



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

May 23rd, 2018

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

COUNCIL 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

William Wilson

Jim Burton

Stephen Hirst

Jackie Thomas

David Zimmerman

STAFF LIAISON:

Betsy Emery, Open Space Specialist

Robert Wallace, Open Space Specialist

1. Call to Order

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Chair Burton, Commissioners Kalinowski, Wilson, Thomas, and Zimmerman were present for roll call. Commissioner Hurst and Burton were 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.

Nat White thanked Betsey for her hard work and dedication in Open Space for the City of Flagstaff.

4. Approval of March 26th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kalinowski motioned to approve the March 26th, 2018 Minutes. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

5. Business

A. Introduction of Robert Wallace, New Open Space Specialist (5 Minutes) –

Robert Wallace

Requested Action: Informational

Robert Wallace introduced himself as the new Open Space Specialist for the City of Flagstaff. He stated that he has a background in National Park Service for the last 15 years. He has been a part of many different projects surrounding open space including; the Flagstaff Area Monument Roving Ranger Program, Arches NP, Canyonlands, Wupatki NM, among other places. He stated experience in public education, open space work, and back country management. He is passionate about protecting these lands and is excited to be here. Everyone welcomed him.

B. City of Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (30 Minutes) – Jenny Niemann

Requested Action: Informational Update and Input

Jenny Niemann Climate and Energy Specialist spoke about the Climate Action and Adaptation plan (CAAP). She began by discussing where the plan currently is, stating that the City Council set a goal to take meaningful climate action. This plan will address climate change and how it will affect different areas in and around the Flagstaff community. This plan will be broken into key focus areas; natural environments, energy, water resources, public health, waste and consumption, transportation and land use, and tourism and rec. She noted that the plan is currently a living document that will continue to be edited until November. The plan will build on current actions the City has while creating new partnerships within the community to address more goals of the plan. The City has partnered with Climas, climate scientist, working on the different ways climate change will affect Flagstaff and what strategies we can take to adapt and mitigate those effects. The plan is also engaging the community in challenges of the plan and what is important to them as far as goals and strategies go. Currently the plan has a goal of reaching 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with a 2016 baseline.

Ms. Niemann moved on to discussing goals, strategies and actions. Goals are overarching tasks that outline an entire focus area, whereas strategies are ways to achieve the goals and actions are the specific things that have to happen to complete the strategy. Jenny opened up the discussion to Natural Environment's goals. Commission Thomas suggested that the plan address landscape protection or open space protection to avoid loss in these areas. She further discusses that landscapes should be protected within city limits to avoid the loss of natural space

with continued development. Chair Burton believed some of the actions were not specific enough. Public guest, Nat White stated the plan needs to address the pollution from stopping at stop lights. Nat states that a tree ordinance would allow nature to continue in the City limits. Commissioner Thomas sparked discussion within the group about ADOT and population and how this plan will address future changes in this area. Jenny believes the plan will be used to create relationships with stake holders such as NAU, ADOT, the State as well as others. Jenny directed the discussion towards the strategies and actions for the Natural Environment focus area. The group felt that educating the public on forest health risk and prevention will likely be the most beneficial. Vice-Chair Kalinowski noted that forest health education should be targeted at visitors and NAU students. She went on to ask if there could be a cap on the number of students at NAU. Jenny stated that growth from NAU is not something that the City can control. However the plan will include a per capita reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. White, public participant, discussed that recreation in open spaces depends a lot of motorized recreation. This leads to emissions and there should be something in the plan to redirect recreation activities to involve less emissions. Public participant Rick agreed with Mr. White stating that transportation to and within our open spaces creates emissions.

C. Open Spaces Commission Strategic Plan Discussion (120 Minutes) - Betsy Emery, Nicole Antonopolous, Robert Wallace

Requested Action: Discussion

Betsy opens up the discussion. Setting the stage for what the open space strategic plan currently says and how the commission can improve it. This discussion will continue in the future as there is deeper discussion on what the strategic plan should look like. The commissioner job is to provide feedback to improve the plan. This activity will create the plan and allows the commissioner to develop goals that they hope to fulfill. Robert reviewed the 2003 ordinance and designate role of the Open Space Commission; the commission is an advisory body. The 2003 ordinance has only been updated once in 2014 about seating opportunities and responsibilities for the commission.

