

MEETING NOTES *(updated 11/18/10)*

City of Flagstaff

REGIONAL PLAN CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. October 21, 2010

Northern Arizona Healthcare Educational Offices: 1000 N. Humphrey's Suite 241, Flagstaff, AZ;
in the Fort Valley shopping center, south of the hospital.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Bonita Sears at 928-779-7632, ext. 7294 (or 774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

Draft Regional Plan Vision Statement:

The Greater Flagstaff community embraces the region's extraordinary cultural and ecological setting on the Colorado Plateau through active stewardship of the natural and built environments. Residents and visitors encourage and advance intellectual, environmental, social and economic vitality for today's citizens and future generations.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Roll Call

A. Committee Members:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Babbitt (Chairman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Chaveas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maury Herman	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Nesbitt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Bousquet (Vice Chairman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Frawley	<input type="checkbox"/> Judy Louks	<input type="checkbox"/> Eva Putzova
<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Griego	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Ring	<input type="checkbox"/> Eunice Tso
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Bean	<input type="checkbox"/> Shaula Hedwall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Devonna McLaughlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nat White
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Henn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerome Naleski	
<u>Alternate Members:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Leid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trish Rensink

III. APPROVAL of MINUTES for October 7, 2010 CAC Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommend changes and approve 10/07/10 [Meeting Minutes](#). 

The minutes were approved with a motion by Jerome Naleski and seconded by Bill Ring.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, any member of the public may address the Committee on any subject within their jurisdiction that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. Due to Open Meeting Laws, the Committee cannot discuss or act on items presented during this portion of the agenda. To address the Committee 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. If time does not allow all comments to be heard, public comments may be posted to the Regional Plan blog:

<http://flagregionalplan2012.wordpress.com/>

Robert Mark, a representative from the group to protect Picture Canyon, spoke about their progress in the past years, which is one of the last open places left in the city. It has over 125 petro glyphs, lies within the Flagstaff city limits, is recognized as a National Historic Site and is part of state trust land. Mr. Mark asked the Committee Members, regarding the elements of the plan to be discussed, to please remember them in their decisions. Committee Member Bill Ring thanked Mr. Mark and the hard work of the group.

V. OLD BUSINESS - (Continued, postponed, and tabled agenda items.)

A. Environment & Conservation Element *(est. 140 minutes)*

PURPOSE: Discuss and recommend goals and policies for 'Environment & Conservation' Element

FACILITATORS: Bob Caravona, John Aber and Mark Ogonowski

HANDOUTS: [Environmental Planning & Conservation Element Background Report – Packets 1&2](#)
[Environmental Planning & Conservation Element DRAFT \(10/13/10\)](#)



Bob Caravona began by reminding the group that the subject they would be discussing is a passionate one and that there would be viewpoints from both sides. Further, he said, if you have comments to make, try to have a plan to support your comment or dissention.

Draft text (20% of time)

1. Comments received
2. Staff summary of comments
3. Are there additional CAC comments?
 - i. What is missing?
 - ii. What needs clarification?
 - iii. If specific or detailed response is required, please email.

Goals and policies

- A. Review by topic
- B. For each section topic, discuss the goal and policies which received comments
- C. Selected individual goals

Bob Caranova reminded the Members the process for the meeting:

1. Broad level policy discussion
2. 5 Finger Rule Reminder
3. Introduce goal

First portion is about text comments. Below the Staff has summarized the suggestions for changes to the TEXT section.

1. formatting
2. strategies
3. measuring success/quantifying wording
4. goals/policies
 - a. avoid naming agents responsible for implementation
 - b. use more specific language in policies
 - c. support = invest in and incentive
5. Under outline, regarding an insert in Section, 13, Archaeological Resources: the Staff will create an archeological resource.

Under discussion, Bob Caravona asked for any burning questions from the group, Committee Member Bill Ring asked who the drafters were and complimented them on their hard work.

Further CAC questions and comments (general):

- The sections need a clear numbering system.
- Water element – will the CAC return to this and update? Yes
- Word smithing the text can often change the dynamics of what is being said
- Conceptual problem –we want to keep what we have (Flagstaff’s attributes); however we know that global warming is coming with very significant changes to the environment. What will be our reaction to those changes? For example, at this time NAU is trying to model how the forest will look after global warming – and the ponderosa pines will look very different. But it seems we have to plan for a number of different scenarios.
- Some of this is tangentially understood at other planning levels. We already know that the pine forest will look very different.
- Aspects of adaptation and mitigation – the Regional Plan can help monitor the situation. However, it seemed to come in late in the discussion in this draft.
- Environment and Conservation element does include these challenges, but perhaps more evaluation of potential scenarios would be helpful.

Review of the Climate section

GOAL: To integrate the most accurate scientific information – it was added in “and conservation of water and energy resources, and to preserve local ecosystems and environmentally sensitive lands, wildlife diversity and habitats, and water and air quality.”

- Was “to integrate” left out?
- To integrate is to include what we can do to prepare ourselves with what we have power over. This is primary.
- Don’t underemphasize the mitigation part.
- Put adaptation higher up in the section.

Goal: To integrate the best available science about climate change and its projected regional effects into all policies governing the use and conservation of Flagstaff’s natural resources, including development of adaptation strategies to promote sustainable use of energy, water, air, ecosystems, and wildlife for current and future generations.

Comment: “Adaption needs higher priority.

Climate Policies #2:

Eva Putzova comment reviewed to add “promote more efficient lighting and better insulation”. This was approved.

Climate policies #3:

Two comments regarding the Four Forests Restoration Initiative were reviewed.

It was recommended by Member Maury Herman to combine this policy with Policy #4; this was seconded and passed.

Member Mike Nesbit questioned about the adding in of the word “animals”.

