



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, February 26, 2015
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Hall, Council Chambers
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
Jessica Gist
Christopher Ives
Stephen Hirst
Bruce Fox

CITY STAFF:

McKenzie Jones
Betsy Emery
Nicole Woodman
David McIntire
Martin Ince
Sara Dechter
Roger Eastman

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Scott Anderson

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:20pm.

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 Ives moved to approve the January 22, 2015 minutes. Commission member Hirst seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. Flagstaff Area Stream Team Update

Allen Haden, Flagstaff Area Stream Team, provided an update about the status of Phase 2 of the Picture Canyon Restoration Project, which is funded through the Arizona Water Protection Fund. He also provided information about the conceptual planning process for Phase 3, which would be located on adjacent State Land. He utilized a PowerPoint presentation, which is attached.

B. Process for Adopting Open Space Master Plan

Sara Dechter, Comprehensive Planning Manager, presented two separate ways to adopt the Open Space Master Plan. One option is to include it as an amendment in the 1999 Flagstaff Area Open Space and Greenways Plan. This process would require the Commission to submit an application to the Planning and Zoning Committee, attend two Planning and Zoning hearings, and ultimately obtain approval from City Council. This option could cost approximately \$1000 in mailings, newspaper advertisements, and associated costs. Another option is to include the Plan as an amendment in the Zoning Code, which is currently being updated. The timeline for this process is uncertain, but it would have a net cost of \$0 as it would be brought forward with Zoning Code updates. The Commission decided to discuss the adoption process further with Roger Eastman, Zoning Code Administrator, at their next Commission meeting.

C. Regional Trails Coordination Group Update

Martin Ince, Multi-modal Planner, provided an update about the Regional Trails Coordination Group, a group with staff representatives from the trail management agencies in the region that meet quarterly to discuss trail planning, construction, and maintenance. Most members are included through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that requires quarterly meetings. City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, Coconino National Forest, and Flagstaff Biking Organization are signatories of the MOU. Recently, Arizona Trail Association and National Park Service staff were invited to join the group.

D. Methods to Gauge Public Interest in an Open Space Collaborative Effort

The Commission discussed methods to gauge public interest in open space. The Commission has hosted public meetings and participated in the annual Open Space Symposium in the past. The Commission discussed the possibility of including an open space question on the biannual City poll. Staff agreed to meet with Kim Ott, Communications Manager, to discuss that possibility. Primarily, the Commission hopes to identify community support, possible management mechanisms, and funding possibilities through this community poll.

E. Open Space Management Update

Betsy Emery, Open Space Aide, provided an update on current management and maintenance efforts at Observatory Mesa and Picture Canyon. Ms. Emery just completed an Arizona State Parks Recreational Trails Program grant proposal that would fund \$74,000 worth of trail maintenance, construction, and signage projects at Picture Canyon. Additionally, the City is in the process of finalizing an access agreement with Arizona Game and Fish Department that will fund \$40,000 to naturalize roads, repair fencing, and install signs and gates.

F. Edits to Open Space Master Plan and Map

The Commission agreed to potentially change the title of the Open Space Master Plan to a “Vision Statement” or “Strategic Plan” to reduce confusion as they embark on the adoption process. Additionally, Commission members agreed to produce two maps to include in the amendment – a basic map without many features and a more detailed map with streets, washes, and other details.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Commission member Hirst informed the Commission that he recently attended the Westerner’s Group meeting where Karl Eberhardt, Community Design and Redevelopment Manager, informed the group that the City Public Works Yard will be sold.

McKenzie Jones, Open Space Staff Liaison, informed the Commission that the terms for Commission members Fox and Hirst expire in April. They both have served the maximum number of terms and therefore will be required to vacate their seats. Hirst’s seat will be removed from the Commission as part of the downsizing of City Commissions. Staff will publicize the vacancy of Commission member Fox’s seat.

Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager, informed the Commission of the upcoming public meeting to discuss the Airport Sustainability Plan. The meeting will be held March 3, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Flagstaff Aquaplex.

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

A. Edits to Open Space Master Plan and Map

B. Process for Adopting Open Space Master Plan

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.

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