



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, October 6, 2016  
Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**PRESENT:** Vice-chair Mike Milillo, Commissioners Bobby Alpert, Steve Dodd, Con Englehorn, Jace McKeighan, and Cynthia Wenstrom

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Bob Frost

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy, Kroy Ekblaw, Scott Hamilton, Robert Graves

**GUESTS:** Mike Nolan, Christine Kovach, Sam Campana, Carla, Virginia Korte

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Milillo called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER WENSTROM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).**

**5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE (5:05 p.m.)**

Mike Nolan said that the new steward orientations began in September with 18 in attendance and that both the October and November orientations are fully booked. The Core Leadership Team will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at this location and meetings are open to the public. The new steward kick-off event was on September 23rd and had the most participation ever with approximately 180 in attendance. Preserve Month will kick off on Sunday,

October 16th with two hikes at 8:00 a.m. and the Celebration of 25 Years of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy exhibit opening at 7:45 a.m. On November 4th, Scottsdale Leadership will visit the Conservancy for educational presentations and a hike.

**6. NAMING PROPOSAL FOR BROWN'S RANCH AMPHITHEATER (5:08 p.m.)**

Mr. Ekblaw introduced the request to name Brown's Ranch Amphitheater for the Honorable Carolyn Allen in recognition of her contributions to the creation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and reviewed the application process. It is anticipated that the MSPC recommendation will go to City Council on October 25th.

Sam Campana spoke about Carolyn Allen and her fierce advocacy for the creation of the Preserve.

Carla discussed Carolyn Allen's contribution to the creation and protection of the Preserve. She read into the record the first paragraph of the application, which summarizes Senator Allen's contributions:

"Anyone who enjoys Scottsdale's beautiful undeveloped northern desert or the Brown's Ranch Access Area needs to know about and thank Senator Carolyn Allen. Her unwavering dedication to what Scottsdale's residents wanted to preserve, and her unbelievably strong leadership at the State Capitol assured that this would-be golf course and high-end development became instead the incredibly beautiful and forever protected northern area of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve - the People's Preserve. She will forever be known as 'The Preserve Champion'."

Carla noted that the amphitheatre naming was Carolyn Allen's personal wish. Christine Kovach mentioned that Senator Allen served on the funding subcommittee for the MSPC in 1994 and was instrumental in the recommendation of the 2/10ths of one percent tax recommendation.

Councilmember Virginia Korte stated that the naming of the amphitheatre would be a fitting tribute to Carolyn Allen for her contributions to the existence of the Preserve.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that a formal sign will be located on the concrete wall and he anticipates that in the future a historical plaque will be installed. Once completed, an unveiling ceremony will be planned.

**COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST TO NAME BROWN'S RANCH AMPHITHEATER FOR THE HONORABLE CAROLYN ALLEN. COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).**

**7. GATEWAY TRAILHEAD MEMORIAL FLAG UPDATE (5:24 p.m.)**

Mr. Murphy said the City is in the process of working with the facilities staff to install a flagpole at the Gateway Trailhead near the bike rack. Although the two young citizens who initiated this project contributed a large flag, the City has elected to instead use a standard size flag at this location.

**8. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE (5:25 p.m.)**

Mr. Ekblaw announced that the City was successful in acquiring Parcels 1 and 1a at the auction held on September 21, 2016, with no other bidders competing; the transaction should be completed by the end of October.

Mr. Ekblaw gave thanks to all those who were instrumental in paving the way in the early years of the Preserve. He said that their hard work laid the foundation to be able to take advantage of the Arizona Preserve Initiative and the \$86 million in matching grant funds that have been received.

**9. STAFF UPDATES (5:30 p.m.)**

- **Drone Status**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that Drone Ordinance No. 4276 will become effective on October 20, 2016. Staff will be putting decals on signs throughout the Preserve stating there is no takeoff or landing permitted in the Preserve.

- **Tom's Thumb Area Plan Activity**

Mr. Hamilton said that the caves were cleared out over the summer with only one person stepping forward to retrieve a photograph that was left. He mentioned that staff will be meeting with a consultant about trail improvements for the area and will report back to the Commission as information develops.

- **Trails Update – Phase III working Team Progress**

Mr. Ekblaw said that the open house process is underway. The first open house was held on Tuesday, October 4th at Legend Trail community with overall positive comments. The second meeting will be held following this Commission meeting.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Ekblaw said that at this point the access plan does not identify a parking lot based access near Stagecoach Pass road. The 2012 Master Plan review did have some comments requesting more parking in the northern areas. Introduction of a trailhead in this area would change the dynamics of planning because it could increase the level and nature of trail usage. He recommended waiting to analyze this idea for more parking in the north area until after the Pima Dynamite Trailhead is opened.

- **Trailhead Planning Update**

- Granite, Fraesfield, Pima/Dynamite, and Browns

Mr. Ekblaw said that Brown's Ranch paving is scheduled to begin October 7th. The design team is working on Granite Mountain and Fraesfield design contracts and updates will be brought forward to the Commission prior to beginning the municipal use permit process.

An RFP for architects to design the Pima/Dynamite Trailhead went out on September 21st. Interviews are expected to begin in November and recommendations will move forward to City Council in January.

- **Trailhead Activity**

Mr. Ekblaw discussed activities related to citizens protesting in both pro and con positions regarding the Desert Discovery Center. The City has installed signs updating the public on the municipal process and is encouraging people to be responsible in distributing literature and respectful to others when speaking their opinions.

Mr. Ekblaw mentioned that a proclamation announcing Preserve Month and recognizing the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy 25-year celebration is agendaized for the Monday, October 10, 2016 City Council meeting. On October 25th, City Council will receive a report and recommendation for the Brown's Ranch Amphitheatre naming.

**10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (5:50 p.m.)**

Commissioner Alpert mentioned that an article in the Arizona Republic about the Drone Statute contained inaccurate information.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Possible November 3rd Meeting Items:

- Experience Scottsdale (CVB) update
- Phase III Trails Plan
- Desert Discovery Center

Other Future Items:

- Sunrise Parking and Restroom Evaluation
- Conservation Open Space Amendment and Preserve Land Rezoning
- Endowment Proposal Update

Discussion ensued regarding possible conflicts for the November 3rd and the December 1st Commission meetings.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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