



# MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, December 18, 2014  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

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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, Chair  
Paul Moore  
Bryan Burton  
Jessica Gist  
Carrie Eberly  
Bruce Fox

#### CITY STAFF:

Nicole Woodman  
McKenzie Jones  
Betsy Emery  
Martin Ince  
David McIntire

#### COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Jack Welch  
Scott Anderson  
Nat White

### **I. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Public Participation**

Scott Anderson from Coconino County asked to be placed on the January agenda to discuss follow up items from the Open Space Symposium. He is following up on a request from the Regional Open Spaces Planning Symposium to investigate opportunities for Coconino County to partner with the City of Flagstaff to maintain open spaces and natural areas together.

#### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Commission member Moore moved to approve the November 14, 2014 minutes. Commission member Gist seconded the motion.

#### **4. Discussion Items**

##### **A. Potential Purchase of Three Parcels for FUTS Trail**

David McIntire, City of Flagstaff Real Estate Assitant to the City Manager, and Martin Ince, City of Flagstaff Multi-modal Transportation Planner, presented about

the possible acquisition of 3 parcels near Route 66 and Switzer Canyon to complete the Switzer Canyon FUTS trail. This is a high priority acquisition because it connects Buffalo Park to the downtown area. There are limited development opportunities on the remaining portion of each parcel and the presenters were looking to see if the Commission valued the parcels as possible open space. The Commission discussed the parcels in regards to the Open Space Criteria as outlined by the Open Space Master Plan. The Commission felt the parcels complement the Open Space goals because it connects the Cherry Hill neighborhood to the FUTS trail and has recreational value.

**B. Walnut Canyon Update**

Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager, provided an Walnut Canyon update to the Commission. A congressional study was released in January 2014 which outlined options for further protection of the Walnut Canyon Study Area. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors supported option 2, which would result in congressional protection of the Study Area, but the Flagstaff City Council had concerns about the boundary of the Study Area. Ms. Woodman presented four separate boundary options to Council on December 16, 2014. After discussion, the Council decided to support the entire Study Area boundary in a 4-3 vote. Ms. Woodman will return to Council on January 13, 2014 with a resolution.

**C. Council Decision to Standardize Commission Sizes**

McKenzie Jones, Open Space Staff Liaison, reminded the Commission of the Council decision to standardize commission sizes to 7 seats. The Council has suggested removing two natural science seats from the Open Space Commission. However, staff recommended the removal of the Parks and Recreation seat instead due to the historic challenges of keeping the seat filled.

**D. Open Space Symposium Next Steps – Review of Map and Master Plan Edits**

The Commission reviewed the stakeholder input map from the Open Space Symposium and discussed including stakeholder priority areas as priority areas in the Open Space Master Plan Map. After discussion, the Council voted to include: Forest Service Section 7, an alignment near Old Munds Highway, portions of the Rio de Flag near NAU, Bow and Arrow wash through CCC, and the upper reach of Picture Canyon. Commissioner Eberly expressed concerns about including the base of Elden on the Open Space Master Plan Map because it is already being successfully managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The Commission voted to move discussion of McMillan Mesa, Turkey Hills area, and Arizona State Lands Section 30 to the January meeting.

**E. Open Space Management Efforts Update**

McKenzie Jones and Betsy Emery, Open Space Aide, provided updates on current management and maintenance efforts at Observatory Mesa and Picture Canyon. Updates included efforts to increase accessibility at Picture Canyon, future projects along the Kinder Morgan pipeline easement through Picture Canyon, the Picture Canyon National Trails Day event, the Observatory Mesa Management Plan, perimeter signage at Observatory Mesa, Observatory Mesa kiosk design, and parking area plans for Observatory Mesa. Ms. Jones also provided an update to the Commission about a recent meeting with the U.S. Forest Service to discuss the possibility of exchanging Section 7 for City Section 12 on Observatory Mesa.

5. **Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**  
None.
  
6. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting – January 22, 2015**
  - A. **Flagstaff Area Stream Team Update**
  - B. **Community Proposal to Repurpose City Public Works Yard**
  - C. **Council Decision to Standardize Commission Sizes**
  - D. **Final Discussion of Open Space Master Plan Map**
  
7. **Adjournment**  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:03pm.

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Disability Awareness  
Commission with the City Clerk.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Monteverde, Administrative Specialist