Climate policies #4

Member Eva Putzova suggested adding in “invest in” to the section. Bob Caravona asked for a motion to include this. It is a little more specific. There was no motion to include it, and it was left as is. Member

Julie Leid recommended including “walk ability”. Member Susan Bean seconded the recommendation and it passed.

Climate Policies#5

Member Shaula Hedwall suggested including “passage along vegetation and elevation gradients”. Mike Chaveas questioned whether this pertained to existing corridors, new ones or improving the corridors. Mark Ogonowski said it was improving the corridors and he recommended the use of the word “restore”, with the sense of restoration. Member Maury Herman asked for a footnote to explain and clarify. Member Mike Chaveas proposed they accept the edit.

A clarification for “restoration of wildlife” using Shaula Hedwall’s edit was called for by Member Bill Ring, since this is her expertise. After much discussion, however, Chairman Babbitt asked that they leave the discussion and move on.

Climate Policies: #6

Member Eva Putzova asked to delete the policy in its entirety. A motion was made to ‘parking lot’ this until further discussion.

Suggested Climate Policies: #7

Member Bill Ring said he is not supporting either numbers 7 or 8. Member Susan Bean made a motion not to adopt the additional policies numbers 7 & 8. The motion passed.

Review of the Ecosystem Health Section

GOAL: N. White asked to have added: “**Protect**, improve and restore naturally diverse healthy ecosystem.” Chairman Babbitt asked for Mark Ogonowski’s comments on the addition. Mark replied that he supported the change.

Jerome Naleski made the motion for the change, Richard Henn seconded and passed.

Ecosystem Health Policy #1

Responder M. Jackson asked to add “Encourage public awareness and “sustainable” to forest. Member Mike Chaveas found some discrepancies regarding the addition. Vice Chairman Carol Bousquet said she felt the use of the word “encourage” is a lot stronger than recognize and she would like the change. Member Jerome Naleski asked if anyone would be against combining the words - recognize and encourage. However, Mike Chaveas said that he believes the two are different and separate. Jerome moved to add the word encourage accepted with changes, it was seconded and passed.

Ecosystem Health Policy #2

Member Eva Putzova asked what the word “emphasize” regarding ecosystem restoration meant; and “as well as flood risk” added because of the recent flood this summer. Responder N. White asked for “coordinated” forest ecosystem and the addition about catastrophic fire. Member Jerome Naleski moves to accept the change and Julie Leid seconded.

Bob Caravona - Rio de Flag Greenway and other water courses and springs by responder N. White. And Responder B. McKellan asks to add “and restoration” to forest ecosystem. John Aber recommended adding the word “restoration”.

After more discussion, Member Susan Bean moved that they include the language “restoration”. It was seconded by Mike Chaveas.

Member Bill Ring said that when they talk about collaborative multiple-stakeholder riparian habitat, it is possible for abuse in this policy. It is one of the most manipulated water courses, and we are trying to protect the flood plain.

Ecosystem Health Policy #3

Discussion: Define “off-road motor vehicle travel”. Do not name the federal and local land management agencies, just state “land management agencies’. Please understand unintended consequences to this before approving.

Parking Lot for further discussion.

Ecosystem Health Policy #4

Approved as written

Ecosystem Health Policy #5

Approved as written

Ecosystem Health Policy #6

Add “and associated animals” to policy. Approved as amended.

Ecosystem Health Policy #7

Discussion: Include ‘restoration’ clearly in text, as suggested by (b); be very clear about the Army Corp of Engineers work and multi-stakeholder collaboration – what is the INTENTION of the policy; Need further discussion from ACE, Friends of the Rio and others. Parking lot this until further information and comparative text with water quality.

Climate Policies #8:

John Aber spoke about sedimentation and the result on wetlands. In Kachina Village, there is a very prominent wetland in the middle that has been affected by the huge amounts of sedimentation. Roads directly impact the wetlands. Need to clearly define “inappropriate development”.

Member Jerome Naleski moved to accept with the changes.

Suggested Climate Policies#9:

Eva Putzova proposed “Ensure that future development does not further deplete the regions biodiversity by formulating conservation investment mechanisms that protect and enhance biodiversity.”

CAC Recommendation: Parking lot this item for Eva to describe this more clearly to the CAC and understand existing regulations that link to this.

Review of Noxious and Invasive Weeds Section

Public Comment: Scott Arthur discussed terminology involved and gave an example of how the native species that is sterile because of invasive species. There are adventurous species that are still considered weeds and non-native. However, if they are not invasive, if they have found a niche, some have been around for over 100 years. And an adaptive species would have to rearrange itself because of climate change. He further said that landscaping that would require the use of native plants and drought-tolerant species should continue to be used. That’s why the wording was arranged that way.

Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policy #1 - 3

Approved as written

Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policy #4

E. Putzova suggested adding the language “Require” instead of “emphasize” and adding “edible plants grown for food”. Discussion – adding ‘edible plants’ is enhancing practical application in a beneficial way. We can’t ban growing food. Member Mike Chaveas replied that it depends if we use “require” or not.

Member Mike Chaveas: I think we should stay away from “require”. Scott suggested making it permissible legally. Vice Chairman Carol Bousquet said she totally agreed but was leaning away from the word “require”.

To parking lot the issue for rewording.

Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policy #5

Accepted as written with “and eradication” added.

Suggested Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policy #7

Not approved – this is controlled by federal regulations.

Bob Caravona asked members to submit comments in a day or two and focus it down for the next meeting on November 18th.

Announcements

Next regular CAC Meeting: November 18, 2010 - 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at N.AZ
Healthcare facilities

Agenda Items:

1. OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT – Goals & Policies

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Babbitt at 6:00 PM.