

Boards and Commissions Newsletter

A Message from the Deputy City Clerk

Welcome to the first issue of the Flagstaff Boards & Commissions Newsletter. Boards, commissions, and committees were created to allow Flagstaff citizens to take an active role in City government and the participation of all our commissioners is greatly appreciated. This newsletter is being established to highlight the many accomplishments of our commissioners and to share all the ways that they influence our City. The City of Flagstaff would not be as amazing as it is without the input from our commissioners and we appreciate the time and effort they contribute.

This last year has been a challenge in many ways and we have had to work hard to convert our Boards & Commissions program to a virtual platform. I cannot thank the commissioners and the staff liaisons enough for their flexibility, their drive, and their willingness to learn new software and techniques to ensure that we continue our thriving program! Even with all the complications of the past year, our commissions have been there to advise City Council and staff and ensure that our City is best representing our constituency. In addition to all the amazing programs, we have created a new Indigenous Commission and we are currently recruiting for a Citizen Commission on Council Salaries.

Again, I want to thank our current commissioners for their dedication in serving our local community. Your expertise and your passion make Flagstaff a wonderful place to live!

Thank you,

Stacy M. Fobar

Housing Commission

Creating Flagstaff's 10 Year Housing Plan

Affordable, accessible, and decent housing is of critical importance to a community's health and viability. On December 1, 2020 City Council declared a Housing Emergency in Flagstaff, prioritizing affordable housing within City operations to create safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities for all community members. The Housing Emergency Resolution states that, "*Flagstaff Housing Section, within nine months from adoption of this Resolution and with input from the City's Housing Commission, will present to City Council for consideration a Housing Plan focused on housing development and preservation within the City for the next 10 years. Plan elements will include, but not be limited to, ways City resources (including land, staff, and financial resources) can best be utilized to achieve identified goals. The plan elements will also include ways the City can encourage more economically priced housing construction by the private sector to address Flagstaff's workforce housing needs and to increase attainable housing opportunities for, and occupied by, local residents. The Plan will set goals that will be reviewed annually in a report to City Council and the community.*"

The Housing Plan will consolidate existing housing documents and augment with additional planning efforts to create a 10-year plan. The Plan will define the housing emergency in Flagstaff and will provide policies and strategies to reduce the emergency. The Housing Plan will identify affordable housing

needs, revise an existing list of affordable housing, identify affordable housing units underway, engage partners, and compile research on best practices.

Staff, Commissioners and Community Members have jumped into this project with both feet! Commissioners formed six Informal Working Groups. These groups are meeting monthly to create policies related to housing related topics.

As the City implements the Flagstaff's 2021 Housing Plan, the goal is to substantially increase the number of available and affordable housing options for all Flagstaff residents at all income levels.

The Housing Section encourages active public participation in the creation of Flagstaff's 10 Year Housing Plan. If your Commission would like to learn more, please contact Leah Bloom, Affordable Housing Advancement Project Manager. Presentations to other Commissions are anticipated to occur in late Spring.



Water Commission

Water Services is responsible for water production and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, reclaimed water distribution, and stormwater management. The Division is also responsible for water resource management, water conservation, engineering, and regulatory compliance programming.

The Water Commission Members include Ben Ruddell, Malcolm Alter, Timothy Bowers and Ward Davis. There are two vacancies open.

Highlights of current discussion:



- Reclaimed Water Policy Discussion - Revisiting the Council-adopted Water Policies could include discussions on the following topics: charges; water quality and education; agreements; system capacity; out of city delivery; recharge and recovery; and uses, allocation, priority.
- Water Production Update on Woody Mountain Booster Station Sand Clarifier - During the 1950's, the City of Flagstaff started its third major importation of potable water from groundwater wells in what is now the Woody Mountain Wellfield.
- Rio de Flag Flood Control Project Updates on history, project information, and schedule. The **Rio de Flag Flood Control Project** is a twenty-year effort between the City of Flagstaff and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent life/safety hazards and property damage caused by significant flood events in Flagstaff. It is a \$122M project with 65% of funding provided by the Army Corps. Construction along the Rio de Flag and Clay Avenue Wash will increase the capacity of the channel and significantly reduce flooding in neighborhoods such as Southside. Project design is in the final stage of completion and the City is in the process of real estate acquisitions.

