



**MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING**

APPROVED 09-08-2016

**Thursday, July 14, 2016
Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

- PRESENT:** Chairperson Bob Frost, Vice-chair Mike Milillo, Commissioners Steve Dodd, Jace McKeighan (arrived 5:10 p.m.), and Cynthia Wenstrom
- ABSENT:** Commissioners Bobby Alpert and Con Englehorn
- STAFF:** Bill Murphy, Kroy Ekblaw, Scott Hamilton, Liz Hildenbrand, Yvonne Massman, Robert Graves, John Loleit, Aaron Bolin SPD

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as noted above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment cards were submitted

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Discussion begins at 5:04)

Vice-Chair Milillo corrected the spelling of Lorraine Montuori's name and noted that there were grammatical errors in the Desert Discovery Center update.

VICE-CHAIR MILILLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2016 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED. COMMISSIONER DODD SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE (Discussion begins at 5:05)

Mike Nolan of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy said that stewards reported 819 hours of patrolling in June. The July 4th fire watch was successful and the patrol team has begun working with City staff on the plan for next year. A total of 61 hours of scheduled maintenance projects and 77 hours of unscheduled maintenance projects were completed in June. Len Marcisz gave a talk entitled "A Dozen Ways to Die in the Desert" and John Weser gave a talk about the collaboration between the Preserve, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, and Scottsdale Community College. Additional work during June included raptor monitoring, the Bat Survey and Phase I of the Human Impact Study.

Mr. Nolan invited members of the Commission to attend Jane Rau's 94th birthday celebration on Sunday, July 24th at Ciao Grazie restaurant from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The anniversary edition of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy brochure will be available in the coming week.

6. ECOLOGICAL RESOURCE PLAN (ERP) (Discussion begins at 5:08)

Melanie Tluczek gave an update on the development of the Ecological Resource Plan (ERP). The ERP is included as part of the City of Scottsdale's Resource Management Plan. The Commission will receive a digital copy of the Ecological Resource Plan in advance of the September regular meeting and will be asked to make a recommendation to City Council.

7. CULTURAL RESOURCE MASTER PLAN UPDATE (Discussion begins at 5:22)

City staff member, Scott Hamilton explained that following the MSPC approval in February, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended some edits to the draft Cultural Resource Master Plan. He asked that the Commission review the recommended edits and make a recommendation that will go forward to City Council in October.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Commissioner Millilo submitted a question about updating the GLO maps. Mr. Hamilton explained that the original GLO plat maps are located with the Bureau of Land Management. The GLO maps are important to the cultural plan because they document archeological and historical information. The area is archived today through pedestrian surveys, where archeologists and historians walk a grid pattern across the land and document their findings.

Vice-Chair Milillo noted that he would not be in attendance for the September meeting and logged his recommendation that City Council approve the Ecological Resources Plan and the Cultural Resources Master Plan.

VICE-CHAIR MILILLO MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCE MASTER PLAN INCLUDING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EDITS. COMMISSIONER WENSTROM SECONDED AND THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

8. DRONE PROPOSAL (Discussion begins at 5:28)

Staff Member Liz Hildenbrand gave a brief background of the drone proposal. Senate Bill 1449 recently passed, allowing cities some controls over drone takeoff and landing restrictions. The City of Scottsdale's Drone Team implemented the ordinances that were needed to initiate controls within the city boundaries.

Scottsdale Police Officer Aaron Bolin presented the current ordinance language and the amended language that will bring the City ordinance into compliance with federal and state laws. He noted that the City has to adjust the language that restricts gas-powered airplanes as that definition now includes all unmanned aerial vehicles, but the city only has jurisdiction over takeoff and landing locations. It is still permitted to restrict model rockets. The FAA controls all airspace. Proposed prohibited locations include: McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Pinnacle Peak Park, Mescal Park, and Stonegate Park, the latter of which are equestrian parks. Exceptions to the ordinance will be for public safety and other city employees during the course of official duties and also if the City issued a permit for research that was of benefit. Penalties for violation are for a first offence a minimum violation and second and all subsequent violations will be classified as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

The ordinance amendments to SRC – Chapter 20 will go before the Parks and Recreation Commission as an action item on September 7th and to City Council on September 20, 2016.

9. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE (Discussion begins at 5:36)

Staff member Kroy Ekblaw announced that on July 5, 2016 the City unanimously approved moving forward with the acquisition of approximately five acres of land from Shawn Murphy which includes two parcels and one residential structure. A life estate will remain on the resident property, allowing Mr. Murphy to reside on the property throughout his natural lifetime. As long as Mr. Murphy resides on the property, he will remain responsible for all maintenance.

City Council also approved the State Trust land rezoning case with a six to one vote. Auction of parcels 1 and 1a is scheduled for September 21, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. and 11:05 a.m. Staff will meet with Council in executive session prior to the auction to get explicit bidding instructions.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Ekblaw explained that decisions will be made at the time the City acquires control of the Shawn Murphy property about what to do with the residential building.

10. STAFF UPDATES (Discussion begins at 5:42)

- Trails (5:42)

Staff member Kroy Ekblaw gave a brief update on the Phase III planning. The working group will be providing input to staff. Open houses will be held in the next few months and the plans will come back to the Commission in September or October.

Staff member Scott Hamilton reviewed plans for the Maricopa Trail. The Maricopa Trail is a 242-mile multiuse trail connecting major open spaces around the Phoenix metro area with the primary purpose of connecting all Maricopa County regional parks. Implementation includes

designation of existing trails, including areas in Scottsdale. Under the IGA, Maricopa County will provide route markers, will support funding efforts for trail improvements, and will include the Preserve and City of Scottsdale on their maps. The City will install markers, maintain the trails, provide emergency services, and include trails on maps, all are items for which City currently is responsible.

Chair Frost suggested that the Maricopa Trail IGA come forward to the Commission as an action item for recommendation.

- Transportation MP Update (5:50)

Staff member Kroy Ekblaw announced that City Council approved the Transportation Master Plan, keeping the 128th Street gooseneck.

- Pinnacle Peak Improvement Project (5:51)

Staff member Yvonne Massman noted that the Pinnacle Peak Improvement Project is reaching completion. As of this date, benches are installed, the storage area is closed in, and the new roof has been installed.

- Memorial Flag Proposal (5:52)

Staff member Liz Hildenbrand discussed an incident that occurred over Memorial Day weekend where two young men installed a flag in the Preserve in memory of a friend that was killed in the line of duty. This flag was removed from the off-trail location and as a result, there is a proposal to install a permanent lit flag pole at the Gateway. This will come to the Commission at a future date.

- Tom's Thumb Area Plan (5:55)

Staff member Scott Hamilton gave an update on the Tom's Thumb area plan. He reviewed items in the plan including designating the "unofficial" viewpoints on the trail as scenic points on the public map; cleaning out and signing the Miners Cave/Ogre's Den and eliminating access to the Indian Cave; trail renovations; upgrading the route to the base of Thom's Thumb; installing new signage at the Tom's Thumb-7 turn-off to the base; and access to the East End rock climbing and summit trail to Goat Hill/Hog Heaven.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Mr. Hamilton noted that research will be done on wildlife activity in the Tom's Thumb area and the City will coordinate with the Field Institute on known data. Commissioner's spoke in favor of improvements at the TT-7 turnoff and suggested that sustainability be considered as part of evaluating of a summit trail to the top of East End Peak.

- Promotion Plan (6:12)

Staff member Bill Murphy said that the Promotion Plan Committee consists of Commissioners Milillo and Dodd, City staff, and an SCVB representative. The group has set goals and objectives and plans to present metrics to the Commission in January 2017 and present a summary of the season in July of 2017. Mayor Lane has been asked to start the season on

October 10th with the reading of a proclamation naming October Preserve Month. Promotion of Preserve month and the MSC anniversary will be included in utility billing insert during the months of August and September.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (Discussion begins at 6:14)

Vice-Chair Milillo said that in reading the book "Half Earth" by E.O. Wilson he discovered an organization called Western Wildway (Westernwildway.org). The organization focuses on connectivity for wildlife throughout the continent. He hopes to explore whether there might be opportunities for the Preserve to coordinate with the group.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Possible September 1st Meeting Items:

- Ecological Resource Plan (ERP)
- Land Acquisition Update
- Fraesfield, Granite and Pima/Dynamite Trailhead Planning Process
- Drone status
- Promotion Plan

Other Future Items:

- Desert Discovery Center
- Sunrise Parking and Restroom Evaluation
- Conservation Open Space (COS) Ordinance Amendment
- Preserve Land Rezoning to COS
- Endowment Proposal Update

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.