



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Monday, December 5th, 2016
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Staff Conference Room, City Hall
211 W. Aspen Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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:

Bryan Burton, Chair
Carrie Eberly, Vice-Chair
Rick Miller
Jim Burton
Steve Dorsett (Absent)
Stephen Hirst
Libby Kalinowski

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

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.

No public participation.

3. Approval of October 24th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the October 24th, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Kalinowski seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor to approve the minutes.

4. Discussion Items

A. Open Space Aide VISTA Introduction, Erin O'Keefe

Erin O'Keefe, new AmeriCorps VISTA Open Space Aide for the City of Flagstaff, introduced herself to the Commission. Ms. O'Keefe shared her background, education, and projects that she will be working for the next year. Ms. O'Keefe will be focusing on marketing, education, and outreach for the City of Flagstaff's Open Space Program. In addition, Ms. O'Keefe will be developing outreach and marketing materials for the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience, a group focused on promoting watchable wildlife experiences in the Flagstaff area.

B. Open Space Program Budgetary Support, Nicole Woodman

Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager, shared a letter with the Commission regarding future funding for the Open Space Specialist position. The letter states why the Open Space Specialist position should be permanently funded as well as how the position will be funded. If the letter is accepted by the Open Space Commission, the letter will then go to the City Manager and Budget Team to support the Open Space Program's request to fund the Open Space Specialist position permanently. The Open Space Commission stated how the Open Space Specialist is important for the City of Flagstaff. Commissioner Miller motioned to approve and send the letter to the City Manager and Budget Team. Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

C. Observatory Mesa Management Plan, Betsy Emery

Betsy Emery, Open Space Specialist, gave a presentation on the Observatory Mesa Management Plan. The presentation went through the chapters of the management plan and included examples of the policies and action items included in the plan. Ms. Emery will be presenting the Observatory Mesa Management Plan to City Council on 1/31/17 and asked for feedback from the Commissioners. Commissioner Jim Burton motioned to move the Observatory Mesa Management Plan forward to City Council for approval and adoption with recommended changes from the Commission. Commission Vice-Chair Eberly seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

D. Matrix Remaining City-Owned Parcels, Betsy Emery

The Commission skipped parcels **101-28-007C**, **101-37-001E**, **101-37-002H**, **107-01-001B**, and **109-02-001N** since these parcels were included in the voter-approved Proposition 413 and therefore will be rezoned to Public Open Space and managed in conjunction with Buffalo Park.

The Commission discussed how parcel **107-16-007Y** provides a buffer, contains ecological values, has potential for connectivity and recreation opportunities, and open space value. The Commission unanimously voted to approve parcel **107-16-007Y** as open space value.

The Commission discussed how parcel **112-29-021G** provides a buffer, connectivity, recreation opportunities, and has open space value. The Commission unanimously voted in favor that parcel **112-29-021G** and neighboring parcel **112-29-021F** provides open space value and will be forwarded to Parks and Recreation for any future park development.

The Commission discussed how parcel **112-49-122A** does not provide a buffer, lacks cultural, scenic, and ecological values, and does not provide connectivity or recreation opportunities. The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **112-49-122A** does not have open space value.

The Commission discussed how parcel **112-04-012** provides a buffer, might contain cultural values, provides connectivity, and potential recreation opportunities. The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **112-04-012** provides open space value.

The Commission discussed how parcel **112-47-062** provides a buffer, protects ecological values, provides connectivity, and has recreation values with the FUTS trail. The Commission unanimously voted that parcel **112-47-062** provides open space value.

The Commission unanimously voted to table the remaining parcels for a future Commission meeting.

E. Open Space Management Update, Betsy Emery

Ms. Emery announced that the City of Flagstaff, The Arboretum at Flagstaff, and Friends of Flagstaff's Future partnered together to submit a grant to Arizona Department of Fire and Forest Management for invasive weed control in the Foxglenn Park area. Applicants will be informed in a year if they were selected. Ms. Emery also stated that the Picture Canyon Working Group will transition into a Stakeholder Group that is managed by the City of Flagstaff. The City of Flagstaff will expand the group to include all of the partners involved in managing the Preserve. In addition, the new group will meet quarterly for management concerns.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

The Commission inquired about the voter approved Proposition 413—Greater Buffalo Park. Ms. Emery will send a debrief to City Staff for what the next steps maybe for the Commission.

6. Upcoming Agenda Items

- A.** Implementation of Proposition 413
- B.** Access Across Observatory Mesa, Charity Lee/Betsy Emery
- C.** Matrix Remaining City-Owned Parcels, Betsy Emery
- D.** Continued Venus Parcel Discussion, Martin Ince
- E.** Joint Meeting with Coconino County Parks and Recreation Commission, Betsy Emery
- F.** Picture Canyon Management Plan Revision, Betsy Emery

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:59pm. Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

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 _____, 2016.

Elizabeth Emery, Open Space Specialist