

MINUTES

OPEN SPACES COMMISSION
MONDAY
JUNE 1, 2026

IN-PERSON ONLY
PICTURE CANYON TRAILHEAD
3920 N. EL PASO FLAGSTAFF RD.
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86004
4:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Chair Jacqueline Thomas, present
Co-Chair Bruce Fox, present
Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison), present
Commissioner William Kluwin, present

Commissioner Molly Joyce, absent
Commissioner Lina Wallen, present until 4:40 PM
Commissioner Nat White, present
Councilmember Rep: David Spence, present

Staff Present: Rebecca Sayers (PROSE Director), Robert Wallace (Open Space Manager), Sylvia Struss (Open Space Coordinator), and Lori Reynolds (Administrative Specialist),

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.

Read by Chair Thomas.

4. Approval of April 27, 2026 [Minutes](#)

Chair Thomas moved to approve the April 27, 2026 minutes as attached. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Open Call to the Public

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.

Read by Chair Thomas. No comments were received.

6. Business Items

A. Picture Canyon Project Planning

Robert Wallace provided an overview of surrounding landmarks at the Picture Canyon trailhead and discussed potential future improvement projects at Picture Canyon. He noted the adjacent projects could be a good opportunity to partner and could improve visitor access to the Picture

Canyon trailhead. Proposed enhancements include additional parking spaces, ADA-accessible parking, a more durable parking surface, and a possible new trail connection.

Robert shared feedback received by Open Space Educator Ashlee Fliney during field trips with participating schools within the Flagstaff Unified School District regarding difficulties school buses experience when turning around at the trailhead. He stated that staff hope to incorporate a bus turnaround area into future trailhead parking improvements.

From the trailhead, the Open Space team is also exploring trail improvements to increase accessibility for inclusive access for visitors of all abilities. These improvements would connect to the overlook at Deep Water Pond and the overlook area near the Petroglyph Overlook site. Robert further reported that staff are working with the City to improve connectivity and a future alignment of the FUTS Trail from the Continental Park to Picture Canyon, including a possible connection beneath Interstate 40 and the BNSF railroad corridor.

Deep Water Pond Overlook

Robert indicated that one of the proposed new accessible trail alignments would provide a connection to the pond overlook and bird-viewing area. Robert also discussed the variety of wildlife observed in the area by PROSE staff and Open Space visitors, noting that the site supports diverse wildlife despite being in an area that involves industrial sites. Additionally, he shared that existing signs throughout Picture Canyon are planned to be replaced with high-pressure laminate signage, a material that offers greater durability and improved resistance to direct sunlight.

Returning to the topic of parking, Robert noted that the Wildcat Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant is coordinating with the City's Fire Department on a proposed training facility. He expressed hope that the City could collaborate with project partners to develop a shared parking area that would also serve Picture Canyon trail users.

Tom Moody Loop and Don Weaver Trail Junction

At the junction of the Tom Moody Loop and Don Weaver Trail, Robert informed Commissioners that the proposed Don Weaver Trail alignment project is currently progressing through the review process.

Sylvia Struss highlighted an area where a user-created social trail has been undergoing restoration efforts over the past several years. She pointed out the jute netting used to stabilize mulch and native grass seed placed throughout the restoration area. Sylvia explained that the netting is biodegradable and will naturally disappear as the native vegetation becomes established and grows through it. Chair Thomas asked whether staff have been treating the area for invasive cheatgrass. Sylvia responded that current restoration efforts have primarily focused on the removal of Scotch thistle and knapweed through volunteer-based Weed Pull Wednesday events.

Petroglyph Overlook

At the Petroglyph Overlook, Robert identified the site as the second potential destination for a proposed accessible trail realignment. He explained that creating an accessible route to the overlook would be challenging due to grade changes, but could be completed.

A Commissioner asked what the timeline was for the completion of the Don Weaver Trail Realignment project. Robert replied that it still has to go through the Historic Preservation Office for review and potential approval. He added that while that portion of the project will be completed this calendar year, they will need to acquire funding for the work if approved.

B. Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Division (PROSE) Master Plan Update and Discussion

Robert Wallace informed Commissioners that staff are preparing materials to share with the PROSE Master Plan consultant, Kimley-Horn, to provide a foundation for the planning process. The materials are intended to convey the Commission's priorities and perspectives regarding the future structure, management, and direction of Open Spaces as part of the Master Plan update.

Commissioner Kluwin expressed interest in seeing the Master Plan establish consistent branding standards across PROSE properties and land management partners. He suggested the development of a unified visual identity, including signage standards, symbols, and design elements that would clearly align with the trail system. Commissioner Kluwin also inquired about the timeline for completion of the Master Plan. Rebecca Sayers responded that the project schedule is outlined in the consultant's [contract](#) and noted that the project is currently in Phase 1 of a 15-month planning process. Commissioner Kluwin further emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships with existing organizations and stakeholders through the Master Plan process, and expressed a desire for the plan to identify opportunities to build upon and enhance those relationships in support of future Open Space initiatives.

7. Reports and Updates

A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative David Spence

Councilmember Spence did not have any new information to share from City Council.

B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report, Representative Mary Norton

Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison Mary Norton provided an update on the Land Availability and Suitability Study and Code Analysis Project (LASS-CAP). She reported that staff are developing potential code recommendations associated with the plan, which are expected to be presented to City Council later in June. Mary encouraged Commissioners to review the forthcoming recommendations, noting that several elements may be of particular interest to the Open Spaces Commission.

Robert Wallace added that the June 22 Open Spaces Commission meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the LASS-CAP.

C. Open Space Management Report, Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss

Sylvia Struss reported that Open Space staff continue to host Weed Pull Wednesdays each week from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. She encouraged Commissioners and community members to participate in the volunteer stewardship events

D. PROSE Monthly [Newsletter](#) (April 2026)

8. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

No additional comments were made.

9. Potential Future Agenda Items

- Review and discussion of the LASS-CAP.
- Planning for a future Commission field trip to Observatory Mesa to better understand community concerns and observe improvements that have been completed by the City.
- Discussion of the ongoing revision to the City's Parks Code, which will incorporate Open Spaces into the updated code framework.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.