MARANA TOWN COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
NOTICE AND AGENDA
11555 W. Civic Center Drive, Marana, Arizona 85653
Council Chambers, August 2, 2016, at or after 6:00 PM

Ed Honea, Mayor
Jon Post, Vice Mayor
David Bowen, Council Member
Patti Comerford, Council Member
Herb Kai, Council Member
Carol McGorray, Council Member
Roxanne Ziegler, Council Member

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Marana Town Council and to the general public that the Town Council will hold a meeting open to the public on August 2, 2016, at or after 6:00 PM located in the Council Chambers of the Marana Municipal Complex, 11555 W. Civic Center Drive, Marana, Arizona.

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THIS AGENDA. Revisions to the agenda can occur up to 24 hours prior to the meeting. Revised agenda items appear in *italics*.

The Council Chambers are wheelchair and handicapped accessible. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Town Clerk at (520) 382-1999. Requests should be made as early as possible to arrange the accommodation.

This Notice and Agenda posted no later than Monday, August 1, 2016, 6:00 PM, at the Marana Municipal Complex, 11555 W. Civic Center Drive, the Marana Operations Center, 5100 W. Ina Road, and at www.maranaaz.gov on the Town Clerk page under Agendas and Minutes.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

At this time any member of the public is allowed to address the Town Council on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Town Council, except for items scheduled for a Public Hearing at this meeting. The speaker may have up to three minutes to speak. Any persons wishing to address the Council must complete a speaker card located outside the Council Chambers and deliver it to the Town Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting. Individuals addressing a meeting at the Call to the Public will not be provided with electronic technology capabilities beyond the existing voice amplification and recording capabilities in the facilities and the Town's overhead projector/document reader. Pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, at the conclusion of Call to the Public, individual members of the Council may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Council, and may ask staff to review the matter, or may ask that the matter be placed on a future agenda.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION/POSSIBLE ACTION

D1 El Rio Open Space Concept Plan Presentation (Janine Spencer)

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03, the Town Council may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, to discuss certain matters.

E1 Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3), Council may ask for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney concerning any matter listed on this agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Notwithstanding the mayor’s discretion regarding the items to be placed on the agenda, if three or more Council members request that an item be placed on the agenda, it must be placed on the agenda for the second regular Town Council meeting after the date of the request, pursuant to Marana Town Code Section 2-4-2(B).

ADJOURNMENT

Council-Study Session **D1**

Meeting Date: 08/02/2016

To: Mayor and Council

From: Janine Spencer, Environmental Project Manager

Date: August 2, 2016

Strategic Plan Focus Area:
Recreation

Strategic Plan Focus Area Additional Info:

This El Rio Concept Plan supports the following areas of the 2015 Strategic Plan:

Commerce Principle Statement 3. ***We will seek and retain diverse industries and commerce in order to promote sustainable economic health.***

Commerce Initiative 20: *Town projects and initiatives should include outreach (where appropriate) to universities, colleges, and K-12 education as a way to promote educational opportunities and improved project/initiative outcomes.*

Commerce Initiative 24: *Allocate Town resources to ensure travel ways, public spaces, parks, public facilities, and other community spaces are clean, maintained, and present Marana's high standard of excellence (Public Works).*

Community Principle Statement 3. We will invest in a well-managed government that provides reliable services and quality amenities for citizens and businesses.

Community Initiative 18: *Identify creative ways to plan neighborhoods and growth areas with meaningful open space, trail connectivity and active recreation areas*.

Principle Statement 1. ***We will design, build and maintain appropriate high quality recreational amenities to enhance the quality of life for Marana residents and visitors.***

Recreation Initiative 2: *Pursue recreational and tourism development opportunities and projects (Parks, Economic Development).*

Recreation Initiative 5: *Identify and implement policies and procedures to ensure all projects within Marana promote the recreation focus area to include connectivity, recreation spaces, view sheds, multi-modal opportunities and open space (Parks, Planning).*

Principle Statement 3. ***We will capitalize on the uniqueness and value of the Sonoran Desert in our community planning and tourism attraction efforts.***

Recreation Initiative 17: *Develop tourism package about Marana's unique geography and recreational opportunities that can accompany a variety of marketing materials (Tourism, Commerce, Sporting Events) (Economic Development).*

Subject: El Rio Open Space Concept Plan Presentation (Janine Spencer)

Discussion:

El Rio Open Space was designated by Council as a Town Preserve, subject to Parks and Recreation regulations through Ordinance No. 2015.007. Funding has been allocated for our Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 budgets to create a landscape plan that creates opportunities for hiking and bird-watching, with native landscaping that improves wildlife habitat.
The 104-acre site is located along the west bank of the Santa Cruz River, north of Coachline Blvd. El Rio became a backwater of trash, invasive species, stagnant water, and mosquitos when the area flooded after the berm broke through during flooding in 2014.

This Town property has the potential to become a valuable amenity to the neighborhood and the community. At least one nearby elementary school principal has expressed enthusiasm for using the site as an outdoor classroom once landscaping is done and interpretive signage is added. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at El Rio, which places it in the top ten birding spots in the Tucson region and when there were large ponds, birders from several states visited El Rio. It is also listed in the book "Finding Birds in Southeastern Arizona." The Loop Trail is being extended this fall around the southern and western perimeters of El Rio Open Space and the site has the potential to become a nice destination point or rest stop for users of the Loop Trail.

The Planning Department contracted with Alex Stoicof, graduate student at the University of Arizona School of Landscape Architecture and Planning, to create a concept plan that includes low-impact recreation while retaining natural habitat for wildlife. Alex will present her concept plan to provide an idea of how the area can be improved.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is looking for direction and any comments to move forward with design.

Suggested Motion:

None

Attachments

No file(s) attached.
