McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission

Status: Active

Created: 1/18/1994

Ended:

Description: The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission provides citizen oversight for acquisition, preservation, management, and stewardship of the McDowell Mountains and related Sonoran desert for the benefit of this and future generations. The Commission is comprised of 11 members appointed by the City Council; members serve for three-year terms.

The purpose of the Preserve effort is to establish in perpetuity a preserve of Sonoran desert and mountains to maintain scenic views and as a habitat for wildlife and desert plants; to protect archaeological and historical resources and sites while providing appropriate public access for educational purposes; and, to provide passive outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Special Requirements: None

Authority:

Ordinances: 2630 (1/18/1994); 3321 (5/23/2000), 3976 (10/04/11) - S.R.C. 21-4 to 21-7

Resolutions:

Purpose:

The purpose, powers, and duties of the McDowell Sonoran Commission are combined in S.R.C., Sec. 21-7.

Powers and Duties:

S.R.C., Sec. 21-7. - Purpose; powers and duties.

(a) The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, with the assistance of City staff, shall be responsible for making recommendations to the City Council on the following matters:

(1) Developing a preservation strategy for an integrated mountain and desert open space system to guide and prioritize public actions, which recognizes existing development pressures and identifies the most important land for public purposes.

(2) Developing a realistic funding plan for the envisioned preserve and Sonoran Desert Preservation Program, including an estimate of the level of funding needed, recommended funding sources, the potential timing/availability of funding and the actions necessary to implement the funding plan.

(3) Serving as the citizen's oversight committee for the implementation of preserve land acquisitions that use funds from the voter-approved privilege and use tax increase.

(4) Developing an educational/promotional program implementing a comprehensive and integrated mountain and desert open space system and gaining public support from various sources.

(5) Preparing a conceptual master plan for a comprehensive integrated mountain and desert open space system and a management plan for any public lands and/or public access areas.

(6) Developing a detailed action plan for preserving the open space system that defines a series of steps or specific actions that need to be taken, when actions are needed, the public process leading up to any recommended actions, and who will take the action.

(7) Responding to other requests of the City Council relating to the preserve and issues relating to the preserve.

(8) Reporting to the City Council on a quarterly basis on its progress regarding the tasks identified in this subsection and on any other specific requests of the City Council relating to the preserve and issues relating to the preserve.

(b) The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission shall have the authority to form committees as needed to accomplish the tasks identified in subsection (a), above, and may include additional participants in the planning process, including citizens representing other jurisdictions and public agencies. Appointment of nonmembers of the commission to serve on committees or subcommittees shall be subject to the approval of the City Council, as provided in subsection 2-241(f) of this Code.

Bylaws:

Bylaws were adopted by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission on May 7, 2009, amended November 4, 2010, April 5, 2012, June 5, 2014, February 2, 2016, March 2, 2017, and February 7, 2019.

Bylaws Provisions:

Organization: elections, chair, vice-chair, vacancy, staff liaison, committees, legal counsel

Meetings: regular meetings, special meetings, executive session, open meeting laws, quorum, proxy voting, absence of officers, location of meeting, attendance, public comment, agenda items, conflict of interest, tie vote

Official Records: definitions, recording of vote, public record

Rules and Amendments: amendment procedure, certified copy, Robert's Rules of Order, written communications, interpretation and conflict

Absences (Bylaws): If any member is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings, or if a Commission member is absent from four (4) meetings within a six-month period, then the Chair shall notify the Mayor or Mayor's designee so that consideration of removal and replacement of the member may be scheduled for City Council action. These rules shall apply to the Council approved sub-committees as well, except for the appointment method

Bylaws Link: http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Assets/ScottsdaleAZ/Boards/bylaws/McDowell+Sonoran+Preserve+Commission.pdf

Notes:

On January 18, 1994, the Council adopted Ordinance No. 2630 establishing the nine-member McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and made the first commission appointments.

On May 23, 2000, the Council adopted Ordinance No. 3321 (which repealed Ordinance No. 2630) establishing the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission with 11 members.

Associated Boards: Desert Discovery Center Subcommittee, McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission Plannin

McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
Membership Report

	Date Appointed	Term Begin Date	Term End Date
Steve Dodd - Current Member	5/12/2015	5/12/2015	5/12/2018
	5/22/2018	5/22/2018	5/22/2021
Mark Hackbarth - Current Member	10/16/2018	10/16/2018	10/16/2021
Laurie LaPat-Polasko - Current Member	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2021
Marsha Lipps - Current Member	3/20/2018	3/20/2018	3/20/2021
Jace McKeighan - Current Member	9/9/2014	9/9/2014	9/9/2017
	9/12/2017	9/12/2017	9/12/2020
Tawana Parker - Current Member	5/22/2018	5/22/2018	5/22/2021
Cynthia Wenstrom - Current Member	9/21/2015	10/17/2015	10/17/2018
	5/21/2019	5/21/2019	5/21/2022
Carla	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/21/1995
	2/21/1995	2/21/1995	4/15/1997
	4/15/1997	4/15/1997	5/1/2000
	4/4/2000	5/1/2000	3/31/2003
	12/8/2003	12/8/2003	9/7/2006
	2/12/2008	5/17/2008	9/13/2011
Robert Alpert	5/3/2016	5/3/2016	5/21/2019
Chet Andrews	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/6/1996
	2/6/1996	2/6/1996	2/1/1999
William Berkley	4/15/1997	4/15/1997	4/4/2000
	4/4/2000	4/4/2000	3/31/2003
Dennis Carr	4/20/1999	4/20/1999	5/1/2002
	4/16/2002	5/1/2002	5/1/2005
Les Conklin	10/7/1997	10/7/1997	11/6/2000
	11/6/2000	11/6/2000	11/1/2003
Fred Corbus	2/20/1996	2/20/1996	3/1/1999
Art DeCabooter	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	3/5/1996
	3/5/1996	3/5/1996	3/1/1999
	2/16/1999	3/1/1999	3/1/2002
	10/14/2003	10/14/2003	10/17/2006
	10/17/2006	10/17/2006	10/17/2009
Con Englehorn	1/10/2012	1/10/2012	1/10/2015
	2/17/2015	2/17/2015	2/17/2018
Bill Ensign	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/20/1996
	2/20/1996	2/20/1996	3/1/1999
Erik Filsinger	4/15/2003	4/15/2003	4/25/2006
	4/25/2006	4/25/2006	4/25/2009
Laura Fisher	2/1/2000	2/1/2000	2/3/2003

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	Date Appointed	Term Begin Date	Term End Date
	2/3/2003	2/3/2003	5/5/2005
Robert Frost	1/10/2012	1/24/2012	1/24/2015
	2/17/2015	2/17/2015	2/17/2018
Joan Fudala	5/17/2005	5/17/2005	6/1/2008
Melinda Gulick	5/17/2005	5/17/2005	5/17/2008
	2/12/2008	5/17/2008	9/13/2011
Bjarne (BJ) Heggli	2/12/2008	5/17/2008	9/13/2011
James Heitel	4/6/2010	4/6/2010	4/9/2013
	4/9/2013	4/9/2013	4/9/2016
Rand Hubbell	4/26/2006	4/25/2006	4/25/2009
	2/17/2009	4/25/2009	4/25/2012
Lou Jekel	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/21/1995
	2/21/1995	2/21/1995	3/1/1998
DeForest Joralmon	2/17/2009	4/25/2009	10/21/2011
Fred Klein	6/23/2009	10/17/2009	10/17/2012
	9/4/2012	10/17/2012	10/17/2015
Virginia Korte	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/1/1997
	3/4/2002	3/4/2002	5/17/2005
	5/17/2005	5/17/2005	6/1/2008
Christine Kovach	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/4/1997
	2/4/1997	2/4/1997	2/1/2000
	4/15/2003	4/15/2003	5/1/2006
Michael Milillo	4/17/2012	4/25/2012	4/25/2015
	5/12/2015	5/12/2015	5/12/2018
Gerald Miller	5/17/2005	5/17/2005	5/17/2008
	2/12/2008	5/17/2008	9/13/2011
Howard Myers	2/16/1999	2/16/1999	3/4/2002
	3/4/2002	3/4/2002	2/17/2004
	10/14/2008	1/24/2009	1/24/2012
Marg Nelssen	9/13/2011	9/20/2011	8/17/2014
John Nichols	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/4/1997
	2/4/1997	2/4/1997	2/1/2000
Jane (Hattie) Rau	3/4/1997	4/1/1997	4/4/2000
	4/4/2000	4/4/2000	3/31/2003
Arnold Roy	4/15/2003	4/15/2003	4/25/2006
	4/25/2006	4/25/2006	4/25/2009
Donald Ruff	4/20/1999	4/20/1999	5/1/2002
	4/16/2002	5/1/2002	5/1/2005
Christine Sheehy (aka Laraway)	1/18/1994	1/18/1994	2/1/1995

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	Date Appointed	Term Begin Date	Term End Date
Tom Silverman	10/17/2006	10/17/2006	10/17/2009
	6/23/2009	10/17/2009	2/3/2010
Darren Smith	5/5/1998	5/5/1998	5/1/2001
	6/18/2001	6/18/2001	7/1/2003
Darcy Thomas	2/1/2000	2/1/2000	1/31/2003
Susan Wheeler	2/17/2009	4/25/2009	4/25/2012
	4/17/2012	4/25/2012	4/25/2015
Linda Whitehead	5/17/2005	5/17/2005	5/17/2008
	2/12/2008	5/17/2008	9/13/2011
	2/12/2008	5/17/2008	9/13/2011
Solange Whitehead	2/3/2003	2/3/2003	2/1/2006
	1/24/2006	2/1/2006	1/24/2009
Donald Williams	2/7/1995	2/7/1995	2/6/1996
	2/6/1996	2/6/1996	2/1/1999
Gregory Woodall	10/17/1995	10/17/1995	4/1/1997