

NOTICE AND AGENDA

**OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

**HYBRID MEETING
FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX
AND [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)
1702 N FOURTH STREET
4:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

NOTE: One or more Commissioner may be in attendance through other technological means.

Chair William Wilson

Vice Chair Bruce Applin

Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison)

Commissioner Bruce Fox

Commissioner Jacqueline Thomas

Commissioner Lina Wallen

Commissioner Nat White

Councilmember Representative: Deborah Harris

3. Land Acknowledgment

The Flagstaff Open Space Commission humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. August Minutes

5. Public Comment

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on this day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

6. Business Items

A. Open Space Terminology Text Amendment Update. Robert Wallace. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.

B. Water Services Reliability Roundtable Update. All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.

C. November/December Combined Meeting Planning. All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.

- D. Prioritization Multi-year Project Planning.** Rebecca Sayers, PROSE Director. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.
- E. Council Update Planning.** All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision.
- F. Observatory Mesa Trail Planning.** Mark Loseth (SDR) and City staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision.
- Single-use vs. multi-use
 - Directional trails
- 7. Reports and Updates**
- A. Council Representative Report.** Council Representative Deborah Harris
- B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report.** P & Z Representative Mary Norton
- C. Open Space Management Report.** Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss
- 8. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**
- A. PROSE NEWSLETTER**
- 9. Potential Future Agenda Items**
- 10. Adjournment**

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at www.flagstaff.az.gov.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Koren Brown, Administrative Specialist

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Koren Brown (koren.brown@flagstaffaz.gov) at least two business days prior to the scheduled meeting time to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.



Open Spaces Commission

4. A.

From: Koren Brown, Administrative Specialist

DATE: 09/25/2023

SUBJECT: **August Minutes**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

August Minutes



Open Space Commission

Virtual: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

In-person: Aquaplex (1702 N Fourth St, Flagstaff, AZ 86004)

August 28, 2023 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Minutes



Members Present

- Commissioner William Wilson (Chair)
- Commissioner Bruce Applin (Vice Chair)
- Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison)
- Commissioner Bruce Fox
- Commissioner Jacqueline Thomas
- Commissioner Lina Wallen
- Commissioner Nat White

Councilmember / Liaison to the City Council

- Councilmember Representative Deborah Harris

Staff and others present

Koren Brown – PROSE Admin Specialist
 Martin Ince – Transportation Planner
 Jay Hicks – Dig Studio
 Brandon Stocksdale – NPS Community Planner
 Sylvia Struss – Open Space Coordinator
 Robert Wallace – Open Space Supervisor
 Danyel Mezzanatto – Dig Studio
 Sirena Rana – Trails Inspire
 Mark Loseth - SDR
 Jordan Hollinger – Associate Planner
 Sara Dechter – Neighborhood Planning and Development

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm.

2. Roll Call

Those present noted above.

3. Land Acknowledge Statement

“The Flagstaff Open Space Commission humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area’s Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.”

4. Approval of the July 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Wilson motioned to approve the July minutes as recorded, Commissioner Applin seconded; The Commission approved the minutes unanimously.

5. Public Participation

“At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on this day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or acting on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.”

There was no public participation.

6. Business Items

- A. **Sun Corridor Trail Partnership.** (15 minutes), Sirena Rana (Trails Inspire, LLC). Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.
Suncorridortrail.org

Ms. Rana provided information about the benefits and history of the Sun Corridor Trail which is a 1500-mile trail concept from Douglas, AZ, to Las Vegas, NV. The trail will connect hub cities of Tucson, Phoenix, Prescott, Sedona, Flagstaff, Kingman, and Las Vegas. This is what’s called a credit card trail as opposed to backcountry. This means the trails’ purpose is to drive business to hub cities to increase tourism and local support, as participants would pause to rest and re-fuel. AZ Office of Tourism awarded a \$250k grant for a 2-year period in 2021.

There are dozens of partners involved across multiple regions. Some Flagstaff challenges being considered involve the alignment of Lake Havasu to Flagstaff. The concept objective for the entire project involves using the most scenic established routes, with the least amount of effort to integrate. This approach allows for less maintenance and overall cost efficiency. Time to completion would be 1-2 years out.

There will continue to be partner meetings and trail town participation throughout the process, with further collaborations with NPS, NAU, and others to develop, finance, plan, and refine the Sun Corridor Trail.

