



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Monday, March 28, 2016
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Council Chambers, City Hall
211 W. Aspen Ave., 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
Bryan Burton
Carrie Eberly (absent)
Jim Burton
Jessica Gist
Steve Dorsett
Stephen Hirst

Elizabeth Emery, Open Space Specialist
Nicole Woodman, Sustainability
Manager
Charity Lee, Real Estate Manager
Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner
Tiffany Antol, Planning and
Development
Manager

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Jack Welch

CITY STAFF:

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Commission 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.

Community member Jack Welch, 2700 E. 7th Street #29, updated the Commission on the Campaign for a Greater Buffalo Park. The proposal is to incorporate the City-owned parcels on McMillan Mesa into the adjacent Buffalo Park via a ballot initiative. The Commission requested a formal presentation be placed on a future agenda.

3. Approval of March 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hirst motioned to approve the March 3, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Jim Burton seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

4. Discussion Items

A. Forest Service Travel Management Rule Update, Mike Dechter

Mike Dechter, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordinator for the Coconino National Forest, updated the Commission on the Forest Service Travel Management Rule update process. The proposed changes to the Travel Management Rule will amend the Coconino National Forest designated road system. The amendments were primarily prompted by complaints about too much restriction on frequently used roads and car camping sites. Secondary concerns included the desire to reduce misuse of Forest Service land. The Forest Service issued this proposal in November 2015 to initiate the NEPA planning process and is actively seeking public feedback through July 2016. Mr. Dechter provided a history of motor vehicle use in the Coconino National Forest and conflicts caused by the 2011 reduction of road use. The proposed action includes the addition of 60 miles of motorized camping corridors, 107 miles of designated roads, the decommission of eight miles of currently non-designated roads and an increase in the distance allowed for game retrieval. Planned changes will affect less than 5% of the designated road system. Commissioners had questions on new construction, the process for adjusting signs and logging roads. Mr. Dechter informed the Commission that no new roads would be constructed. Some new signs will be installed, however visitors are encouraged to use the online map as well as the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Closure of roads on Observatory Mesa will be added to a future Commission agenda.

B. McMillan Mesa Zoning/Development Update, Tiffany Antol

Tiffany Antol, Planning and Development Manager, updated the Commission on the McMillan Mesa Village Regional Plan, Specific Plan and Zoning Map Amendment that was approved by City Council on April 22, 2016. Ms. Antol gave an overview of properties involved in the request, which includes reallocating 192 dwelling units and the rezoning some tracts to open space. This plan includes a minor regional plan amendment. The only negative of this plan is that business, park and commercial use in the area will be decreased. Ms. Antol explained that the concept includes rental units, single family subdivision, and open space, but is lacking low income housing. Traffic and access is in conjunction with the Specific Plan

created in 1992. Proposals for new water, wastewater, stormwater were not needed. Public concerns were incorporated into the development plans. McMillan Mesa Village will not be required to have a Home Owners Association. Commissioner Bryan Burton questioned why low income housing was not required. Ms. Antol explained that low income housing is not required, just incentivized. Developers can choose to include low income options or to exclude them.

C. **Schultz Y Property Acquisition Update, Charity Lee**

Charity Lee updated the Commission on the Schultz Y Property Acquisition. Ms. Lee has spoken with the owner, Mr. Christianson, to explore a purchasing a 1.43 acre portion of his property. This would be not require a City easement on Mr. Christianson's land. Mr. Christiansen is in the process of reviewing the proposal with his lender. If the purchase doesn't work out, Mr. Christiansen is open to a trade.

D. **Open Space Parcels Annex and Rezone Update, Betsy Emery**

Betsy Emery updated the Commission on the current status of 17 City owned parcels the Commission reviewed in 2013. The Commission recommended twelve parcels to City Council for open space designation. The City Council made no action on two parcels, one was left undesignated, two were recommended for rezoning, and others required additional research. McAllister Ranch requires a parcel split to rezone. The Cheshire and Ponderosa Parkway parcels were approved by City Council for rezoning, but funding is currently lacking to continue the process.

Cases are being brought forward for a first read by City Council on April 5th to legally designate the following parcels as open space:

113-06-004

This parcel is currently zoned as Rural Residential with a request to rezone it to Public Open Space.

113-06-003

A request was made to annex this parcel and add Public Open Space zoning.

102-15-001

This parcel is currently zoned as Rural Residential with a request to rezone it as Public Open Space.

111-08-002

This parcel is currently zoned Rural Residential with a request to rezone it as Public Facility.

102-15-002

This parcel is currently zoned as conservation land in the county. Staff is recommending approval to annex the parcel into City limits and rezone it as Public Open Space.

110-03-001B

This parcel is currently zoned as Single Family Residential and Public Facility with a request to rezone as Public Open Space.

City Council will consider these requests on April 5, 2016. The Commission will review Sawmill and Foxglenn parcels at a future meeting.

Ms. Emery will meet with the Real Estate Manager to discuss the Venus and Cheshire parcels.

E. Open Space Management Update, Betsy Emery

Seven interpretive signs have been installed at Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve. Ms. Emery will go before City Council on April 5th for a consent item to authorize the grant funds from Arizona State Parks for Picture Canyon improvements. The National Parks Service and American Conservation Experience will construct 50 feet of trail with interpretive signs in late summer. On Observatory Mesa, additional signs, kiosks, and a gate will be installed to reduce illegal motor vehicles and enhance visitor experience. Ms. Emery will debut the Observatory Mesa Management Plan on May 11th.

F. Matrix City-owned Parcels in Downtown Flagstaff area

The Commission reviewed the following City-owned parcels:

The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **100-05-015A** has open space value because of the buffer it provides, and its scenic and ecological value, and its accessibility and connectivity. Commissioner Gist motioned to recommend the parcel as open space.

The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **100-05-016B** has open space value because of the buffer it provides, and its scenic and ecological value, and its accessibility, connectivity and recreation due to the FUTS. Commissioner Hirst motioned to recommend the parcel as open space.

Commission Chair Miller motioned to postpone the review of **100-09-015** and **100-09-021**.

The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **10-09-022A** has open space value because of the buffer it provides, and its scenic and ecological value, and its accessibility, connectivity and recreation due to the FUTS. Commissioner Hirst motioned to recommend the parcel as open space.

The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **100-11-024** has open space value because of the buffer it provides, and its scenic and ecological value, and its accessibility, connectivity and recreation due to the FUTS. Commissioner Hirst motioned to recommend the parcel as open space.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

A. Set Tour Date for Tour of City-owned Parcels in Southside Area

The Commission will tour downtown City-owned parcels on April 14th from 3 pm to 5 pm to review parcels.

B. Libby Champagne invited the Commission to the Fix-it Clinic on Saturday, April 2nd.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting - April 25th, 2016

- A. Campaign for Greater Buffalo Park
- B. Matrix Downtown Parcels
- C. Determine Usable Portion of Venus and Cheshire Parcels
- D. Open Space Management Update
- E. Travel Management Comments

7. Adjournment

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