Nicole opened discussion on strategies and visions. Ms. Antonopolous stated that the plan was excellent when it was first draft but now is outdated. There are more opportunities now than when open space started in the City. The program has been fully established. They have increased capacity to manage many different parcels of land. The Open Space system has created a solid identity within the community. They now have a permanent Open Space Specialist position as well as renewed the Americorp position. Ms. Antonopolous moved the conversation on to the differences between strategies and visions, stating that the current plan is more of a vision. Visions are overarching goals or dreams. The updated/new plan should be a strategy with more clarifying details. This plan should also be congruent with other plans or coincide with other entities plans. This plan has the potential to make partnerships with different stakeholders to fulfill existing plans goals. Commissioner Zimmerman requested a copy of the Regional Plan and asked that the Regional Plan aligns with the Open Space Commission's Strategic Plan and not vice versa. Commissioner Zimmerman also stated that moving forward with the strategic plan should mean that this commission think

holistically about what other plans are happening. He stated that it will be important to work on building relationship with many different stakeholders to discuss what is happening where.

Betsy addresses challenges and needs for Open Space. Funding and staffing are always a challenge for the Open Space system. Also Ms. Betsy posed the question “How do we provide equitable access to our open space properties?” There are areas that do not have access. Vice –Chair Kalinowski suggests a tram to get people up to open space areas without vehicles. The commission discussed that parking at entrances should be increased and that there should be more marketing to show that Open Space Commission is improving this type of access.

Commissioner Thomas suggested signage for trailheads and parking lots that have Open Space Commission named on them. Another challenge mentioned by Ms. Betsy is increased use and participation; how do we address vandalism, need to be forward thinking in the plan about numbers accessing the open spaces, and planning infrastructure and purchasing to include all variables that could influence future challenges such as the vandalism or legal restrictions for access.

Commissioner Thomas suggested talking to developers about considering open spaces before they develop. She states this will help us understand growth of Flagstaff and what challenges it poses to the OSC. Chair Burton suggested talking to zoning and planning about areas that are designated by Open Space Commission for access to trails or to those open space.

Nicole opens a new discussion with a question “what does a healthy perfect open space system look like for you?” The commissioners brainstorm how they’d like to see the Open Space Commission work in the future. Ms. Antonopolous states that right now the Open Space Commission and Open Space staff can now create a strategic plan versus “playing catch up” with grassroots open space citizens.

Robert introduces the exercise to the commissioners; best case scenario of where you (the commissioners) want the open space system to be in 5 year and in 25 years. Each commissioner developed 3 to 5 best case scenarios ideas and 1 to 2 actionable items that the commission can do to achieve those scenario ideas. Each commissioner then shared their 5 year and 25 year progression with the group. Many of the projects or dreams included being proactive especially in planning or developing, engaging in the community about future goals of the commission and creating partnerships with other departments, organizations, and groups This discussion wrapped up by establishing a foundation for understanding what the strategic plan will need. Next meetings will tease this information out and work on these ideas in the future.

D. Open Spaces Commission Chair Election (5 Minutes) – Betsy Emery

Requested Action: Elect Chair and Vote

Chair Burton opened by discussing responsibilities of the chair person for the Open Space Commission. This position is a one-year term following the fiscal year format. Kalinowski nominated Chair Burton to remain in the Chair seat. Kalinowski motioned to elect Chair Burton for another year. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. All in favor. Commissioner Zimmerman motioned for Kalinowski to be Vice Chair. Thomas seconded the motion. All in favor.

- 6. Information Items To and From (5 Minutes) – All**
Open Space Specialist Betsy informed the group that Parks and Rec commission has a number of vacancies. Currently their commission has only 3 members. She requested that Open Space Commissioners inform their circles about the vacancies. All commissioners discussed the June meeting cancelation and decided that it is back on the calendar, for June 25th, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the council chambers. The commissioners said their goodbyes and congratulations to Ms. Betsy.

- 7. Future Agenda Items (5 Minutes) – All**
 - A. Observatory Mesa Natural Area Access and Trail Planning**, Martin Ince
 - B. McMillan Mesa Management Plan Review**, Robert Wallace
 - C. Schultz Creek Trailhead Construction, Management, and Visioning**, Robert Wallace
 - D. Acquisition Priorities for Open Space and FUTS**, Robert Wallace/Martin Ince

- 8. Adjournment**
Adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:04 p.m.

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