



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS MINUTES OF THE
JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
January 26, 2016**

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A joint meeting of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission and the Town Council was convened and called to order by Chair Bill Myers at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

AGENDA ITEM #2: ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were Mayor Linda M. Kavanagh and Council members Vice Mayor Henry Leger, Alan Magazine, and Cecil Yates. Absent at roll call were Council members Dennis Brown, Nick DePorter, and Cassie Hansen. Trish Stuhan from the Town Attorney's office attended by phone at 5:34pm.

Present at roll call were Chair Bill Myers, Vice-Chair Tom Barberic, Commissioners Tom Aiello, Bill Craig and Ken Thornton. Absent at roll call were Commissioners Stan Ruden and Klaus Schadle. Staff members present were Town Manger Grady Miller, Director Mark Mayer and Executive Assistant Jennifer Lyons.

*Roll call was done after Agenda Item #4.

AGENDA ITEM #3: CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public wished to speak.

AGENDA ITEM #4: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE DECEMBER 1, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Thornton made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting, Vice Chair Barberic seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UPDATE ON THE 2015 OBJECTIVES AND 2016 OBJECTIVES

Chair Myers gave an overview of the MMPC's Objectives referencing the attached handout.

1. Quick Read: A postage stamp size, black and white deal that gives information. We'll have some of them up in the Preserve pasted on some of the signs, when we get the signs up there.
2. Trailhead work group: To do whatever we can to make sure the trailhead gets built starting in 2016.
3. Scar on the Mountain: There is a chance perhaps that it could be repaired in 2016 or 2017. The Scar on the Mountain is really the Promenade Trail. You can walk six across, that's why it's called the Promenade (Trail).
*Vice Mayor Leger commented that it would be kind of exciting to come to fruition. That's something that is extremely noticeable when you look up at the Preserve.
4. Grand Opening of the Trailhead: It would be nice to think that it's going to happen in 2016, however it's not too early to start planning what we are going to be doing.
5. Emergency Markers and Helicopter Landing Zones: We go through a process just for our Preserve to mark the trails with emergency markers which are little medallions that has a specific number on it.

We have been told we are the safest Preserve in the state and part of it is the emergency markers. If you get hurt by an emergency marker, you call 911 and tell them what emergency marker you are by and then it filters down, usually to our Fire Department who decides what to do. Sometimes they go. Sometimes the Sheriff's helicopter will go. If it's a high angle rescue, we don't have any high angle rescue folks here, but they call Scottsdale who has a separate group at high angle rescue. It's been distributed to our Fire and Police and couple of the Indian Tribes next to us, Rio Verde and Scottsdale.

*Mayor Kavanagh asked how many landing zones do you have?

*Chair Myers responded about twelve and they are all individually identified.

6. Recognition of the Conservancy: They've built most of the existing trails in our Preserve and they do lots of other things around the town.
7. Recognition of the Value of the Preserve: This is an ongoing recognition and actually at the Council meeting where the Council approved the East Loop Sonoran Trail, one of the speakers got up and talked about some of the value of the Preserve, which were the ambiance, the views, the educational value and actually tens and twenties of values of homes here in town. If you have a home or any kind of property here in town, the Preserve adds value to it. The real estate people, Chair Myers has talked to say if the Preserve was ever developed into housing, the rest of the town would decrease in value.
8. Preserve the Preserve: Means just don't let that thing go away.
9. Coordination with Scottsdale and the Regional Park: We've got excellent relationships with both of those entities. They have five or six full time employees dedicated only to their Preserves. We learn from their mistakes. We learn from their successes. There's a good coordination there.
10. Firewising: We've had meetings with the Fire Department and they are on top of the Firewising. Firewising is making sure we have less of a chance of the Preserve burning in part or in whole. This is an ongoing process. The greatest chance of ignition of a fire that would hurt our Preserve is in some of our washes.
11. New Map for the Preserve: It's a twelve-fold, on one side it has just our detail of the Preserve. The other side it has our Town, our thousand acre Preserve and shows some area to our North of it, the Regional Park, and to the West of it, the Scottsdale Park. It shows most of those trails. Also gives a few rules, safety rules and information on our Preserve. We also have another map called the Fountain Hills and Connecting Trails. It is similar to the one where we show our Town but it's even bigger. It shows almost all of the trails in Scottsdale and almost all of the them in our Regional Park.
12. Marquee: We have one legal access into the Preserve, Golden Eagle Trailhead. It's open from sunrise to sunset. At the trailhead there has a marquee and we are going through the process of updating the map. In addition we are going to point to where the public restrooms are and will have another sign saying "Go to the guardhouse to get a map".
13. Trail Counters: We have one of them in operation at the Town Lake Overlook Trail. The other two will be placed up in the Preserve probably within thirty days. We want to get those trail counters up there now to get a baseline to figure out what the usage is. It should be fairly low now but when the trailhead is built I anticipate it will take a great big jump.

*Councilmember Magazine asked the following questions about the counters in the Preserve.

- Do you have any sense as to how many are Fountain Hill's residents?
- Have you had any discussion on ways to get people from outside the area to come here?

*Chair Myers replied to both questions:

- The ratio of residents vs. non-residents? The short answer is no. I would sure like to get just a total count. My sense now is that most of the people now who use our Preserve are residents. We certainly have a lot of first timers and out-of-towners, but my sense is more than half. Some of these trail counters are sophisticated. You can tell how many bicycles go

there. You can tell what hours of the days the people use these things. We may not be getting that sophisticated when we put these things up, but down the road sometime we may want to get more sophistication. Also helps where to use time and money to improve trails.

