



Minutes

City of Flagstaff

Open Spaces Commission

Wednesday, March 27, 2014
4:00 pm – 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:

Denise Burley
Rick Miller
Bryan Burton
Bruce Fox
Jessica Gist
Stephen Hirst
Paul Moore

CITY STAFF:

McKenzie Jones
Marty Jacobson
Martin Ince
David McIntire

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Jack Welch
Dirk Pratley

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gist called the meeting to order at 4:04 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

Commission member Hirst moved to approve the February 27, 2014 meeting minutes. Commission member Hirst seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. How to Preserve Open Space – Pros and Cons of Different Strategies

David McIntire, City Real Estate Manager, summarized the various strategies of preserving open space. The first strategy to preserve open space is by passing a resolution. A resolution is an act of City Council but can be changed by future councils through another resolution. The second strategy is an ordinance. Ordinances, like resolutions, are acts of City Council, but are more difficult to overturn by future councils. A third strategy is a conservation easement, which permanently limits the use of a parcel of land in order to conserve it. To ensure an easement's permanency, the City would need to transfer the easement to third party. The final and strongest strategy is to grant the parcels to a land trust created by the City. The land trust holds ownership of the parcel but the beneficiary, the City, retains the rights. The trust can set guidelines for land use that the beneficiary must adhere to. Mr. McIntire stated that the City can also rezone parcels as open space for additional protection.

David stated that the City already developed a memorializing resolution and is in the process of developing an ordinance.

B. Updating the Flagstaff Open Space Master Plan

The Commission members discussed what should be contained in the Open Space Master Plan and whether or not there should be a separate Management Plan. The Commission agreed that the Master Plan should include a vision, definitions, parcel criteria, an inventory of parcels, and acquisition priorities. The Commission also agreed that the Master Plan should not exceed 10 pages.

The Commission also discussed whether or not a Management Plan is necessary for individual parcels. McKenzie Jones, Open Spaces Commission Staff Liaison, stated that it may make more sense to have one overarching Management Plan instead of one for each parcel.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Ms. Jones reminded the Commission that the Observatory Mesa Open House will be held on April 3rd in the Community Room at the Main Library Commission member Fox alerted the Commission to Stephen Hirst's book reading on April 1st.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

A. Update on Strategies for Preserving Open Space

B. Regional Plan Update

C. Open Space Master Plan

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.