



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESEVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**April 13, 2016**

**Scottsdale Stadium Press Box  
7408 E. Osborn Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Bob Frost, Chair  
Mike Milillo, Vice Chair  
Steve Dodd, Commissioner  
James Heitel, Commissioner  
Jace McKeighan, Commissioner  
Cynthia Wenstrom, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Con Englehorn, Commissioner

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

**GUESTS:** Howard Myers  
Curtis Herbert, AZ Game and Fish  
Dustin Darveau, AZ Game and Fish  
Scott Sprague, AZ Game and Fish

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

In honor of National Poetry Month, Chair Frost, Scottsdale's Poet Laureate, read an original poem entitled "A Song Will Never be the Same," which he previously shared during the Tom's Thumb Trailhead opening.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT** (Discussion begins at 5:03; approximately 3 minutes into the meeting)

Howard Myers spoke in opposition to the proposed location for the Desert Discovery Center at the Gateway Trailhead and inside the Preserve boundaries. He felt that locating the center in an area outside the Preserve such as at 94th Street and Bell would offer more tourism opportunities and fewer hurdles in the development and management of the center without violating or modifying the Preserve Ordinance. Educational opportunities can still be provided by the DDC, the MSC, and interpretive trails without impacting the Preserve.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (Discussion begins at 5:07 p.m.; approximately 7 minutes into the meeting)

**COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 3, 2016 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER WENSTROM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN WAS ABSENT.**

**5. WILDLIFE REPORT** (Discussion begins at 5:08 p.m.; approximately 8 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Hamilton introduced the representatives from Arizona Game and Fish.

Curtis Herbert gave a presentation reviewing the most recent data collected on mule deer and javalinas through the annual helicopter surveys and the radio tracking collars placed on 32 deer in the Preserve. He described the helicopter data collection process and how populations are estimated and herd health is assessed. Mr. Herbert noted that the radio tracking collars are providing additional data to better understand movement of the deer during the times between the annual helicopter surveys.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Herbert explained that any "disturbances" such as human interaction, housing and vehicles are identified and studied to determine potential effects and formulate a plan to address the situation. Mr. Darveau explained that hunting management is based on buck and fawn ratio guidelines. If the populations drop below the guidelines, hunting time would be limited accordingly. There has been a considerable increase in the number of archery hunters, but not an increase in harvest to match with a less than 7% success rate, which is low. The mule deer population is higher in the Preserve than in most areas within the state and the javalina population is similar to units 20B and 22. Mr. Sprague presented a map outlining the locations and movements of all 32 collared mule deer from 02/01/2016 to 03/01/2016.

**6. FRAESFIELD AND GRANITE MOUNTAIN MASTER PLANS** (Discussion begins at 5:39 p.m.; approximately 39 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Ekblaw recalled that copies of the surveys taken in December and January have been distributed to Commissioners. He highlighted site plans and conceptual elevations of Granite Mountain and Fraesfield. Survey results showed an overall positive response and a few concerns about additional traffic on 136th Street at Granite Mountain. A traffic analysis will address traffic concerns.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Mr. Hamilton noted that Fraesfield has a solar operated gate that locks automatically at night. He addressed the issue of a pedestrian and dog hit recently near the entrance. Mr. Ekblaw said that areas of Dynamite will be addressed as part of the Transportation Master Plan. Commissioners commented that it is important to retain areas of the Preserve that are not accessible and are preserved, and to be mindful of not overdeveloping trails and trailheads. Mr. Ekblaw noted that analysis has only been done on Fraesfield and Granite Mountain and proposals will be adjusted as plans move forward.

7. **LAND ACQUISITION** (Discussion begins at 5:49 p.m.; approximately 49 minutes into the meeting)
  - A. ASLD North Scottsdale Trust Lands Zoning Case 19-ZN-2014 - Update and review of recent case resubmittal, status and projected timeline to Planning Commission and City Council. Likely impact on auction date for Priority Parcels 1 and 1A. (5:49)
    - Consider authorizing the Chair to send a statement to the Council to support the acquisition of Parcels 1 and 1A should the parcel auctions be scheduled

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the status of the Trust Lands Zoning case and history dating back to 1998. A request to rezone 4,000 acres of State Trust Land was filed in December of 2014. In a parallel move, the City filed for rezoning to conservation open space on approximately 22,300 acres and is working to amend the conservation open space district to more strongly associate with the Preserve. Based on feedback from citizens, the State Land Department removed the retail categories from the zoning and replaced it with strictly residential. The case is expected to be agendized with the Planning Commission on May 11th and a City Council date anticipated in June. Parcels 1 and 1a are expected to go before City Council in August.

