



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Monday, September 25th, 2017
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Council Chambers, City Hall
211 W. Aspen Ave
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

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
Libby Kalinowski, Vice-Chair
Rick Miller
Jim Burton
Stephen Hirst
Jackie Thomas
David Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Commission

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

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.

Michael Patrick of Santa Fe, New Mexico, informed the Commission that he works for The Trust for Public Land. Mr. Patrick shared the Parkserve tool they are developing, which may assist municipalities in determining how many community member have access to open space, parks, or trails within a 10-minute walk of their residence. Mr.

Patrick briefly discussed The Trust for Public Land's conservation finance and planning programs and how they can assist with developing campaign language and ballot measures to fund or preserve open space.

3. Approval of August 1st, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the August 1st, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Jim Burton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Discussion Items

A. City of Flagstaff Housing Section Overview, Sarah Darr

Sarah Darr, Housing Director, provided an overview of the housing programs within the City of Flagstaff. Ms. Darr shared how the various programs work and who they serve. Ms. Darr gave the Commission a brief background of the history of the housing market in the City of Flagstaff. Ms. Darr explained how Affordable Housing is defined and why it is important to the community. The Commission told Ms. Darr that they would benefit if they would have a list of parcels that are being considered for Affordable Housing, so they could matrix them with that information in mind. Ms. Darr mentioned that staff from the Housing Section and Open Space Program are meeting regularly to ensure this information is available to Commission members moving forward.

B. Indigenous Youth STEM Academy at Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve, Erin O'Keefe

Erin O'Keefe, Open Space Aide VISTA, informed the Commission about the Indigenous Youth STEM Academy that took place at Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve this past summer. The Indigenous Youth STEM Academy (IYSA) provided indigenous youth in Flagstaff and surrounding communities an opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in connection to culture, community, and stewardship. The IYSA brought in a panel of professionals in the STEM fields to talk to the youth during the academy. Ms. O'Keefe shared pre-academy and post-academy survey results with the Commission. Attendees had an increased interest in the STEM field and higher education after attending the academy. Ms. O'Keefe stated that the Open Spaces Program will continue to host IYSA sessions moving forward. Staff is currently working with partner organizations to organize four additional sessions in Spring and Fall 2018.

C. Schultz Creek Trailhead Update, Betsy Emery

Ms. Emery, Open Space Specialist, updated the Commission on the Schultz Creek Trailhead, the 20-acre City-owned parcel on Schultz Pass Road which was designated as open space last year. Community members are currently parking on an adjacent privately owned property and therefore the City of Flagstaff is designing a trailhead in partnership with the Forest Service, to reduce to impact to the private parcel. Ms. Emery stated that the trailhead kiosk and parking area will be on the east side of the parcel and will neighbor the Forest Service. Staff plans to design the Schultz Creek Trailhead to accommodate up to 40 cars and 5 equestrian trailers in an unimproved parking area. Ms. Emery will share a draft concept plan with the Commission during the October 30th Open Spaces Commission meeting.

D. Reschedule November and December Commission Meetings, Betsy Emery

Ms. Emery reminded the Commission that the next meeting will take place on October 30, 2017. The Commission decided to combine the November 2017 and December 2017 Commission meetings into one due to the holidays. The joint

meeting will take place on December 4th, 2017 at 4:00pm. Location will be determined.

E. Open Space Management Update, Betsy Emery

Ms. Emery stated that the Open Spaces Program partnered with Office of Sustainability at Northern Arizona University for the #FLGTreeTags project in Wheeler Park and NAU's North Quad. Price tags will be placed on trees to quantify the financial contribution associated with the ecosystem benefits of these trees. The tags will be in place between October 9th-16th.

5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Commissioner Thomas shared her experience with Senator Flake and other land managers on Observatory Mesa Natural Area. This meeting was in regard to the tree thinning and chipping projects occurring on public lands northern Arizona as a means of enhancing the economic opportunity associated with ponderosa pine wood.

Ms. Emery reminded the Commission that ParkFlag, the City's comprehensive parking management program, will go into effect on October 6, 2017. The Commissioners are invited to park at the reserved City Council spots during their Commission meeting, which will be reserved and available for free.

Ms. Emery stated that the City Clerk's Office is hosting an additional Board and Commission Member Training and Staff Liaison training on October 10th at 1pm in Council Chambers. This training will go over Open Meeting Law and the rules and responsibilities associated with serving as a City Commissioner.

Ms. Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager, shared with the Commission a brief outline of projects that the Open Space Program has submitted to the FOSPR steering committee for consideration.

6. Upcoming Agenda Items

- A.** GIS Analysis of Access to Parks and Open Space Overview, Betsy Emery
- B.** Schultz Creek Trailhead Concept Design Discussion, Betsy Emery/Martin Ince
- C.** McMillan Mesa Management Discussion, Betsy Emery/Steve Zimmerman
- D.** Open Spaces Commission Strategic Plan Update, Betsy Emery
- E.** Open Space Project List, Betsy Emery
- F.** Acquisition Priorities for Open Space and FUTS, Betsy Emery/Martin Ince
- G.** Donations of Open Space as Part of the Development Process, Community Development Staff
- H.** Continued Venus Parcel Discussion, Martin Ince

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:58pm. Chair Burton 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 _____, 2017.

Elizabeth Emery, Open Space Specialist