The Commission discussed major outcomes of the Regional Open Space Symposium in an effort to formulate a list of concrete action items to be enacted 30 to 60 days after the symposium.

Chair Miller stated that he is interested in assessing the impact open space has on nearby property values and would like to have a conversation with an NAU professor who may be able to conduct such a study.

Commissioner Hirst stated that a happiness quotient would be beneficial to look into.

Commissioner Hirst also stated to the Commission needs to think about open space maintenance funding. More specifically, how can another bond issue be framed, etc. Ms. Jones stated to the Commission that a good starting with regard to funding may be a Trust for Public Land.

Commissioner Burton stated that Gore employees are outdoor enthusiasts and a significant part of this town. Therefore, providing them with outreach regarding open space could be beneficial for acquiring funds.

Commissioner Eberly recommended that open space maintenance needs be prioritized so that the Commission can strategically plan how to spend the \$10,000 in allotted maintenance funds.

Commissioner Eberly suggested that the Commission investigate working with local Boy Scout troops to make benches, signs, and other projects. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that David McKee already utilizes the Boy Scouts for various projects at Picture Canyon. Involving the Boy Scouts in future projects is a possibility.

Ms. Jones asked the Commission if the Open Spaces and Greenways Plan (OSGP) needs to be updated. Chair Miller stated that the Commission will come across issues that need updating as they continue to review parcels. At the end of this process the Commission could devote time to revise sections of the OSGP.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to thank Lowell Observatory, McKenzie Jones, Jeanne Trupiano, and other staff for organizing and hosting the 2013 Regional Open Space Symposium. Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion.

B. Commission Position on Staff Recommendations for City Parcels

Commissioner Hirst stated that he feels it is important to have a Commissioner present when David McIntire, City Real Estate Manager, presents City staff recommendations for City parcels to the City Council. Commissioner Hirst expressed that it is important to have a Commission state on which parcels they agree with staff recommendations and on which parcels they disagree.

Commissioner Burton stated that the Commission's reasons for designating parcels are specified and have been given to Mr. McIntire to be given to Council so they may understand the reasoning behind the Commission's recommendations.

Chair Miller inquired about how Ms. Jones was going to communicate with Mr. McIntire. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that she would provide Mr. McIntire with the parcel spreadsheet containing open space criteria and other information that the Commission used to develop parcel recommendations.

Chair Miller stated that he would like the Commission to provide Mr. McIntire with the parcel spreadsheet and a description of the parcel designation process in writing as well as have a Commissioner explain the process before Council. Commissioner Eberly stated that the Council members should also each get copies of this information.

Chair Miller stated that the Commission should write a letter to the Council rather than submit a free standing paragraph. Ms. Jones stated that she would draft a letter explaining the process and will send it to the Commission for review.

Commissioner Burton agreed to read the letter before Council.

Commissioner Hirst made a motion that the Commission present their position on the 17 City-owned parcels and submit a letter describing the process and matrix to the Council. Commissioner Gist seconded the motion.

Chairman Miller expressed that he would like to review other City-owned parcel, specifically undevelopable portions of these parcels that could serve as open space.

Commissioner Burton expressed his concern regarding the review of over 400 parcels.

John Grahame stated to the Commission that the Friends of the Rio will be doing their first review of these properties.

Commissioner Burton inquired if McKenzie will be able to change the GPS directions to Picture Canyon to reduce traffic on Rain Valley Road? Ms. Jones stated that she did not know but would investigate the possibility.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

A. John Grahame spoke on behalf of Citizens for a Greater Buffalo Park and stated that they are committed to the preservation of City land in or around Buffalo Park and McMillan Mesa. Mr. Grahame stated that this parcel has become controversial because City staff has recommended this parcel be developed. Therefore, Mr. Grahame asked that because this parcel is controversial, the Open Spaces Commission put special emphasis on this land to be preserved as open space at the Council meeting.

Bob Fain stated that he is looking forward to the Commission presenting the positive attributes of this parcel as open space to Council.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – November 21, 2013, 4 pm

A. Friends of the Rio de Flag Presentation on City-owned Parcels

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.