Examples of similar, existing trails are popular in Europe. Chair Wilson asked for examples that exist in the USA. Such examples of ‘credit card trails’ follow canal routes in Pennsylvania or connect National Forest trails throughout Missouri but have been not developed in the West yet.

B. Observatory Mesa Trail Planning. (50 minutes), Mark Loseth (SDR) and City staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.

The trail planning committee received approximately 2,900 individual comments in the latest public comment period regarding the development of the Greater Observatory Mesa Trail Plan. The trail plan is being revised based on community feedback. The trail planning committee is seeking input and recommendations from the commission for the final draft trail plan to ensure the plan is reflective of the purpose of Flagstaff Open Space. Topics for input include, but are not limited to, directional trails, single-use vs. multi-use, the balance between recreation and preservation, and e-bike use.

There was a robust discussion around the topic of e-bikes on trails and what the Commission’s stance might ultimately be. Chair Wilson suggested that e-bikes may not be an appropriate use on designated open space trails, and that city code should differentiate between use on the Flagstaff Urban Trail System and single-track trail experiences. Commissioner Applin concurs and stated that e-bike use should be enforced.

There was a question of what “obliteration” means as it’s referred to in the plan, which Mr. Loseth defined as trail restoration.

Commissioner White shared concern for the adoption of trails 3.36 and 3.37, although he is willing to compromise if similar typed trails are offered in another location.

The commission has requested a projection that would help them understand what type of increased use will be seen with the implementation of the trail plan. Next steps include commission discussion and input on various plan topics.

C. Flagstaff Regional Plan Update. (15 minutes), City staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion.

The Regional Plan is currently in phase 2. There have been 11 workshops with over 150 participants with a focus on how to build a thriving community to 2045 and beyond. The workshops identified that people largely value our natural spaces. There is also interest in transportation, preserving our city’s unique character, and concern for government collaboration.

The team is currently working on scenario planning which involves developing scenario themes. Themes are developed utilizing the narratives that were identified from the workshops and plugging them in to the software to explore outcomes. These outcomes would be compared to a ‘business as usual’ baseline scenario. Scenario choosing will occur in November 2023, after which time the plan will enter Phase 3, in coordination with the Regional Plan Committee.

~~**D. Council Update Planning.** (15 minutes), All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision.~~

Omitted for time.

E. Heritage Grant Support. (5 minutes), City Staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision.

There was a motion by Commissioner White to approve the Heritage Grant letter of support from the commission, which was seconded by Vice-chair Applin. The commission approved the letter with unanimous support.

The remaining items were omitted for time.

7. Reports and Updates

~~A. Council Representative Report. (5 minutes), Council Representative Deborah Harris~~

~~B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report. (5 minutes), P & Z Representative Mary Norton~~

~~C. Open Space Management Report. (5 minutes), Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss~~

8. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

9. Potential Future Agenda Items – All

Next meeting: September 25, 2023, 4-6 PM

- A. Council Update Planning (10/31/23). All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision. (September)
- B. Observatory Mesa Trail Planning. (60 minutes), Southwest Decision Resources & City staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision. (September)
- C. Commission Collaborations, (P&R and OSC). (XX minutes), All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion, Decision. (September)
- D. BBB Fund Allocations. (XX minutes), City staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion. (TBD)
- E. Prioritization Multi-year Project Planning. All. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion. (TBD)
- F. Don Weaver Trail Alignment Proposal. (XX minutes), City staff. Requested Action: Informational, Discussion. (TBD)

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10.



Open Spaces Commission

8. A.

From: Koren Brown, Administrative Specialist

DATE: 09/25/2023

SUBJECT: PROSE NEWSLETTER

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

PROSE NEWSLETTER

PROSE

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

August 2023

New Position for a Growing Division

A Park Ranger? Yes! PROSE will be growing with a new position to the City of Flagstaff Parks Section. The position will oversee the trash team and will be boots on the ground for education efforts related to park rules.

Recruitment closed this month with over 30 applicants, making the first Flagstaff Park Ranger recruitment highly competitive.



