



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

January 25th, 2020
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
VIRTUAL MEETING

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:

Andy Bessler
Jim Burton
Mark Loseth
Eric Nolan

Joseph Thomas
Jack Welch
William Wilson

STAFF LIAISON:

Robert Wallace, Open Space Specialist

1. Call to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Nolan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair Bessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Thomas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Burton	<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Welch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Loseth	

3. Public Participation

Members of the public attending the meeting were asked to introduce themselves. Michelle James with Friends of Flagstaff's Future, and John Haro, Matthew Morgan, and Rafael Balderama from Arizona Public Service (APS) introduced themselves.

4. Approval of January 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wallace noted that he made a correction to the minutes that are being presented to the Commission for approval. The APS easement change would not reflect a two square foot gain for APS, rather it would be a two square foot reduction in their overall space. A motion was made by Vice Chair Bessler to approve the January 4, 2021 minutes as written and was seconded by Commissioner Burton. The motion passed with six (6) yea votes.

5. Business

- A. City Council Representative Introduction.** Introduction –Vice Mayor Daggett, the Commission’s new Council liaison, introduced herself to the Commission and answered questions.
- B. Public Works Section Director Introduction.** Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director, introduced herself to the Commission, as well as Andy Bertelsen, Public Works Director.
- C. APS Elden Substation Easement City Council Recommendation.**

The Commission discussed changing their recommendation after discussion and comments from John Haro with APS. The Commission requested that the letter be changed to identify the area south of the Veteran’s Home that needs remediation and restoration, as well as work to prevent illegal vehicle trespass, but they are no longer recommending that APS pay for this mitigation as it is outside of their substation project area. Rather, the Commission recommends that the Open Space Program address this area of concern as soon as funding is available.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bessler and was seconded by Commissioner Nolan to authorize Mr. Wallace to make the changes as discussed and directed by the Commission. The motion was approved with six (6) yes votes.
- D. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)**

Jack Fitchett, MPA Management Analyst with the City Management’s office, gave a presentation to the Commission on Priority Based Budgeting (PBB). PBB is a budgeting tool to allow the City to review programs as they relate to key Council Priorities in order to make more informed budgeting decisions.
- E. Commission Update Drafting for City Council**

The Open Space Commission is scheduled to provide an update to the City Council on March 23, 2021. Mr. Wallace suggested an outline of the presentation to the Commission, including focusing on Commission priorities such as the McMillian Mesa rezone, Observatory Mesa trail plan, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Committee work, sustainable funding, and conservation land management. The Commission discussed the presentation and gave feedback to Mr. Wallace, the Chair, and Vice Chair about what to include in the presentation. The Commission will discuss again at their next meeting.
- F. FY21 Commission Priorities**

Robert summarized the McMillan Mesa Rezone Application status and next steps. He noted that the neighborhood meetings were well received. Comments and feedback from the public neighborhood meetings is being reviewed, compiled, and will be submitted for the record of proceedings.
- 6. Reports and Updates**
 - A. Council Representative Reports**

Vice Mayor Becky Daggett expressed appreciation for the opportunity to report.
 - B. Open Space Management and Events and Outreach Reports.**

Robert Wallace updated the commission on the Bow and Arrow water agreement with Arizona Game and Fish which includes Picture Canyon and the I-40 wetlands release. The agreement is in the process of renewal to support continued release of wastewater into the Picture Canyon property which is currently set to expire in 2030. The agreement that is being renewed does not include the I-40 wetlands release and should be addressed in a separate agreement.

The Picture Canyon forest thinning project is still in progress, working with the Fire Department and an archeologist to preserve cultural resources around designated burn piles. The project will extend into the next season.

C. Open Space Program Budget Report.

No changes from last meeting. Work is continuing on a legal survey quote for McMillian Mesa.

7. Information Items To and From

No comments.

8. Future Agenda Items

- Next meeting: February 22, 2021
- Parks Recreation Open Space (PROS) Committee Review & Sustainable Funding Discussion
- Commission Update Drafting for City Council.
- FY21 Commission Priorities
 - McMillan Mesa Rezone Application Update

Chair Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM with six (6) yea votes.