



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Monday, December 4th, 2017

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

211 West Aspen Avenue, 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 928-213-2154. 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

STAFF LIAISON:

Betsy Emery, Open Space Specialist

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Commissioners B. Burton, J. Burton, Hirst, Miller, Thomas, and Zimmerman were present for roll call. Commissioner Kalinowski was absent.

3. **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

4. Approval of October 30th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hirst motioned to approve the October 30th, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

5. Business

A. Overview of Forest Health and Restoration Projects on Observatory Mesa Natural Area (30 minutes) – Matt Millar, Flagstaff Fire Department

Requested Action: Informational

Matt Millar, Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Operations Specialist, informed the Commission about the forest health and restoration projects that have occurred on Observatory Mesa Natural Area since 2012. Mr. Millar discussed the financials, existing conditions, treatments, and operations for the FWPP projects. Mr. Millar stated that the projects have focused on restoring the forest to its natural state since the number of trees within Observatory Mesa is significantly higher when compared to historic records. Mr. Millar shared before and after aerial imagery for Observatory Mesa Natural Area. The FWPP team will hand thin steeper terrain and perform prescribed burns to continue and maintain forest restoration efforts within Observatory Mesa Natural Area.

B. Flagstaff Regional Trails Initiative (10 minutes) – Martin Ince

Requested Action: Informational

Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner, shared initial information about the Flagstaff Regional Trails Initiative with the Commission. The initiative will involve a number of stakeholders, including the National Park Service, Coconino National Forest, Arizona Trail Association, Coconino County, and Flagstaff Biking Organization. The plan will focus on trails within the FMPO boundary. The initiative will review existing and proposed trails and plan where current gaps exist within the current trail network. Commissioner Miller stated that interconnections are very important for the community and asked for additional information to be shared with the Commission on an ongoing basis.

C. Equity Analysis of City Parks and Open Space (30 Minutes) – Betsy Emery and Kim Istok, GIS Staff

Requested Action: Informational and Input on criteria

Kim Istok, GIS Analyst, and Ms. Emery shared the process for analyzing multi-modal transportation access to legally-designated open space and de facto open space (passive parks and public lands) within the City. The analysis will examine which areas within our community have high or low access to legally designated open spaces, passive parks, and National Forest/National Park lands. The analysis will look at driving times, walk time along FUTS trails or single track trails, and bus routes that community members could take to access the City Parks and Open Space. The Commission recommended adding Rural Floodplain and single track trails to the baseline data for the analysis. Staff will share results from the analysis during the January 22, 2018 Open Spaces Commission meeting.

- D. **Schultz Creek Trailhead Update** (5 Minutes) – Betsy Emery
Requested Action: Informational

Watershed Management Group is currently developing a concept design for the trailhead, which Ms. Emery will bring to the Commission for review when it is available this Spring. Ms. Emery is concurrently developing a management plan for the greater Schultz Creek Trailhead property (the entire 20-acre parcel). A preliminary draft of potential goals will be able for the Commission to review in late spring/early summer.

- E. **Open Space Management Update** (5 Minutes) – Betsy Emery
Requested Action: Informational

Ms. Emery is currently compiling and reviewing historic information about McMillan Mesa in order to draft the McMillian Mesa Management Plan. Ms. Emery has been looking at community records regarding McMillian Mesa from the early 2000s. The McMillian Mesa Management Plan will be a chapter within the Management Plan for Legally-Designated Open Space Properties.

- F. **Open Space Program Events and Volunteer Update** (5 Minutes) – Erin O'Keefe
Requested Action: Informational

Erin O'Keefe, Open Space Events and Outreach Coordinator, shared the City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Program 2017 Year in Review with the Commission. Ms. O'Keefe shared the various events that occurred during the year, and the projects that were accomplished by community volunteers. Ms. O'Keefe also shared the entries from the Fall Open Spaces Photo Contest with the Commission.

6. **Information Items To and From** (5 Minutes) – All
Chair Burton mentioned how Fort Tuthill is currently being thinned, similar to Observatory Mesa Natural Area.
7. **Future Agenda Items** (5 Minutes) – All
- A. **Open Spaces Commission Strategic Plan Discussion and Update**, Betsy Emery
 - B. **Observatory Mesa Natural Area Preliminary Access and Trail Planning**, Betsy Emery/Martin Ince
 - C. **Schultz Creek Trailhead Management and Visioning**, Betsy Emery
 - D. **Donations of Open Space as Part of the Development Process**, Community Development Staff
 - E. **McMillan Mesa Natural Area Management and Visioning**, Betsy Emery
 - F. **Acquisition Priorities for Open Space and FUTS**, Betsy Emery/Martin Ince
8. **Adjournment**
Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm.

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.

Betsy Emery, Staff Liaison