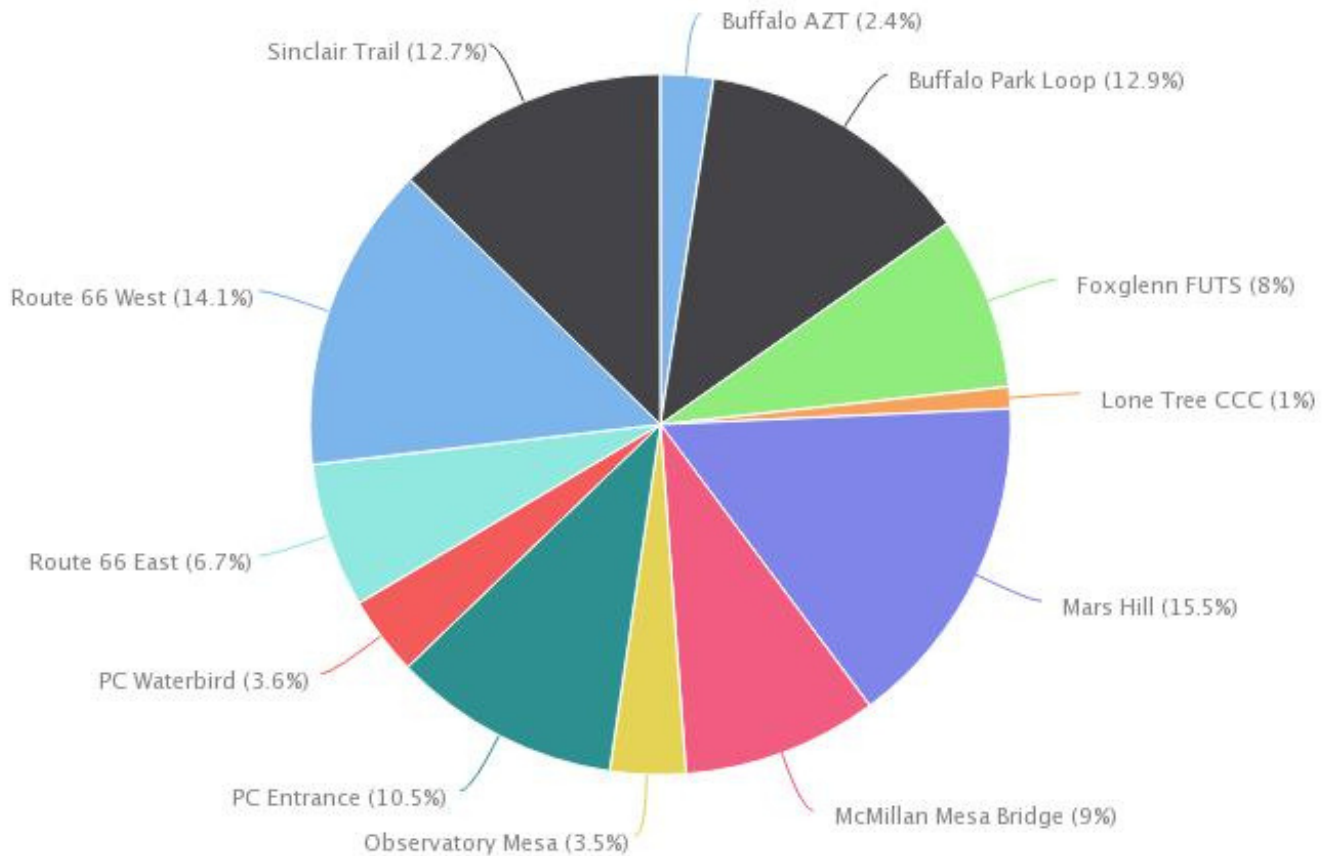
Above: Andrew Edwards,
Recreation Coordinator 1
located at Hal Jensen

Welcome to the Team!

Recreation held a successful recruitment for the Recreation Coordinator 1 role with the top candidate being Andrew Edwards. Andrew is a Flagstaff native who enjoys baseball, basketball, and the great outdoors. Andrew started at Hal Jensen as a Recreation Assistant 15 years ago which has led to his passion for building relationships with the community.

Compare Sites

2023-07-01 to 2023-07-31



Site Name	Daily Average
Buffalo AZT	33.7 (2.4%)
Buffalo Park Loop	178.4 (12.9%)
Foxglenn FUTS	111.2 (8.0%)
Lone Tree CCC	13.9 (1.0%)
Mars Hill	215.6 (15.5%)
McMillan Mesa Bridge	125.1 (9.0%)
Observatory Mesa	48.4 (3.5%)
PC Entrance	146 (10.5%)
PC Waterbird	50.7 (3.6%)
Route 66 East	93 (6.7%)
Route 66 West	196.4 (14.1%)
Sinclair Trail	176 (12.7%)

The FUTS and Commuting

The excessive heat may have played a role as the month of July traced less than normal passersby at all trail counter locations. Mars Hill followed by Route 66 West locations were the highest counts! The FUTS continues to be a method for the community to travel even during hot temperatures!

