



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

November 26th, 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 4:02pm.

2. **Roll Call**

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

No public participation.

4. Approval of October 22nd, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the October 22nd minutes by Commissioner Hirst. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All in favor.

5. Business

A. Dark Sky Lighting Code Review (20 Minutes) – Tiffany Antol, Requested Action: Informational

Tiffany Antol, Acting Planning Director, presented on the City of Flagstaff's current dark sky-related efforts. The City of Flagstaff ("the City") and Coconino County ("the County") began working together on dark sky efforts in the early 1970s. As the Flagstaff's population grew a new lighting ordinance was needed to address increased light pollution.

In 1989, the City and County adopted the Lighting Ordinance. The Ordinance set zoned lighting requirements, total light output requirements, a requirement for utilization of low-pressure sodium lights, the removal of Mercury Vapor lights within a certain time frame after the adoption of the Ordinance, and permitting of outdoor lighting. The Ordinance also created three lighting zones based off distance from observatories. Lowell Observatory was not included due to its proximity to downtown Flagstaff. Mrs. Antol mentioned that the most important aspect of the Ordinance was that it set absolute limits on the amount of outdoor lighting per acre.

Strategies used by the City to address light pollution have been effective in reducing sky glow impacts by two thirds or more compared to unregulated lighting. The City will most likely have a new set of lighting code amendments within the next year to address changes in lighting technology especially as it relates to light emitting diode (LED) technology because white LED bulbs produce more lumens than traditional white incandescent bulbs. In addition, Mrs. Antol is hoping to get staff through the 2019 budget process that can do light code compliance.

Mrs. Antonopoulos mentioned that the Sustainability Section has been trying to help on the education side of dark skies. Sustainability staff organize an annual event called Lights Out Flagstaff in collaboration with the observatories to spread the word about the importance of dark skies.

Chair Burton thought it would be useful to get information out to home owners associations that each have their own websites where dark sky policy information could be posted.

B. Sinclair Wash Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study (20 Minutes) – Erin Young and Paul Beier, Requested Action: Informational

Erin Young, Water Resource Manager with Water Services, presented with Dr. Paul Beier on a current groundwater recharge feasibility study. Mrs. Young mentioned that the City has excess reclaimed water for most of the year with forty percent of reclaimed water flowing out of town to Doney Park. The recharge feasibility study is intended to better understand whether or not the City can

recharge the aquifer with the excess reclaimed water through discharge into the Rio de Flag or other tributaries. Mrs. Young mentioned that there are a number of steps that would need to be completed preceding any on the ground projects. These include obtaining a Department of Environmental Quality permit which is costly to manage, installing dechlorinating infrastructure, and setting up regular site visits.

The goal of the feasibility study is to examine how to recharge 100% of excess reclaimed water to the C-aquifer. Recharge is limited to areas that are upstream of the City's recovery wells. In addition, the City is limited by its reclaimed water delivery infrastructure. Therefore, Water Services has three Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) to allow for better reclaimed water distribution. One of these projects is complete.

Dr. Paul Beier, Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Member, presented on the amenity benefits from recharging the C-aquifer, namely, a year-round stream in Flagstaff. The current discharge point at the Rio de Flag Water Reclamation Plant supports two marshes. However, downstream there is a lot of freeway noise, the area is not accessible to everyone, and much of the land is privately owned.

Dr. Beier presented on three opportunities for discharge points that could add amenity value to the community. The locations are at Northern Arizona University (NAU), Frances Short Pond, and Lone Tree Road. All of these will be evaluated by the City. Dr. Beier sees the most value along the Flagstaff Urban Trail System at Lone Tree Road where the area is publicly-owned and surrounded by low-income residents, NAU, and others. He mentioned it would be a great place for picnic tables and an opportunity for an Arizona Game and Fish Department Urban Heritage Grant for bird blinds at the I-40 wetlands. Dr. Beier highlighted the rare birds and native plant species found along this stretch of the Rio de Flag.

Chair Burton expressed concern about evaporation from this type of project. Mrs. Young mentioned that the City has explored injection wells versus the discharge of reclaimed water into the Rio de Flag or other tributaries and they are still trying to understand the cost-benefit ratio. Mrs. Young mentioned that bioremediation could be a component of the project that helps clean up the water. She will be looking at scopes of works in Tucson and Phoenix.

Commissioner Wilson expressed concern about losing flow of water from Picture Canyon. Mrs. Antonopoulos mentioned that there would be more to come on this topic at a future commission meeting. She mentioned that Sustainability and Water Services staff are working to ensure that the reclaimed water flowing into Picture Canyon is protected.

C. Open Spaces Commission Strategic Planning (30 Minutes) – All, Requested Action: Discussion

Mr. Wallace presented on progress made on the strategic plan from conversations he had with various commission members. He walked the Commission through six goals and the strategies for each of the goals.

Commissioner Thomas wondered if the goals and strategies should be more specific and include responsibilities of Commissioners. Mr. Wallace mentioned that the Commission would need to decide how action-oriented they wanted to be within their strategic plan.

Commissioner Thomas mentioned a need for including the word “sustainable” to capture the need for preventing “over loving” our landscapes. Mr. Wallace mentioned that the Commission could include language about visitor use as well as the development limitations of conservation easements the City has on open space properties.

Mr. Wallace mentioned that one project could meet multiple goals. Chair Burton noted that he liked the organization of the goals especially the fact that the financial goal was the last goal. He felt it was important to address the first five goals before thinking about the financial aspects of open space.

The Commission decided to review the goals and strategies individually and take time during the January 2019 meeting to create action items for each strategy.

D. Open Spaces Commission December/January Meeting Schedule, January 28th (5 Minutes) – All, Requested Action: Discussion

The Commission decided to combine the December and January meetings for January 28th, 2019 with plenty of time scheduled for strategic planning.

6. Reports and Updates

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

Community forum survey for the Schultz Creek Trailhead project is being reviewed internally. The Open Space Annual Report was published. Erin O’Keefe finished her AmeriCorps VISTA term.

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

Kaeli Wells, AmeriCorps VISTA, shared an update on events and outreach. The Indigenous Youth Service Academy (IYSA) had a Star Party with Lowell Observatory and the Native American Astronomy Outreach Team. Open Space hosted an Arbor Day cleanup at Picture Canyon with NAU Grand Canyon semester students. The students made artwork out of the trash and will hold an art exhibit during December First Friday. Finally, Erin O’Keefe presented on Scientists in the Classroom at Sinagua Middle School.

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

Mrs. Antonopoulos announced that the City Council unanimously approved the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan on November 20th.

8. Future Agenda Items (5 Minutes) - All

A. Schultz Creek Parcel Community Forum survey review

B. McMillan Mesa Management Plan review

9. Adjournment

Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 5:51pm.

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