



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, August 27, 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 at 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
Bryan Burton

CITY STAFF:
McKenzie Jones
Nicole Woodman
Betsy Emery
Martin Ince

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:
Stephen Hirst
John Grahame
Nat White

Commissioner Jim Burton was unable to attend the meeting due to fire assignment in the northwest.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:07 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.

Stephen Hirst referenced the recent Arizona Daily Sun article “Trailheads: Let’s keep McMillan Mesa special” that was published on August 27th, 2015 and urged the Commission to read it for a community member’s perspective on McMillan Mesa and it’s importance to the Flagstaff community.

John Grahame referenced Walter Crutchfield's presentation at the 2014 Open Space Symposium and asked if the Commission has followed up regarding the Soliere property that was reportedly available to the City for open space designation. City staff agreed to follow up on the property and determine what happened.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Eberly moved to approve July 23, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

4. Discussion Items

A. Open Space Specialist Introduction

McKenzie Jones, Staff Liaison, introduced Elizabeth "Betsy" Emery as the new Open Space Specialist for the City of Flagstaff. Ms. Emery graduated from NAU with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and has worked with Centennial Forest and the U.S. Forest Service over the past 5 years. She worked with the City's Open Space Program as an AmeriCorps volunteer for a year before being selected as the Open Space Specialist. Ms. Emery will run the City's Open Space Program for the next two years, including acting as the Staff Liaison for the Open Spaces Commission beginning in September.

B. Open Space Management Update

Commissioner Gist motioned to move the Open Space Management Update to the end of the meeting, if time permits, in order to get through the Action Items. Commissioner Eberly seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all. Ultimately, time did not permit staff to provide a management update at this meeting.

5. Action Items

A. Review of Open Space Strategic Plan and Map

The Commission went through each section of the Plan and provided primarily grammatical edits and corrections. However, the Commission did discuss the role of the Strategic Plan and whether it serves as a "Long Range Management Plan", as required by Ordinance 2003-03 which established the Open Spaces Commission. Ultimately, the Commission decided not to change the name of the document given that site-specific management plans are being developed for each of the preserves. Additionally, the Commission discussed whether cooperating with Coconino County, the Forest Service, and developers should specifically be included as a strategy given that it is only vaguely addressed in the "Tools for Conservation" included in the Regional Plan. Commissioner Gist moved to adopt the Open Space Strategic Plan given the revisions suggested at this meeting. Commissioner Eberly seconded.

The Commission discussed the map associated with the Strategic Plan separately. Commissioner Gist expressed concerns that the map doesn't reflect the priority areas established in the Strategic Plan, especially the inclusion of the 3rd Walnut Canyon parcel and the base of Mount Elden. The Commission discussed how the map will be used as a means of determining what level of detail should be included. Most Commissioners believe that because the map is associated with the Strategic Plan, it should have a higher level of detail. Primarily, the Commission believes that the most important thing the map should communicate is the need for an interconnected system of open space throughout the community. Commissioners believe that Forest

Service land should be included because it provides context for the open space system, as a whole. Commissioner Burton motioned to table the map discussion for the next meeting in order to get through other action items on the agenda. Commissioner Eberly seconded. The motion was approved by all.

B. Review of Picture Canyon Management Plan

Commissioners provided edits to the Picture Canyon Management Plan to staff. Chair Miller suggested that cultural resource protection should be the most important management goal outlined in the Plan. Commissioner Gist provided information regarding the 2011 Bow and Arrow Agreement with Arizona Game and Fish to include in the Plan. Chair Miller suggested including language about maintaining downed woody debris and snags for wildlife habitat in the Forest Health chapter of the Plan. Commissioner Burton motioned to recommend the Picture Canyon Management Plan be adopted by City Council. Commissioner Gist seconded. The motion was approved by all.

C. Review of Livestock Animal Keeping Code

The Commission did not have enough time to review the proposed Livestock Animal Keeping Code at this meeting.

6. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – September 24, 2015

A. Discussion of the Strategic Plan Map

B. Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve Interpretive Sign Review

C. Process for Review of City-owned Parcels

8. Adjournment

Chair Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm. Commissioner Gist seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

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