



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

October 22, 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

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 3:59pm.

2. Roll Call

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

Sat Best, of 3935 North Paradise Road, attended the meeting and wanted to introduce himself. He works with the Conservation Study Forum, a loose group of science-based individuals who work to get science into regional planning, especially for conservation. One subject they are currently focused on is viewsheds. They also just finished a project to related to seeps and springs and wildlife corridors.

4. Approval of August 27th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Commissioner Hirst. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All in favor.

5. Approval of September 24th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Commissioner Kalinowsky. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hirst. All in favor.

6. Business

A. Current Council Direction for Commissions. (15 Minutes) – Stacy Saltzburg, Requested Action: Informational

City Clerk, Stacy Saltzburg, gave an update on Council direction for how City Boards and Commissions interact with City Council. Starting January 1st, 2019, the Staff liaisons and Chairs of each Board and Commission will meet with Council quarterly and share their work plan for the year. Council will provide input on these work plans. Council also requested written recommendations from each of the Boards and Commissions throughout the year. This will help the City ensure that everyone is on the same page. Mrs. Saltzburg reminded the Commissioners that there will be a change in Council after the first of the year. The new Council will identify their goals and a new part of the process will require that the City Manager sit down with each of the Boards and Commissions to review the goals of the new Council and how the Boards and Commissions can help meet these goals. In addition, Mrs. Saltzburg mentioned that the City Clerk's office is updating the handbook for the Boards and Commissions in order to standardize the rules and procedures. A Staff liaison manual will also be developed.

B. Parks and Recreation Masterplan Overview (15 Minutes) – Amy Hagin, Requested Action: Informational

Amy Hagin, City Parks Manager, provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Masterplan. The Masterplan was adopted in 2013. The goals of the masterplan are to “create a policy and organizational document by enriching the lives of the community to participate in healthy lifestyle.” One area of the masterplan that staff is reconsidering is the determination of park size. The masterplan currently states that parks need to be at least two acres in size in order to be maintainable. However, the Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Commission are considering a policy change against the masterplan for cases where a park smaller than two acres is the only option. Mrs. Hagin gave the Southside Neighborhood as an example of a place where a smaller park is the only option. Mrs. Hagin mentioned that “open space” is mentioned throughout the masterplan, but it is not an identifying factor in the masterplan.

C. Forest Thinning/Health Update and Recommendations. (15 Minutes) – Matt Millar, Requested Action: Informational

Matt Millar, Operation Specialist for Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP), provided an update on thinning projects on City Open Space. FWPP is a collaborative forest thinning project with local, state, and federal partners. The majority of FWPP work has been done on Observatory Mesa, but there has also been some work done on State Trust land. Mechanized logging is complete on City Open Space, Observatory Mesa, but City fuels crew is finishing up hand thinning on the mesa. The City has leveraged over \$1million in funding for the FWPP project.

In the future, the City hopes to do some thinning in Picture Canyon. They currently have a grant application open to hand thin 200 acres at the preserve. Most of what needs to be thinned are dog hair thickets, or small diameter trees. The City would like to use digital restoration guide to “mark” trees instead of painting trees or using flagging. This winter, Mr. Millar will develop a more detailed prescription for Picture Canyon. If the grant application is not successful, they will go after other State grant opportunities.

In addition, Mr. Millar has other prescribed fire operations planned on Lowell Observatory, the Naval Observatory, and Observatory Mesa. Finally, there is an ongoing firewood giveaway as fuelwood to the community. They give wood to Wood for Warmth and a Tuba City church that takes wood to elders on the reservation. There will also be a general firewood giveaway in Flagstaff.

D. Flagstaff Trails Initiative (15 Minutes) – Brian Grube. Requested Action: Informational

Brian Grube, with the Parks and Recreation Department at Coconino County, gave an introduction and update on the Flagstaff Trails Initiative (FTI). FTI started in October 2017 and was initiated by the City to collaborate and strategize on trails in the area. FTI has a website where upcoming meetings and supplemental information can be found. The goal of FTI is to have a collaborative, working document to help partners move forward with a trails strategy. All the partners have their own priorities and FTI is an effort to work together efficiently. They had a partners meeting in March with forty participants. In October, they held a public meeting with over 100 participants. Another outreach meeting will be scheduled for later this winter. A public survey is available online and over 400 people have already responded.

Mr. Grube also shared that the Coconino County Parks and Rec Master is being updated. They have held 27 public meetings and there is a survey available online. Mr. Grube mentioned that the County works in unison with the City’s Parks and Rec Department.

E. Open Space Programmatic Name Discussion (15 Minutes) – All, Requested Action: Discussion

The Commission continued their discussion of potentially changing the programmatic name of the Open Space Program and Commission in order to address confusion the name causes with the public and the fact that the program encompasses more than open space. Mr. Wallace presented several examples of program names used in other communities. The Commissioners discussed incorporating the word “public” to clarify the fact that open spaces are publically

owned. Other words the Commission considered incorporating include: preserve, reserve, natural, green space, natural areas, parks, and conservation areas. Ms. Antonopoulos suggested checking in with Community Development staff to better understand the status of zoning code amendments related to open space. She mentioned that they have the perfect opportunity to align a name change, if desired, with amendments to the zoning code.

- F. Open Spaces Commission Strategic Planning Session (20 Minutes) – All,**
Requested Action: Discussion
Mr. Wallace provided a bare bones outline as a handout to the Commissioners. Commissioners provided comments on improving the outline and requested further time to review it so that they could provide more input. Some suggestions included using the Sustainability Plan as a model for the Open Spaces Commission Strategic Plan, and dropping the focus on agricultural lands. In addition, the Commissioners felt there needed to incorporate language about viewsheds and dark skies, and that there needed to be a mid-term plan in addition to the existing 5 and 25-year plans included in the outline. The Commissioners stressed the need for aligning the plan with other city plans and addressing any overlap that may exist.
- 7. Reports and Updates**
- A. Open Space Management Report (5 Minutes) - Robert Wallace**
Mr. Wallace mentioned that staff are working with Community Development to do a tour of Picture Canyon on November 9th for the Arizona Planning Conference. They are also working with a consultant to develop and install signage at Picture Canyon to educate the public on regulations of motorized vehicle use in the preserve.
- B. Open Space Events and Outreach Report (5 Minutes) – Kaeli Wells**
Ms. Wells reported out on recent events hosted in part or by the Open Spaces Program. These included a community celebration at Picture Canyon, a presentation with Scientists in the Classroom, and Make a Difference Day. She mentioned that she will coordinate the Indigenous Youth Service Academy in late October as well as a community tour on archeology at Picture Canyon.
- 8. Information Items To and From (5 Minutes) – All**
Ms. Antonopoulos mentioned that staff are in their final week of asking for feedback from the public on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.
- 9. Future Agenda Items (5 Minutes) - All**
- A. Dark Sky Compliance, TBD, Requested Action: Informational**
- B. Open Spaces Commission Strategic Planning Session – All, Requested Action: Discussion**
- 10. Adjournment**
Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 5:13pm.

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 _____, 2018.



Robert Wallace, Staff Liaison