



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

Open Spaces Commission

Monday, October 24, 2011
4:00 – 6:00 pm

City Hall, Staff Conference Room
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephen Hirst
Steve Drumright
Carrie Eberly
John Fall
Bruce Fox
Jessica Gist
Steve Messenger

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Gideon Burdick
Brian Grube
McKenzie Jones
Vince Knaggs
Mark Sawyers
Rebecca Sayers
Nicole Woodman

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hirst at 4:05 pm.

2. 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.

There was no public participation at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commission member Fall moved to approve the September 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Commission member Gist seconded the motion. Motion approved.

4. Presentation Items

A. Update on Proposed Snowplay Area on McMillan Mesa

Mr. Grube, Mr. Knaggs and Mr. Sawyers began their presentation by giving an overview of the RFP that Council had requested for a seasonal Snowplay area to be

developed. The site on McMillan Mesa was chosen due to its regional and zoning code designations as open spaces/regional park for future development. The City received one bid that called for the construction of an electric chair lift, parking and concession area and the use of reclaimed water on the 43 acre site.

The Commission raised questions about the amount of trees that would need to be cut down and if there was a way to keep a majority of them. In addition, issues were raised regarding who this park would serve, Flagstaff residents or tourists. The presenters provided information regarding the process that has resulted in the RFP, including council directive over the past 6 years. In addition, the Commission commented on the increased traffic to the area and potential issues for Flagstaff residents.

The presenters concluded by sharing that they have yet to receive a formal application, only what was included in the response to the RFP. Commissioner Drumright requested that the snowplay area be added as a discussion item at the next commission meeting.

5. Discussion Items

A. Regional Plan Open Space Map

The Commission tabled the presentation until the following meeting.

B. Update on Picture Canyon Grant Application Process

Ms. Jones provided an overview of the Picture Canyon acquisition process including the purchase application and the need for an ALTA, mineral resources survey, and archeological survey.

The Commission inquired as to whether or not boundaries for the parcel had been established yet. Ms. Jones answered that they could not be completed until the State Land Department did their appraisal of the land. The Commission also asked what the best case timeline for purchase was. Ms. Jones responded that if the City received the Growing Smarter Grant the auction would occur in October or November 2012.

6. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

The Commission discussed the upcoming quarterly presentation to City Council and the Commission Member training provided by the City on February 16th.

Due to the coming holidays the Commission decided to cancel their November meeting and reschedule their December meeting to December 12th.

Commissioner Gist presented on an effort by Arizona Game and Fish and the City of Flagstaff to enhance and further develop watchable wildlife areas. She will present more information at an upcoming meeting.

7. Agenda Items for Next Month

- A. Kimberly Sharp will provide an update on the Regional Plan process.
- B. Follow-up discussion will occur regarding the Snowplay area.
- C. An update on Picture Canyon acquisition will be presented.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Hirst adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:02 p.m.