



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, January 22, 2015
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, Chair
Paul Moore
Bryan Burton
Jessica Gist
Carrie Eberly
Christopher Ives
Stephen Hirst

CITY STAFF:

McKenzie Jones
Betsy Emery
Pat Bourke
Rebecca Sayers
Roger Eastman
Dan Folk

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Marilyn Weissman
Scott Anderson
Nat White
Ed Dunn
George Breed
Karen Meittingly
Jim Blue
Michael Collier
Rose Houk
Charlie Silver
Rick Moore
Sharon Edgar
Bill Ring
Amy Lippman
Glenn Rink
Kathy Flaccus
Florence Karlstrom

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

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 Gist moved to approve the December 18, 2014 minutes with the amendment that “Agenda” be changed to “Minutes”. Commission member Moore seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. Community Proposal to Repurpose City Public Works Yard

Rose Houk, Friends of Thorpe Park, presented to Commission about the group’s desire to have the City Public Works Yard repurposed as community open space when the Public Works Yard moves to its new location. Ms. Houk emphasized that the 7.4 acre parcel meets connectivity criteria as described in the Open Space Master Plan given that it is within Thorpe Park and connects to the Rio de Flag and FUTS trails. Ms. Houk expressed concerns that utilizing this parcel for medium- to high-density housing would increase negative impacts in the community, including traffic and noise. Chair Miller asked present community members to show their support for repurposing the City Public Works Yard as Open Space and there was unanimous support among community members.

B. Update on Opportunities for City and County to Collaborate on Open Space Maintenance and Management

Scott Anderson, Coconino County Natural Resource Manager, provided information about opportunities for City, County, and other groups to collaborate on open space maintenance and management by leveraging resources. He provided a handout for Commissioners outlining how other communities in Arizona operate a collaborative effort. Three possibilities exist: developing an intergovernmental agreement, developing a community facilities district, or amending Arizona State Statute Title 48 to establish a Trails and Open Space District. Commissioners expressed interest in polling the community to determine if developing a District would be supported by community members.

C. Open Space Symposium Next Steps – Review of Map with a focus on Turkey Hills, Walnut Canyon, and McMillan Mesa

Chair Miller provided information about the cultural resources present within the Turkey Hills area. After discussion, the Commission unanimously supported including Section 2 (Coconino County) and the portion of the northeast quarter of Section 10 above the 6700 foot contour line (Arizona State Lands Department) as areas of interest for open space designation.

McKenzie Jones, Open Space Staff Liaison, presented maps of Arizona State Lands Department Section 30. The Commission showed unanimous support in classifying it as an area of interest for open space designation.

Commissioner Moore provided information about zoning and resources present on McMillan Mesa. After discussion of the City’s current plans for development on the

Mesa, the Commission unanimously supported classifying the Mesa as an area of interest for open space designation.

D. Update on Open Space Management Efforts

McKenzie Jones, Open Space Staff Liaison, and Betsy Emery, Open Space Aide, provided updates on current management and maintenance efforts at Observatory Mesa and Picture Canyon. Picture Canyon updates included efforts to finalize the Picture Canyon Management Plan, development of focus groups to draft language for interpretive signage, potential funding opportunities for maintenance projects, and the Arizona State Parks Site Steward Program. Observatory Mesa updates included the finalization of a kiosk design and possible funding for operation and maintenance costs from an access agreement between AZGFD and the City.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Commissioner Eberly provided information about the Diablo Trust Annual Meeting to be held on February 20, 8:00 am-12:30 pm at Thornager's. The meeting will focus on "Impacts of Northern Arizona Ranches on the Flagstaff Community".

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – February 26, 2015

- A. Flagstaff Area Stream Team Update**
- B. Regional Trails Coordination Team Update**
- C. Methods to Gauge Public Interest in an Open Space Collaborative Effort**
- D. Edits to Open Space Master Plan and Map**
- E. Process for Adopting Open Space Master Plan**

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm

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 _____, 2015.

Chris Monteverde, Administrative Specialist