**COMMISSIONER HEITEL MOVED TO DIRECT THE CHAIR TO WRITE A LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL INDICATING THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ACQUISITION OF PRIORITY PARCELS 1 AND 1a. COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN WAS ABSENT.**

- B. City of Scottsdale - Conservation Open Space Ordinance (COC) Text amendment and Preserve Zoning Case 20-ZN-2014 proposing to rezone Preserve lands with remaining residential zoning districts to the COS District. Update and review of both cases and the status and likely timeline to Planning Commission and City Council (6:04)

Mr. Ekblaw briefly reviewed the status of the Conservation Open Space Ordinance text amendment, which is expected to go before the Planning Commission in June or July and to City Council in August or September. Case 20-ZN-2014 is expected to go to Planning Commission in August or September and to City Council in September or October. The goal will be to rezone the lands if they are acquired. The City would have the opportunity to combine the rezoning cases into a single case. Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the City of Scottsdale text amendment assuring the Commission that two conservation categories would be created, one for private use and one for the Preserve.

**8. STAFF UPDATES** (Discussion begins at 6:07 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 7 minutes into the meeting)

- **Sunrise Trailhead Restroom Survey** (6:07)

Mr. Hamilton presented a spreadsheet outlining citizen comments that have been received with regard to the possibility of installing a restroom facility on the southern end of Sunrise Trailhead. He noted that the plan includes a plan for the doors to automatically lock at sundown.

- **Trails Update** (6:11)

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the progress on Corridors 5 and 6, which have been completed, although signage is not yet in place. Corridor 8 remains closed as the project is being completed. Corridor 8 will include a variety of trail types, including qualifier trails.

Chair Frost opined that the City should not create challenge courses that focus on any one group.

**State Legislative Activity** (6:14)

Mr. Ekblaw noted that at this point there has been no action on the Fireworks Bill in the State Legislature. Brad Lundahl will keep the Commission apprised of any activity in relation to the bill.

- **Endowment proposal to City Council - May 10th** (6:15)

Mr. Ekblaw said that he would be meeting with Chair Frost and Commissioner Heitel to plan for the City Council presentation scheduled for May 10th.

Chair Frost said that Mayor Lane was receptive to the idea of an endowment. He suggested that Commissioners take an opportunity to meet with Council members individually to discuss the endowment proposal.

Commissioner Heitel suggested that a list of talking points be distributed to each Commissioner.

- **APS work in North Area projected for 2017** (6:18)

Mr. Ekblaw distributed an update from APS describing the project of installing power lines along 118th Street, Pima, and Dynamite.

- **COS and Conservancy Annual Meeting to review 2015-2016 season - May (6:21)**

Ms. Hildenbrand noted that Commissioners will receive an invitation to the Annual meeting of the City of Scottsdale and the Conservancy, which is scheduled for May 20th, 2016.

- **Desert Discovery Center - Public Meetings April 20 and 21 (6:22)**

Mr. Ekblaw said that the notice for the Desert Discovery Center meetings is available on the City's website.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that during a last night's Transportation Master Plan Study Session, the consensus of City Council members was that it might be best to keep 128th Street open for construction access until 118th Street is completed.

9. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** (Discussion begins at 6:24 p.m.; approximately 1 hour and 24 minutes into the meeting)

Vice-Chair Milillo gave an update on the DDCS activities, which included a Measures of Success Workshop on April 4th where they discussed what groups the DDC would serve, activities envisioned to occur, and what benefits the DDC can create. They also established a mission statement. A public meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum of the West and on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Highlands Church.

Chair Frost thanked Commissioner Heitel for his years of service on the MSPC on behalf of the Commission and staff and presented him with a plaque commemorating his participation.

Commissioner Heitel spoke briefly about his time volunteering with the City of Scottsdale. He ended his comments by stressing that the guiding principle for the Preserve should be to remember that it is not a park, it is a preserve.

## 10. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

May 5 Items:

- Preserve Promotion Plan Ideas for 2016/2017 Season
- Sunrise Restroom Concept - Discussion
- Southwest wildlife Center - Information
- Preserve Audit
- Land acquisition - if needed

Other Future Items:

- Drone status
- Desert Discovery Center

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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