



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

June 3rd, 2019
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
Jackie Thomas, Vice-Chair
William Wilson
Stephen Hirst
Jim Burton

STAFF LIAISON:

Robert Wallace, Open Space Specialist

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Chair Burton
 Vice-Chair Thomas
 Commissioner Wilson
 Commissioner Burton
 Commissioner Hirst

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 comment.

4. **Approval of April 22nd, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Hirst motioned to approve the April 22nd, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Thomas. All voted in favor.

5. Business

A. City Code Revisions Concerning Electric Bikes and Electric Scooters (20 minutes) – Martin Ince, Requested Action: Informational

Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner with the Community Development Department, gave a summary of the current proposed revisions to the city code regarding electric bicycles (E-bikes) and electric scooters (E-scooters). The three proposed revisions are as follows:

1. Vendors of dockless E-bikes and E-scooters must obtain a permit in order to limit the number of vendors and prevent “dumping”.
2. With feedback given from the community and City Council, E-bikes and E-scooters will be prohibited from all sidewalks and unpaved FUTS trails and allowed in bike lanes. Only those devices that have a maximum speed of 20 mph will be allowed on paved FUTS trails. These allowances and prohibitions are intended to enhance mobility while protecting pedestrians and other vulnerable users.
3. E-bike and E-scooter operators must provide their truthful name, date of birth, and current address if detained by law enforcement. Additionally, operating E-bikes and E-scooters under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be prohibited.

Chair Burton expressed concern about the need to potentially change the signage on FUTS trails if E-scooters and some E-bikes are permitted as those are motorized devices. Mr. Ince suggested having more signs that say “no unauthorized vehicles” instead.

Commissioner Hirst asked whether segways were included in the proposed code revision as they have a motor and could be dangerous on sidewalks. Mr. Ince explained that segways are currently considered to be pedestrians according to state law, so they are not encompassed in the E-bike and E-scooter code revision.

The first reading of the proposed revisions by City Council will be on June 4th and the second reading will be on June 18th.

B. Bike Share System RFP (10 minutes) – Nicole Antonopoulos, Requested Action: Informational

Ms. Antonopoulos presented on the new request for proposal (RFP) for a city-wide bike share system. The RFP process was chosen over issuing permits to allow the city to incorporate safety parameters such as an age limit that aligns with helmet laws (18 or older). Based on feedback and experiences gathered during the pilot program, the city is looking for vendors that will provide a hybrid system with 250 docked and dockless bicycles. Up to 10% of those bicycles can be electric. The top bidders will be interviewed over the next 4-6 weeks and will be presenting to City Council in July. The goal is to introduce the bike share

system in August to coincide with the start of Northern Arizona University's academic year. The awarded contract will last for two years with the ability to renew with one-year contracts up to four times.

The Commission discussed some concerns about the bike share system including excluding families from using the bikes, abandoned dockless bikes, and winter use of rented bikes.

C. Preservation of Viewsheds (30 minutes) – Nat White (Conservation Study Forum), Requested Action: Informational

Mr. Nat White, private citizen and member of the Conservation Study Forum, discussed the importance of viewsheds in Flagstaff. None of the views in Flagstaff are currently protected but they are a part of the image and quality of life in Flagstaff, can increase property value, and views from both open spaces and transportation corridors are treasured by many. Mr. White's goal is to increase awareness of viewsheds and start the discussion on how viewsheds can be acknowledged in city planning and policies.

The Commission suggested that Mr. White give this presentation to other groups such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, Friends of the Rio De Flag, and the Northern Arizona Association of Realtors.

D. Open Spaces Commission Meeting Dates Follow-Up (2 Minutes) – Robert Wallace, Requested Action: Informational

Mr. Wallace researched other potential meeting times for the Commission, but the current meeting time is the only one available. The meeting time will remain the same, but Commissioner Zimmerman had to tender his resignation. There are now two vacancies and there will be a third when Commissioner Burton's term ends. There are only two applications in and City Council has decided to wait for more applications before appointing new Open Space Commissioners.

In order for the Commission to meet quorum, there needs to be four Commissioners present. The Commissioners are concerned about this and requested bringing the issue up with City Council, as no voting will be possible when more than one Commissioner is absent.

The July 22nd Open Space Commission meeting was rescheduled to July 15th.

E. Subcommittee Discussion and Planning (35 Minutes) – All, Requested Action: Discussion

The subcommittees for the Commission were discussed. Each meeting will occur monthly at the Sustainability office. The three subcommittees are as follows:

1. Education (Commissioner Wilson, Chair Burton) – will meet on the first Monday of each month, but the first meeting will be on June 6th from 4-5pm

2. Planning (Commissioner Hirst, Commissioner Burton) – will meet on the first Wednesday of each month, but the first meeting will be on June 5th from 4-5pm
3. Financial Sustainability (Vice-Chair Thomas) – will meet on the first Tuesday of each month, but the first meeting will be on June 10th from 4-5pm

Vice-Chair Thomas motioned to establish subcommittees that adhere to open meeting laws to address three components listed. All voted in favor.

The Education subcommittee was asked to table at the “Juneteenth” event for the Coconino County African American Advisory Council on June 15th from 10am-4pm. Chair Burton volunteered to attend from 10am-12pm.

6. Reports and Updates

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

Mr. Wallace provided an update on the Open Space Program. Open Space is working with Arizona Conservation Experience (ACE) on a survey of Observatory Mesa Natural Area for management needs, protecting cultural resources at Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve with fencing and barriers, and treating invasive Russian thistle in association with Natural Channel Designs and Stormwater Services. Picture Canyon also has new signage, repaired trails, counters on the trails to track usage, and other improvements.

Staff posted community feedback encompassing over 500 responses regarding the Schultz Creek Trailhead on community forum website. Most people heavily use the trail for hiking and biking. Many people were receptive to alternative transportation efforts such as connecting the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) to the Schultz Creek Trail. The addition of toilets at the trailhead were suggested, but the community saw little need for other infrastructure such as picnic tables or running water.

Arizona Site Stewards are helping to update site kits for Picture Canyon and train volunteers. Flagstaff Trail Initiative is assisting with a community update event that is currently set for June 19th, 2019. The Education subcommittee will work on creating materials on Open Space to hand out at that event. The Grants and Contracts Manager is working with Open Space staff on finalizing agreements to manage invasive plants on Picture Canyon bordering property.

The Open Space Stewards program started with 22 volunteers who have committed to contributing 20 volunteer hours each year. They will wear blue shirts and nametags to be visible to the public and will help with cleaning trash, educating visitors on Open Space regulations, and reporting violations to the Flagstaff Police Department. The Stewards training will be given annually.

B. Open Space Events and Outreach Report (5 Minutes) – Robert Wallace

Mr. Wallace provided an update on events and outreach. Weekly Wednesday Weed Walks are still continuing from 7-10am at Picture Canyon on June 12th and June 26th. As part of the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience, there will be a

Bug Safari at Frances Short Pond on June 15th from 9-11am with the NAU Bug Lab. Willow Bend will be giving a public tour of Picture Canyon on June 20th from 4-6:30pm.

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

Chair Burton requested that a specific private property parcel be used by Parks and Recreation or Open Space as income property. He will talk to Parks and Recreation at their July meeting.

8. Future Agenda Items (5 Minutes) - All

None

9. Adjournment

Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 6:03pm.

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 _____, 2019.



Robert Wallace, Staff Liaison