



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

September 24, 2018

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 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
Jackie Thomas
William Wilson

Stephen Hirst
Jim Burton
David Zimmerman

STAFF LIAISON:

Robert Wallace, Open Space Specialist

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm.

2. **Roll Call**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Burton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Hirst
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Kalinowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Thomas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Zimmerman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Burton	

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 August 27th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Approval postponed until October meeting.

5. Business

A. Meeting Objectives (5 Minutes) – Robert Wallace

Requested Action: Informational

Two agenda items moved until October.

B. Four Propositions on the November 2018 Ballot for Flagstaff Voters to

**Consider (30 Minutes) – Barbara Goodrich, Interim City Manager; Jeff Meilbeck
NAIPTA CEO & General Manager; Sarah Darr, Housing Director**

Requested Action: Informational

Mr. Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA, presented information on Propositions 419, 420, and 421. Proposition 419 is a renewal of an existing tax approved in 2000. If not renewed this November, the tax will sunset in 2020. Mr. Meilbeck listed examples of projects the tax has funded in the past, including: the FUTS bridge over Cedar Avenue; improvements at West and Arrowhead roads to include bike lanes and sidewalks, and; the Solier connection to 4th Street. Proposition 419 would provide funding for: the extension of J.W. Powell from Lake Mary Road all the way through to 4th Street; roundabouts at Butler Avenue near Little America; 148 pedestrian and bicycle projects, and; Lone Tree Road improvements.

Proposition 420 would fund the railroad overpass at Lone Tree Road. Proposition 421 focuses on transit with more buses running more often. The transit system as we know it today is not at risk; it is funded through 2030. The Mountain Line has had significant growth since its 2001 initiation and the community has expressed a desire for better transit. Mr. Meilbeck's team has found that when people do not have to wait as long, they ride the bus more often. Prop 420 would increase the weekday bus intervals to every 15-20 minutes. The night and weekend routes would go up from once every hour to once every 30 minutes (and the routes would run later in the evening). Northern Arizona University (NAU) would purchase a bus pass for every student as leverage. If all propositions passed, the tax would go up from 8.951% to 9.331% (this figure does not include the BBB tax). Commissioners Thomas, Hirst, and Kalinowsky suggest approaching charter schools to create additional leverage like that of NAU.

Mrs. Sarah Darr presented information on Proposition 422: Improving Housing Affordability. Mrs. Darr explained that affordability is defined as households not spending more than 30% of their gross income on housing expenses. Prop 422 would address Council Goal to address high cost of local housing, both home owner and rental. If passed, this proposition would give the City the authority to issue \$25 million in General Obligation Bonds to be repaid through a secondary property tax. This would provide funding for City programs to address housing affordability.

Mrs. Darr provided some background on Prop 422. She presented 2015 housing data that showed that Flagstaff's cost of living is 15.6% above the national average. Housing data (2015) from the Arizona Department of Housing shows that the median home price in Flagstaff was \$299,300 and that the hourly wage required to buy a home was \$34.43. A two-bedroom apartment rental was \$1,033 per month and would require an hourly wage of \$19.87 to be affordable.

If Prop 422 passed, the first step would be to create an Advisory Committee to be comprised of a variety of members who could advise City Council, but leave final decisions to Council. Mrs. Darr mentioned that the proposition was written to be flexible in order to address fluctuations in the housing market.

Money spent would assist private homebuilders, including nonprofits, with building new homes and apartments at lower costs of ownership and rent. It would also assist people buying a first home with down payment assistance. More information is available at flagstaffelections.org.

Open houses will occur all over town throughout September and October 2018.

C. Programmatic Name Review (30 minutes) – Nicole Antonopoulos

Requested Action: Discussion

Ms. Antonopoulos opened a short discussion on changing the "Open Spaces" programmatic name to reduce community confusion. She mentioned that the name was originally coined in 2010 to match the Open Space and Greenway Plan. She described the confusion the name has brought since referring to examples such as the fact that at the state level the term "open space" refers to open spaces required for new, private (not public) developments. Ms. Antonopoulos introduced the name "Natural Areas" as a potential option.

The Commission discussed some pros and cons about the name change and decided to table the discussion for a future meeting. City staff will look into how other communities refer to their "open space" programs and provide this information to the Commission.

D. Open Spaces Commission's Strategic Vision Update (10 Minutes) – Robert Wallace

Requested Action: Discussion

Mr. Wallace mentioned that he would send out a draft of the Open Space Commission's Strategic Vision. He asked that commissioners provide feedback on the draft. The draft includes a list of chapter for the vision including existing conditions, key needs, mission/purpose/strategy/goals, and an implementation section. Mr. Wallace mentioned that they could also include a financial considerations section and performance measures.

Chair Burton emphasized the vision is intended to be a document that they can share with other departments so that others' can understand the commission's role moving forward.

6. Reports and Updates

A. Open Space Management Report (5 Minutes) - Robert Wallace

Mr. Wallace explained that there has been citizen concern for Observatory Mesa and cattle sighted on the mesa. He explained that they are working with a local rancher who replaced some fencing and who was very helpful. Mr. Wallace mentioned that the Open Spaces Program does not have funding for more fencing, but they do understand it is a need. Ms. Antonopoulos explained that the City is technically required to maintain all the fencing around Open Spaces. The rancher who replaced fencing on the mesa was not obligated or legally required to repair the fences, but went out of his way to assist the Open Spaces Program.

Mr. Wallace then provided an update on vandalism at Picture Canyon. The Picture Canyon Working Group partnered with the Museum of Northern Arizona to conduct some mitigation work to make vandalism on some of the rocks less visible. City staff are pursuing other ideas to prevent future vandalism such as installing a rope barrier around the water bird site to dissuade people from approaching the petroglyphs. Mr. Wallace said the City is putting together a volunteer group to create a presence at the preserve. Commissioners suggested trail cameras and other options for addressing future vandalism at the preserve.

Mr. Wallace mentioned that the McMillan Mesa community survey is still open and that they have had 346 responses so far.

Mr. Wallace mentioned that the Flagstaff Trail Initiative will have its first public meeting on October 10th from 6:00-8:30pm at Flagstaff High School. They are looking for volunteers.

B. Open Space Events and Outreach Report (5 Minutes) – Kaeli Wells

Ms. Wells updated the commission on recent and upcoming events. Science in the Park was held on September 22nd. She advertised for upcoming Picture Canyon events and did trivia and bracelet making at the event. Ms. Wells spoke with 319 and had 31 people sign up for the Open Space newsletter.

Ms. Wells mentioned that the Indigenous Youth Service Academy event would take place in October. Other upcoming events include the Festival of Science guided hike, Picture Canyon celebration, and an archeology tour.

7. Information Items To and From (5 Minutes) – All

Ms. Antonopoulos shared that open houses will be coming up in October for the Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Presentations on the plan will be given to Council in October. Residents can also provide input on the plan using an online survey.

The 15 Minute Makeover will occur on October 15th at 10:15am.

8. Future Agenda Items (5 Minutes) - All

A. Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Amy Hagin

B. Fire Department Thinning Projects and Open Space Health, Matt Millar

C. Dark Sky Compliance, TBD

D. Open Space Name Brainstorming Session, TBD

9. Adjournment

Adjourn at 5:40pm.

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.



Robert Wallace, Staff Liaison