Sustainability Commission

Sustainability Commission – Announcing Neighborhood Sustainability Grant Winners

At the February 25th meeting, the Sustainability Commission awarded five Neighborhood Sustainability grants to the following recipients and projects:

- The Arboretum at Flagstaff's High Desert Backyard Produce Garden Project. The High Desert Backyard Produce Garden will demonstrate several sustainable practices essential to successful food production within limited spaces in the high desert environment. This garden installation will serve as an educational medium for visitors to The Arboretum as well as a growing space for fresh produce to be donated to the Flagstaff Family Food Center or be harvested for seed sharing.
- Oakley Anderson-Moore's Dry Greens Garden Project. The Dry Greens project aims to popularize native plants that can be eaten as greens, as well as alternative non-native plants grown in analog climates to Northern Arizona. It is accomplished by growing, seed saving, and distributing seed packets and an informational coloring book in English, Spanish, and Diné Language.
- Darrien Benally's Growing Indigenous Health and Resilience through Balcony Gardening Project. This project will enable community members to grow their own nutritious garden plants and learn the importance of eating healthy. Balcony gardening kits will involve families in a fun and healthy activity.
- Threaded Together's Sustainable Sewing classes. This workshop series for adults and teens is focused on repurposing, responsibility, and resilience through hand quilting and mending. Participants will learn about textile waste and sustainable fashion and gain empowering skills that will allow them to mend their own clothes and create quilts from repurposed materials.
- The Southside Community Association's expansion to the Murdoch Center Community Garden. The Garden will be getting an upgrade to their water collection and irrigation system and be an educational tool for the community.

The Neighborhood Sustainability Grant funds projects by individuals, community groups, nonprofits, and local businesses. The 2021 grant cycle will be opening soon, so keep an eye out!

Flagstaff Housing Authority

The Flagstaff Housing Authority has developed a new Flagstaff Housing Resources Guide. Information contained in the new 2-page guide includes Emergency Housing Services with Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Programs, Affordable Rentals, and Home Ownership Services. You can view the guide at <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/63875/2021-CFHA-Informational-Trifold?bidId=>.

Indigenous Commission

The Indigenous Commission held its first meeting on January 25, 2021. The commission is comprised of seven (7) voting members and three (3) ex-officio members. The members are:

- Diana Cudeii, Ex-Officio
- Dorothy Gishie, Ex-Officio
- Meg Kabotie Adakai, E-Officio
- Cora M. Phillips, Co-Chair
- Joe. W. Washington, Co-Chair Courtney Scott
- Fawn Toya
- Kiara Weathersby
- Shawna Whitehat
- Jonathan Yellowhair

Meeting times and dates are being established, so please keep an eye on the agendas to learn when the next meeting will be.

Commission on Diversity Awareness

Commissioners Jean Toner and DeAnn Wegwert presented a deep dive on the results of the "Survey on Climate for Diversity in Flagstaff Arizona" to Mayor and Council on January 26, 2021. Highlights of the findings included the challenges and barriers of housing, wealth diversity, a challenging employment market, and expensive healthcare with the strengths of people being generally friendly, a diversity of free/low-cost activities available in Flagstaff, and that many Flagstaff officials encourage, defend, and respect diversity. The survey is only the first step, and Mayor and Council requested that the Commission further analyze the results and bring forward actionable recommendations. Thank you, commissioners, for all your hard work!

Available Seats

The City Clerk's Office is always recruiting for all commissions, but some commissions of interest are:

- Airport Commission
- Citizen's Commission on Council Salaries
- Industrial Development Authority
- Library Board
- Personnel Board

You can learn more about the Boards and Commissions and the various vacancies we have at <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/994/Boards-Commissions>. Please spread the word about vacancies so that we can continue to have a robust program that represents our community!