Parks Projects

With a handful of projects ongoing, the Buffalo Park Accessibility Trail project is 95% complete with a trailhead map/kiosk left to complete! Look for a celebration invitation during September to come check out the trail, parking spaces, walkway, trail signage and universal exercise equipment.

Below: ADA parking spaces at Buffalo Park



The Thorpe Park Restroom project is nearing completion with the building delivered and set in August. As soon as the restroom is ready to be occupied, the portable units will be removed that are located along N. Thorpe Road. Expect a soft opening of the feature to this portion of the park.

Hal Jensen Recreation Center celebrated the end of summer as with an End of Summer Bash as kids prepared to go back to school this month. Attendees enjoyed giant lawn games, corn hole, and snacks.

The Community Garden at HJRC has been flourishing! A new shed that will hold tools and supplies for the Community Garden was installed on site next to the garden beds.



Above: 1) vegetables growing in the garden, 2) new shed, 3) vegetables growing in the garden

Flagstaff Figure Skating Club hosted its annual Ice in the Pines Figure Skating Competition at the Jay Lively Activity Center. Flagstaff Youth Hockey Association and the high school hockey club team, Flagstaff Avalanche, have both started practicing for the 2023-24 school year. NAU Hockey started back up this month with conditioning camp.

Coconino County Health and Human Services held its annual cookout where many seniors who enjoy the Congregate Meals at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center partook in the day's festivities.

The Aquaplex is gearing up for its annual Anniversary Membership Drive taking place September 7-9. All regular memberships will be discounted at 20% and business pass memberships at 25%.

Below: Councilmember Harris, Robert Wallace, and Sarah Holditch touring Open Space.



On Friday, 8/11 Open Space provided a tour of the Open Spaces for Councilmember Deborah Harris. They visited each Open Space property and provided information about the community and educational and volunteer programs they provide, and discussed future planning and visions for Open Space. They ended the tour at Picture Canyon where they took a short hike to view the waterfall at Picture Canyon.

Wednesday Weed Pulls have been very successful for the number of volunteers we have seen. Those that do attend Wednesday Weed Pulls have been very consistent and ambitious. In one week we removed roughly 25 bags of Scotch Thistle, Knapweed, Star Thistle, and some other invasive weeds from Picture Canyon.

Right: bags of weeds from Wednesday Weed Pulls





Adult Fall Volleyball registration has begun! Secure your spot by September 14!

Click here to register!

League play begins September 24.

Upcoming Events in Flagstaff

First Friday Art Walk
September 1
Heritage Square

Movies on the Square
September 2
Heritage Square

Flagstaff Art in the Park
September 2-5
Wheeler Park

FUSD Cross Country
September 2 & 16
Buffalo Park

Jack Welch Walk
September 7
Buffalo Park

9/11 Service Day/Trail Restoration
September 8
Picture Canyon

Invasive Weed Pull
September 13
Picture Canyon

Friday Night Concert Series
Friday evenings
Heritage Square

Flagstaff Community Market
Sunday Morning
City Hall Parking Lot

Star Party
September 21-23
Buffalo Park

Music on the Square
Sunday Afternoon
Heritage Square

Plein Air in Open Space
September 22
Buffalo Park Ramada

Festival of Science
September 23
Wheeler Park

Cornucopia
September 23-24
Thorpe Park Softball Complex

Family Guided Hike
September 26
McMillan Mesa

Community Guided Hike
September 28
McMillan Mesa

Full Moon Hike
September 29
Observatory Mesa/Railroad Springs entrance



flagstaff.az.gov/prose



Open Spaces Commission

9.

From: Koren Brown, Administrative Specialist

DATE: 09/25/2023

SUBJECT: **Potential Future Agenda Items**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Suggested future agenda items:

1. Council Update Planning (10/31/23). (October)
 2. Observatory Mesa Trail Planning. Southwest Decision Resources & City staff. (October)
 3. Commission Collaborations, (P&R and OSC). (TBD)
 4. BBB Fund Allocations. (TBD)
 5. Don Weaver Trail Alignment Proposal. (TBD)
 6. Prioritization Multi-year Project Planning. (TBD)
 7. Don Weaver Trail Alignment Proposal. (TBD)
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