



AGENDA

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, May 22, 2014
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Hall, Staff 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 928-213-2175 (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
Bryan Burton
Carrie Eberly
Bruce Fox
Jessica Gist
Paul Moore

CITY STAFF:

McKenzie Jones
Marty Jacobson
David McIntire
Sterling Solomon
Martin Ince

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Tish Bogan-Ozmun
Nat White

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:05 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 Fox moved to approve the April 24, 2014 minutes. Commission member Eberly seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. Update on Strategies for Preserving Open Space

David McIntire, Real Estate Manager, and Sterling Solomon, Deputy City Attorney, answered Commission members' questions about open space preservation strategies. Mr. Solomon stated that preserving a parcel using a straw man in a deed restriction does carry some risk and therefore recommends pursuing an ordinance instead. Mr. Solomon also stated that purchasing a parcel using a bond that is earmarked for open space offers strong protection. Chair Miller noted that the City must track what parcels are purchased with bond money. At the request of the Commission, Mr. McIntire generated a list of parcels that were purchased with bond money. Chair Miller also asked about the process of preserving land that is donated. Mr. Solomon stated that most donated land comes to the city with a restriction. If there is no restriction then the City can dedicate them via an ordinance. The City can choose to preserve multiple parcels at once by dedicating them in a single ordinance.

B. Open Space Master Plan

Ms. Jones presented a draft Open Space Master Plan to the Commission that included the Commission's edits. Ms. Jones and the Commission walked through the document and made changes as needed. The Commission discussed the definition of open spaces versus parks. The Commission also discussed the connection between the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Program and the Parks and Recreation Department regarding management of these parcels. The Commission asked that staff compile examples of other cities' definitions of open spaces and parks.

C. Open Space Management Update

Ms. Jones stated that much progress is being made at Picture Canyon. The City has hired American Conservation Experience (ACE) to assist in building the trail heads and trails. In addition, a Picture Canyon Trail Day is scheduled for June 14th. The trail work will include creating new trails, naturalizing old trails, creating an attractive trailhead, and removing invasive species. The next steps will include interpretive signage. Ms. Jones reported that the City met with the Forest Service and obtained permission to install an additional gate on Forest Service Road 515 to reduce unauthorized motor vehicle traffic. The City will also be installing signage on the perimeters of each section in the near future. Ms. Jones reminded the Commission that the Observatory Mesa Stakeholder Group meeting is scheduled for June 19th.

D. 2014 Regional Open Space Symposium Planning

Ms. Jones informed the Commission that planning has begun for the 2014 Regional Open Space Symposium at the Museum of Northern Arizona on Friday, October 17, 2014. The focus of the Symposium will be on the Rio de Flag as the backbone of the Flagstaff Open Space System.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Commission member Gist noted that National Trails Day will be held on Saturday, June 7th at Rogers Lake. Commission member Burton explained that the Northern Arizona Association of Realtors will be participating in a clean-up of Sinclair Wash on June 7th. Ms. Jones noted that staff will be presenting to Council on Walnut Canyon on July 8th.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – June 26, 2014, 4 pm

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.