



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**APPROVED SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James Heitel, Chairman  
Robert Frost, Vice Chair  
Steve Dodd, Commissioner  
Con Englehorn, Commissioner  
Jace McKeighan, Commissioner  
Mike Milillo, Commissioner  
Cynthia Wenstrom, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Liz Hildenbrand  
Yvonne Massman  
Scott Hamilton

**GUESTS:** Mark Hackbarth  
John Holmes  
Howard Myers

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Holmes commented that holding the MSPC meetings at varying locations would offer more opportunity for citizen involvement.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Discussion begins at 5:03; approximately 3 minutes into the meeting)

#### **Approval of Special Meeting minutes of December 9, 2015**

**COMMISSIONER MILILLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER DODD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

#### **Approval of the Work Study minutes of January 28, 2016**

Chair Heitel requested that under item three it be noted that he has strong reservations about allowing the field services maintenance yard in the Preserve and to locating the trailhead underneath power lines.

**COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 28, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER DODD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

### 5. CULTURAL RESOURCE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION (Discussion begins at 5:04; approximately 4 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the history and purpose of the Preserve and the major components of the Cultural Resource Master Plan. He noted that the Master Plan will act as a guiding document for decisions related to interpretation, protection, and management of the cultural and historic elements in the Preserve. Staff will also make a presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission on March 3.

Mark Hackbarth gave a presentation outlining the Cultural Resource Master Plan. The Master Plan is a map for the future management of Preserve resources and includes recommendations for archeological and historical resources that still need to be evaluated and recorded; development of protocols; major goals including interpretation and education; maintaining an inventory; using a GIS database; guidelines for disseminating information to the public as outlined in the AZ Antiquities Act; the Native American perspective; and nominating Brown's Ranch for the local, state, and national registers. The Master Plan will be reviewed by MSPC, the Historic Preservation Commission, and City Council.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN FROST MOVED THAT THE CULTURAL RESOURCE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION BE FORWARDED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

6. **DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER PROCESS UPDATE** (Discussion begins at 5:32; approximately 32 minutes into the meeting)

John Holmes commented that the DDC concept would be a duplication of efforts already offered by the MSC and Brown's Ranch and would place an unnecessary burden on taxpayers. He suggested that education about the Sonoran Desert could be offered to people through a virtual museum.

Howard Meyers reviewed concerning comments made by Councilmembers during the January 11th study session. He requested that the MSPC support the Preserve and represent the citizens by recommending the following: Nothing will be built in the Preserve that violates the existing Preserve Ordinance without a public vote; the current Preserve Ordinance will not be modified to support uses currently not allowed in the Preserve without a public vote; no Preserve funds will be used for anything other than acquiring land, building trails, building trailheads to support public access, and building a land bridge over Dynamite without a public vote; and the DDCS should seek input from the public and then the MSPC and the MSC, both on the location and operational concepts of the DDC prior to developing a detailed plan.

Mr. Ekblaw said that during the January 11th study session, Council awarded a contract to the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale (DDCS) with funding for the process of up to \$1.7 million to come from bed tax and initiated a municipal use master site plan process. An RFP will go out for an architectural firm to assist with the programming and site design and location analysis. Discussion and updates to the Commission are tentatively scheduled to begin in March. The process is expected to take approximately 12 to 18 months to complete.

Vice-Chair Frost suggested that a representative from the Commission be assigned be a liaison for the MSPC and report back on activities.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN FROST MOVED THAT COMMISSIONER MILILLO BE APPOINTED AS THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION'S REPRESENTATIVE ACTING AS THEIR LIAISON TO DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER SCOTTSDALE, INC. COMMISSIONER WENSTROM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

7. **ENDOWMENT CONCEPT AND CONDITIONS UPDATE** (Discussion begins at 5:49; approximately 49 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Ekblaw said that the summary page would be the basis for the presentation to City Council during the upcoming study session targeted for April 12th. He will work with Chairman Heitel and Vice-Chair Frost to finalize the Council presentation.

Chair Heitel commented that it is clearly the intent of the language in Item 2 "Legacy Endowment" to fund MSC related grants. He requested that based on an earlier discussion about citizens of Scottsdale not being aware of the Preserve, additional language stating "and educational and promotional projects" be added.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that Lee Guillory is finalizing the numbers based on sales tax projections and the possibility of losing food and grocery taxes.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN FROST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENDOWMENT CONCEPT AND CONDITIONS UPDATE AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

**8. STAFF REPORTS** (Discussion begins at 5:54; approximately 54 minutes into the meeting)

- **Trails Update** (5:54 p.m.)

John Holmes opined that consultants should be engaged to conduct an ecological assessment focusing on the impacts on flora and fauna when planning trails.

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the Phase 2C Master Plan, noting that Corridor 5 was completed in late fall and the consultant recently completed Corridor 6. Analysis is currently being done on Corridor 8. Signs and maps will be updated during the summer and ready for the 2016/17 season.

Corridor 7 has been identified as an area for consideration for a trail, but has yet to be evaluated.

Commissioners discussed the importance of maintaining open space and keeping the integrity of the Preserve by not over saturating the Preserve with trails.

- **Sunrise Trailhead** (6:06 p.m.)

Mr. Hamilton noted that staff is in the process of gathering citizen input on the possibility of installing restrooms at Sunrise Trailhead. City engineers have confirmed that this would be possible near the east side of the shade ramada. Staff is scheduled to give a presentation to the Hidden Hills HOA on Thursday, February 11.

- **Fraesfield/Granite Mountain** (6:08 p.m.)

Mr. Ekblaw noted that outreach opportunities during December and January were successful. Opportunities to offer input regarding possible amenities at Fraesfield and Granite Mountain are available on the City's Website. Staff will agendize a report on citizen input for the March or April MSPC meeting.

- **Intercept Survey - March** (6:10 p.m.)

Ms. Hildenbrand noted that intercept surveys will be conducted at the trailheads in March on a date yet to be determined.

**9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

There were no additional Commissioner comments.

10. **MSPC 2015 ANNUAL REPORT** (Discussion begins at 6:16; approximately 1 hour, 16 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Ekblaw requested that if Commissioners had any further comments on the Annual Report, that they submit them to him no later than Monday, February 8.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN FROST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MILILLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

11. **BYLAW REVIEW/AMENDMENTS** (Discussion begins at 6:18; approximately 1 hour, 18 minutes into the meeting)

**COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION BYLAWS/AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WENSTROM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

12. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016** (Discussion begins at 6:19; approximately 1 hour, 19 minutes into the meeting)

**CHAIRMAN HEITEL NOMINATED ROBERT FROST FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION FOR 2016. COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN SECONDED THE NOMINATION. ROBERT FROST WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

**CHAIR HEITEL NOMINATED CYNTHIA WENSTROM FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION FOR 2016. THE NOMINATION FAILED WITH A VOTE OF THREE (3) TO FOUR (4). COMMISSIONERS DODD, ENGLEHORN, MCKEIGHAN, AND MILILLO DISSENTED.**

**COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN NOMINATED MIKE MILILLO FOR THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION FOR 2016. NO SECOND WAS MADE. MIKE MILILLO WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN WITH A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO THREE (3). CHAIRMAN HEITEL, VICE-CHAIRMAN FROST, AND COMMISSIONER WENSTROM DISSENTED.**

13. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Other Future Items:

- March Items
- Drones and Future Items

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz