



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, March 26, 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
Jessica Gist
Carrie Eberly
Stephen Hirst
Bruce Fox

CITY STAFF:

McKenzie Jones
Betsy Emery
Gail Jackson
David McIntire
Martin Ince
Roger Eastman

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Scott Anderson
Nat White
David McCain
Adam Shimoni

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:09 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.

David McIntire, Real Estate Manager, updated the Commission that the City is moving forward to acquire parcels to expand the Flagstaff Urban Trail System with an informal offer.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commission member Hirst moved to approve the February 26, 2015 minutes.
Commission member Gist seconded the motion.

4. Discussion Items

A. Open Space Master Plan Adoption

Roger Eastman, Zoning Code Administrator, presented a process for adopting the Open Space Master Plan to the Commission. He suggested the title be changed to “Open Space Strategic Plan” to reduce confusion about its goals. The plan would need to be formally endorsed by the Open Spaces Commission, routed through the Planning and Zoning Commission, and then forwarded to Council for adoption via resolution. After it has been adopted by Council, it could be cited in the upcoming Regional Plan amendments.

B. Possible Veterans Home on McMillan Mesa

David McIntire, Real Estate Manager, sought input from the Commission regarding the City’s plans to possibly grant a 8-11 acres of City-owned land on McMillan Mesa to the Arizona Department of Veteran’s Services (ADVS) in order to build a veterans facility. The City offered three separate locations: Koch Field, existing Public Works Yard location, and McMillan Mesa. The ADVS chose McMillan Mesa given its proximity to services within the community. Commissioner Hirst updated the Commission about a meeting he attended with Jeffrey DeMure and Associates, a company that plans to develop a large portion of McMillan Mesa within the coming years. The Commission expressed concern about developing McMillan Mesa given their interest in designating it as open space. Other concerns included the size and design of the facility and wildlife connectivity. The Commission requested a follow up discussion with Real Estate Manager, David McIntire, as well as tour of McMillan Mesa.

C. Edits to Open Space Master Plan and Map

McKenzie Jones, Open Space Staff Liaison, discussed edits to the Open Space Master Plan, including changing its name to Open Space Strategic Plan. Ms. Jones identified the suggested edits received by Roger Eastman, Zoning Code Administrator. Additionally, portions of the Plan were edited after reviewing the Manitou Springs Open Space Master Plan (attached).

D. Open Space Management Update

McKenzie Jones, Open Space Staff Liaison, updated the Commission about the status of the proposed full-time Open Space position. The position was approved by the internal Budget Committee and will move forward for Council approval in April. If approved, Staff will begin the hiring process in July.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

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

A. McMillan Mesa Discussion

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.