



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 18, 2021  
Meeting held electronically**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Laurie LaPat-Polasko, Commissioners Steve Coluccio, Steve Dodd, Mark Hackbarth, Marsha Lipps, and Tawana Parker

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Cynthia Wenstrom

**STAFF:** Kroy Ekblaw, Preserve Director; Scott Hamilton, Senior Trails Planner

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair LaPat-Polasko called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were submitted.

**4. POLICY PROCESS UPDATE**

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the seven policy elements related to the Preserve and the goals and objectives of the Preserve Ordinance. Staff are working with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and other team members to review the Master Plan and refine the policy elements list based on the purpose of the Ordinance and the management objectives. The plan is to create a guide that is easy to understand and navigate, which will be made available to the public.

Staff will provide Commissioners with an outline in advance of the next special meeting. He hopes to have preliminary concepts prepared in time to present to City Council sometime in summer 2021.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Ekblaw explained that staff plans to develop a webpage on the City website with a link to past presentations and listing specific categories. The webpage will be continually updated as the process moves forward.

## **5. TRAILS UPDATE IN THE PIMA DYNAMITE TRAILHEAD AREA**

Mr. Hamilton gave an update on the Pima/Dynamite Trailhead and presented photos of the progress. He noted that the trail connections are based on the Phase 3 corridor plan. The Rawhide Wash Trail, Axle Grease Trail, and Hawknest Trail have been completed. The trails are not mapped yet but are open to the public.

In preparation for the Commission field trip scheduled for February 21, 2021, Mr. Hamilton highlighted historic routes, washes, and unique landmarks in Area K. Iconic scenic landmarks include a Crested Saguaro surrounded by boulders; the Rock Bridge located over a deep wash; and an area north of the rock pile that has many horizontal rock slabs. Staff is developing a plan to offer access to these landmarks while protecting the soil, vegetation, and habitat.

Commissioner Coluccio complimented the work done on the new Axle Grease and Hawknest trails.

## **6. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN AND STRATEGIES UPDATE**

Mr. Ekblaw gave an update on the Wildland Fire Management activities. He presented before and after photographs of the wildland fire treatment area on Pima Road, near Via Dona, noting that additional work is planned along Pima Road in the next couple of weeks. The multi-layered strategy includes treating some interior accessways with pre-emergent two times per year.

The city is coordinating efforts with Scottsdale Fire Department to address roads adjacent to the Preserve. Mr. Ekblaw mentioned the progress of the FireWise Communities program.

A more comprehensive presentation, including information on additional strategies, will be agendaized for a future meeting.

## **7. STAFF REPORTS**

There were no staff reports.

## **8. UPCOMING MEETING DATES, LOCATIONS, AND AGENDA ITEMS**

All dates listed are tentative and subject to amendment:

2021 thru June:

- Field Tour to Trail Area K – February 21, 2021 10 am – 12 pm

### **Regular meetings**

March 4<sup>th</sup>

April 1<sup>st</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup>

June 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Special meetings**

March 18<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup>

May 20<sup>th</sup>

June 17<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Hackbarth suggested inviting Maricopa County Flood Control District to give a presentation about monitoring stations they have located in the Preserve. Staff will inquire about their availability.

**9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

COMMISSIONER LIPPS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER COLUCCIO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR LAPAT-POLASKO, COMMISSIONERS COLUCCIO, DODD, HACKBARTH, LIPPS, AND PARKER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

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