



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Virtual Meeting – Join Teams Meeting



1/24/2022 4:00 p.m.

Draft Minutes

Members Present

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| <u> X </u> Commissioner Richard Conway | <u> X </u> Commissioner Austin Kerr |
| <u> X </u> Commissioner Brenda Linskey | <u> X </u> Commissioner Ryan Martin (Chair) |
| <u> X </u> Commissioner Stephen Parsons | <u> X </u> Commissioner Dana Rowden |
| <u> X </u> Commissioner Josh Stackhouse | |

Councilmember / Liaison to the City Council

- X Councilmember Regina Salas

Staff and Others Present

- Christine Cameron – Project Manager
- Sara Dechter – Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Manager
- Amy Hagin – Parks Manager
- Martin Ince – Multimodal Transportation Planner
- Mark Reavis – Neighborhood Planner
- Rebecca Sayers – Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Conway, Kerr, Linskey, Martin, Rowden, and Stackhouse were present for roll call. Commissioner Parsons joined at 4:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Stackhouse to approve the December 20, 2021 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rowden. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) yea votes.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public participation.

4. **ACTION ITEMS – ELECT CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR TO FACILITATE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to appoint Commissioner Conway as Chair and Commissioner Parsons as Co-chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stackhouse. Motion passed unanimously with seven (7) yea votes. Commissioner Conway facilitated the rest of the meeting.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Lone Tree Overpass – park and civic space opportunities**

Christine Cameron, Project Manager, reviewed a high-level concept of the Lone Tree Overpass project, noting that Mark Reavis and Sara Dechter were available if there are questions related to the Southside Community Specific Plan. The project will improve mobility and safety with a new north-south roadway connection extending Lone Tree Road between Butler Avenue to the south and Route 66 to the north with a proposed overpass to be built over the Rio de Flag, future Elden/Cottage extension, and BNSF Railway. An animated flyover video was also presented showing potential civic spaces and

the overpass. She noted that the park improvements are not included in the overpass project funding, but they are working to accommodate the space that could be planned and developed later. The completion of the overpass is scheduled for 2026. The website, www.lonetreeoverpass.org, is available to review documents and information.

After discussion with the Commission, it was noted that an urban park is desired under the overpass and is mentioned in the Southside Community Plan. The park should include artwork and have sufficient lighting to address crime and vandalism. The Commission asked about the possibility of a dog park, but this was not widely supported when discussed during the development of the Southside Community Specific Plan.

Regarding funding options, staff continues to look for other funding sources, and Councilmember Salas reported that they continue to advocate for state and federal funds to complete the project, including the park.

B. Active Transportation Master Plan (Draft) Presentation

- <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3181/Active-Transportation-Master-Plan>

Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner, gave an introduction and status update on the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) that will serve as a guide to enhance walking and biking infrastructure in Flagstaff. The intent of the ATMP is to fill in the details and provide specific direction to achieve the goals in the regional plan. The approach to the “Big Shift,” which is discussed in the City’s adopted Carbon Neutrality Plan, is to emphasize on pedestrians and bikes rather than cars and to provide multiple options for mobility. The list of projects has been prioritized to fit within the 20-year time frame of funding. There are two dedicated funding sources that include Proposition 419 transportation tax and the Mountain line First/last Mile Program.

Moving forward will include collecting public comments and presenting it for detailed review to several Commissions and stakeholder groups, then submit to Council for approval by spring 2022. Community survey links can be found here: http://www.opentownhall.com/portals/227/Issue_11144 and <http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/fcf>.

The Commission asked questions on the relation of the plan to the overpass project and the schedule for implementation of proposed improvements. It is the first opportunity for the city to think about the Big Shift and bringing additional community goals and values into the conversation. Implementation of some projects has already begun with the draft plan being used as a guide and more are included in the capital project five year plan.

6. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS – COUNCILMEMBER REGINA SALAS

- City Council will discuss the Lone Tree Overpass design, flood mitigation update, proposed noise ordinance, and the Flagstaff minimum wage update at their next meeting.
- City Council will be attending a two-day budget retreat in two weeks.
- \$360,000 has been earmarked for small business grants, especially for minority owned businesses. Council has also asked the County to participate. NAU has pledged \$10,000 towards the grant and possible business mentoring.
- \$200,000 is available to tourism-based industries.
- The Citizen Bond Committee is working hard and meets every Thursday. They will make recommendations to Council in spring or early summer.

7. REPORTS – MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

- The Parks and Recreation report has now been combined.
- Parks and Recreation Manager Hagin presented usage numbers on Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) counters that staff has strategically placed over the last year. She asked for feedback, and noted that some of the locations were identified as areas that need maintenance such as asphalt trails. Suggested trail counter locations were the Route 66 trail, Karen Cooper trail, the Highway 180 trail, or the Lone Tree trail. The Commission requested that some locations stay the same so that year-over-year data can be collected.
- Staff clarified a question on the Open Space report. APS has made improvements to their easement on the McMillan Mesa Natural Area and installed a gate to prevent illegal vehicle traffic.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

- Parks Manager Hagin has taken on the role of Interim Recreation Manager.
- Staff has submitted a reorganization request for the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events (PROSE) Division as part of the City's annual budget process.
- Commissioner Parsons has helped with the concept plan of how pickleball courts can fit at Bushmaster Park. Staff are looking to identify funding.
- Recreation has no bond measures for the upcoming ballot. Council is focusing on infrastructure needs as well as the climate and housing emergencies.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 28, 2022 MEETING

- Budget Review
- Parks and Recreation Priorities

One Commissioner requested to revisit Accomplishments of the Master Plan and Cost Recovery Policies at a future date.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.