

ACTION TAKEN

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee
General Meeting
May 13, 2009
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE **General Meeting** OF THE **Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee** held on **May 13, 2009** in the **Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center, Flagstone Room** located at **824 E. Gurley St.**, Prescott, Arizona.

1. Roll Call & Approval of Minutes from 04/08/09 Meeting –

Members Present: Bruce McKeeman, Walt Anderson, Valarie Isley, Michael Byrd, Ron Smith, Jim Lawrence

Members Absent: Jeri Smith-Fornara, Brad Bergamini, Dan Campbell, Steve Walker

Others Present: Jim Boyd, George Sheats, Jeff Low, Diana Fister, Michelle Stacy

Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M. Motion was made by Jim Lawrence to accept the general minutes of the 04/08/09 meeting as written. Walt Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Guests and Current Events – Walt Anderson informed the committee that he recently gave a speech to the Agua Fria Open Space Alliance at Arcosanti. He made a presentation to the group using slides, pictures and other information gathered by the OSAAC. His hope was to inform and outreach other communities of the progress the OSAAC has made in preserving open space in Prescott.

George Sheats presented a new map of the Prescott Lakes Trails System. He also informed the committee that the Streets department was going to be changing out several “no pedestrian crossing” signs to “pedestrian crossing” to mesh with the handicap sidewalk entries in the Prescott Lakes neighborhood.

2. Open Space Master Plan- The Master plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation board at their quarterly meeting, April 22, 2009. Michael Byrd, Councilwoman Lora Lopas, Jeff Low and Jim Boyd were on hand to answer any questions. The Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Space Master Plan as written.

The next step in the process is to send the Plan to Council. Diana Fister will get final copies of the Plan printed and bound for distribution to City Council as well as to Planning and Zoning commission members. Michael Byrd suggested that someone other than himself present the plan to Council and Bruce McKeeman said he would do it. Jeff Low will draft a memo to give to Planning and Zoning, highlighting the recommended changes that P&Z offered as well as the approval from the P&R Board and will get it to Bruce. Diana Fister will submit a memorandum to Council to have the Master Plan presentation added to the City Council Study Session agenda

for June 16. Once the Council approves the plan, the committee can move forward with the request for approval of converting the committee into a commission.

3. Project Tracking Forms- Dan Campbell created a tracking sheet to help determine the priority of potential acquisitions. Using this form will allow the committee to accurately see the progress of each property at each stage of the acquisition process. Bruce would like everyone on the committee to look it over and refer any suggestions to Michelle by May 22. Jim Lawrence would like to see the implementation of the tracking form to ensure that it works well.



Tracking Form

4. Budget- Diana Fister presented the committee with a copy of the FY 09 budget. As of 5/12/09 a total of \$5,960,262.84 has been spent on open space, including purchases, appraisals, and surveys. Currently the budget for FY 2010 is set at \$1,000,000.00. Jim Lawrence stated that Finance Director Mark Woodfill normally gives a revised budget schedule, but if sales tax dollars continue to slide it is unlikely there would be any increase in dollars allocated to be spent next year.

5. Liaison with Open Space Alliance Council- it was discussed during the meeting that the Mayor has been talking with the Open Space Alliance in regards to open space, rather than the OSAAC. It is the perception of the committee that this is for the purpose of getting input on open space issues. Jim Lawrence explained that the Open Space Alliance holds a more political view on open space and have submitted some recommendations to Council. In regards to the 1% tax increase, they would like to see the funding for open space and roads be completely separate and that right now is not the time to ask the public for a raise in tax.

6. Discussion of the 1% Streets & Open Space Sales Tax- The committee expressed concern about the 1% tax extension and the adverse impact it will have on open space. There was also concern about the public survey and its lack of questions about open space.

7. Working Group-

Community Outreach set up a booth at the Earth day celebration on April 18 at Granite Creek Park. According to Valarie Isley, the turn out was small but she was able to educate those in attendance on the importance of open space and what the OSAAC is doing to preserve open space in Prescott.

Planning and Zoning is still working on Bicycling issues. They are pushing to have meetings with individual bicycling groups, Council and Planning and Zoning.

Bruce McKeeman asked whether or not developers that came to P&Z had to meet the current requirements for open space. Jim Lawrence informed the group that PAD

is optional and that old developments are not required to meet the current open space standards.

8. Executive Session –

a. Discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(7).

- I. Properties in the Granite Dells area
- II. Properties in the West Prescott Area
- III. Properties near West Granite Creek Park



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9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

10. Next Meeting: May 27 at 5:30pm

Bruce McKeeman, Chairman

Michelle Stacy, Minute Preparer