



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Thursday, September 24, 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 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
Tina Pfeiffer
Jim Burton

CITY STAFF:

McKenzie Jones
Betsy Emery
Martin Ince

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Jack Welch
John Grahame
Nat White

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 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.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Miller added an amendment to the August 27, 2015 meeting minutes to include that all three motions recorded in the previous meeting minutes went to a vote and were approved by the Commission. Commissioner Eberly moved to approve the August 27,

2015 meeting minutes given the revisions suggested. Commissioner Gist seconded the motion.

4. Action Items

A. Open Space Strategic Plan Map Revisions

Commissioners provided edits to the Open Spaces Strategic Plan Map. Chair Miller suggested that the map legend contain information on the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS). Commissioner Eberly suggested that the Rio de Flag and FUTS representations on the map should be more varied in color. Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner, changed the blue FUTS representation to teal to differentiate between the Rio de Flag and FUTS. Staff Liaison Emery provided a brief description of story mapping. The Commission will discuss using story mapping for this purpose at a later meeting. Commissioner Eberly moved to adopt the Strategic Plan Map given the revisions suggested at this meeting. Commissioner Bryan Burton seconded. All Commissioners voted in approval.

B. Review of Picture Canyon Interpretive Signs

Betsy Emery, Staff Liaison, provided the Commission with a presentation on the current drafts of the Picture Canyon Interpretive Signs. Commissioners provided grammatical edits and corrections. The Commission suggested better labeling of animals and geological features, simplifying the text, and artistic changes to the panels to include a better representation of wildlife at Picture Canyon. On the vegetation panel, the Commission was concerned that the invasive species representations were unclear. Staff had the same concern and were able to provide a more polished draft to the Commission for review. Commissioners discussed whether the fault line that created Picture Canyon should be present on the geology panel. The fault line will be highlighted in subsequent phases of interpretive materials at the Preserve. Chair Miller questioned if the tribes had provided feedback on the current drafts. Tribes were involved in the creation of the written text only but staff has worked with Kelley Hays-Gilpin, the tribal liaison, throughout the process to ensure artwork is in agreement with tribal philosophies. In three weeks, staff will have the full color draft of the signs for the Commission to review. Chair Miller suggested postponing approval of the signs until the Commission has viewed final drafts.

5. Discussion Items

A. Process for Review of City-owned Parcels

McKenzie Jones, Sustainability Specialist, provided the Commission with information about the process for reviewing of City-owned parcels. In the past, the Commission reviewed 17 City-owned parcels to suggest how open space could be designated. The City Council has requested that the Commission review additional City-owned parcels, with a focus on all City parcels that are along the Rio, within the flood zone, or adjacent to open space or parks. The same metrics will be used for this process. Commissioner Gist would like to ensure that recommendations are consistent with funding. Chair Miller suggested that the Commission schedule a field trip to inspect the first group of the parcels up for review. Commissioners decide to select groups of parcels located near one another, starting at the north end of Flagstaff and moving south as the process continues. Betsy Emery, Staff Liaison, will coordinate a field trip in late October for the Commissioners to review the first grouping of parcels.

B. Open Space Management Update

Betsy Emery, Open Space Specialist, updated the Commission on ongoing projects at Picture Canyon and Observatory Mesa. American Conservation Experience is treating the weeds at Picture Canyon. Staff has worked with adjacent landowners to treat their property as well. Furthermore, the Picture Canyon Management Plan will go before City Council in early October for review. There is a wildfire protection project occurring on Observatory Mesa. Staff will be installing two gates near Matson Tank to reduce illegal vehicle access. Picture Canyon, Observatory Mesa, and the Schultz “Y” parcel are undergoing rezoning and annexation to be formally designated as protected open space. The annual Make a Difference Day will be held at Frances Short Pond on October 24th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. McKenzie Jones, Sustainability Specialist, will continue to manage social media for the Sustainability Program, which now includes an Open Space [Facebook page](#).

6. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

The Commission discussed reorganizing meetings during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Commissioners agreed to add a field trip that will occur before the October meeting, skip the meetings on November 26th and December 24th in favor of an extended meeting in early December. Commissioner Eberly questioned if the grazing permit on Observatory Mesa was still active. Staff responded that it still is. Commissioner Gist updated the Commission on the improvements Parks and Recreation made to Frances Short Pond. John Grahame asked staff to follow up on the Soliere property.

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – October 22, 2015

- A. Friends of the Rio Watershed Planning Effort
- B. Review of Picture Canyon Interpretive Sign Project
- C. Review of City-owned Parcels
- D. Open Space Management Update

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Bryan Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 pm. Commissioner Jim Burton 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