



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, June 26, 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:

Nicole Woodman
McKenzie Jones
Marty Jacobson

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:08 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 May 22, 2014 minutes. Commission member Gist seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. Update on Observatory Mesa Management Efforts

Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the Observatory Mesa Stakeholders meeting. Ms. Jones noted that the City installed a sign on the US Forest Service 515 gate in the Westridge neighborhood that states accepted and prohibited activities. This gate is temporary and will be replaced by a more heavy duty gate in the near future. The City will also install a gate on US Forest Service 515 at the west end of section 8. Ms. Jones stated that grazing will begin this summer section 7 which is owned by the US Forest Service. In addition, she stated that there will be a crew cleaning up trash on section 8 on July 1. Finally, Ms. Jones stated that the City is currently receiving proposals for mechanical forest thinning of Observatory Mesa. The next Stakeholders meeting is scheduled for October.

B. Review of Picture Canyon Trail Dedication

Ms. Jones stated that staff have submitted a proposal to dedicate the Educational Interpretive Trail at Picture Canyon to Donald Weaver and the Recreational Trail to Thomas Moody. Ms. Jones will be presenting the proposed dedication to City Council on July 15th at 6 pm. Ms. Jones read Dr. Weaver and Mr. Moody's biographies. Commissioner Gist moved to recommend that the City dedicate the Picture Canyon trails to Don Weaver and Tom Moody. Commissioner Fox seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Strategy Development for Prioritizing Areas for Open Space Conservation

The City, County, and Arizona Game & Fish will be hosting the third annual Open Spaces Symposium on Friday, October 17, 2014 at the Museum of Northern Arizona. The Commission agreed that a map should be used at the Open Spaces Symposium to identify potential open space conservation areas. The Commission discussed the design and content of the map.

D. Open Space Master Plan

The Commission worked together to create an opening paragraph that would clearly state how the document should be used. Commission member Fox stated that the Master Plan must state why urban open space is important in Flagstaff even though the City is surrounded by open space in the form of National Forest land.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager, will present to City Council on July 8th regarding the Walnut Canyon study. Ms. Jones will present to City Council on July 15th regarding the dedication of Picture Canyon trails to Tom Moody and Don Weaver. Ms. Jones reminded the Commission of the Growing Community Summer Workshop Series that is currently underway. Commission member Eberly stated that Part II of the Diablo Trust Water Series will take place on July 11th. Ms. Woodman stated that the City will be hosting a dark skies meeting in August. Chair Miller noted that the National Trail Day at Rogers Lake was a great success.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – July 24, 2014, 4:00 pm

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.