- No but that's what we call the marketing of the Preserve in coordination with Scottsdale and the Regional Park. As you know the Regional Park has I'm guessing 50 events a year and Scottsdale has a lot of them. When we get our trailhead done, we are kind of a connection between those two entities and I would think we're going to start participating in a lot of those events more than we do now.

*Vice Chair Barberic commented on both questions:

- That we've gotten a lot more traffic from other towns since the Andrews-Kinsey Trail has opened. Since we do connect with the Regional Park and here, it's hard to tell since all the trails are connected.
- One of the other things we've talked about at our meeting was trying to put our maps in their kiosks and their maps in ours so when someone comes to hike they can see how we connect and it's a little bit more advertizing for avid hikers to come over here.

*Commissioner Craig added in response to the first question:

- That McDowell Mountain Park has added an entrance gate and collects a fee and an annual membership but they have been unable to determine how many are from Fountain Hills, how many are from Rio Verde and so forth.

*Vice Mayor Leger put forth the following question and comment:

- Does anyone here have a sense for what the annual count is for example of the Overlook Trail?
- That in a lot of national parks and different preserve environments there is a sign in log book. That is for 2 reasons: to see where people are coming from and also for safety reasons because they are saying who they are, their name, perhaps a phone and number of people in their party.

• *Commissioner Craig replied to the question:

- My checking in the fall before all the snowbirds had gotten back was 1,000 in two weeks. Last summer when I did a count on those, it was even more than that.

14. Test 911: We've had meetings with the Fire and Sherriff's office about 911 and it sure sounds like they've got things under control but it's worth a review every once in a while.

*Mayor Kavanagh inquired about cellular service:

- Cell phones have you been testing them in various areas of the Preserve?

*Chair Myers commented:

- That unless he got down in a very deep draw, they work all the time.

*Vice Chair Barberic stated:

- He hadn't really found a dead zone yet.

*Commissioner Craig stated:

- The Jeremy Hall indicated that there is going to be another cell tower at the entrance to Adero Canyon, in the fake water tower.

*Councilmember Yates stated you reported that the 911 appears to be working but we haven't really tried it.

- Is there some way to set up an actual test?

*Chair Myers replied:

- That we had suggested that. They said we will think about it and I have not heard back yet. We'll probably set up another meeting or two, to do exactly that. They convinced us it was working.

15. Five Layers of Protection: There are some state laws now that make it very difficult for anybody to sell our Preserve or any of the other Preserves in Town. However Scottsdale recognizes that it could be sold, so Scottsdale went through a process of making it more difficult by getting five layers of protection.

*Mayor Kavanagh asked the following questions:

- Without the five layers of protection, how easy would it be for them to sell the Preserve?
- Also are you saying you would like us to have all the same five layers that Scottsdale has?

*Chair Myers responded to both questions:

- That it has to go before the people.
- If it makes sense for them, maybe it will make sense for this Preserve or that Preserve or our Preserve or maybe not.

*Vice Chair Barberic responded the first question:

- It has to do with the amount of land they are going to sell. It has to be a minimum.

16. Bench Criteria: Our recommendation is don't put any more benches up there in the Preserve. If we change that then we ought to come up with some criteria under what conditions we would put a bench up there.

17. Budget: One of the handouts here was the 2016-2017 (proposed) budget. The 1.9 million trailhead hopefully will be included in the 2016-2017 budget. If that doesn't happen most of the things don't make too much difference.

18. Facilitate coordination/communication with MCO: Jeremy Hall (MCO) was kind enough to come and talk to us for a half an hour, six months ago. He has offered several times to come and talk to us or do whatever he can to help us. That is a reciprocal thing.

19. Work with Town Staff and MCO to ensure the construction of the trailhead at Adero: We will be talking about that in one of the items on the Agenda.

20. Quarterly Update: We had suggested quarterly updates directly to the Council. Maybe ten minutes every quarter, so forty minutes for the whole year. A direct line which we thought might help with some communication. We don't want to have a decision tonight but maybe at the appropriate time you guys (The Council) can talk about that and see if that still makes sense.

*Vice Mayor Leger commented:

- Obviously that would have to be something we would have to talk about and the Mayor perhaps have to agendaize that. He stated he could see a lot of value in that in terms of an opportunity for you all to be seen on Channel 11 and get your message out.

21. Coordinate with the Conservancy for the construction of the East Loop Sonoran Trail: That's on the Agenda. Bill Craig will talk about that a little bit later.

22. Final Settlement Agreement: There's a lot of things in the final settlement agreement that affect the building of the Preserve. Anything we can do to help understand that or help to facilitate that would be great.

23. Two Town Fairs: We have the two Town Fairs and the McDowell Mountain Month in which we hand out a number of maps and tell people about the Preserve. It is more critical this year because hopefully the Preserve will start construction.

*All Council's questions and comments regarding the objectives were stated and addressed after Chair Myers completed his overview of the objectives.

AGENDA ITEM #6: DISCUSSION OF HAVING QUARTERLY TEN MINUTE UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL IN 2016

Chair Myers proclaimed this is done. He feels this would facilitate communication, so you folks can talk about this at your leisure. This item was addressed under the objectives.

McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission

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AGENDA ITEM #7: UPDATE ON ADERO CANYON TRAILHEAD, INCLUDING PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR CONSTRUCTION START TO FINISH

Chair Myers gave a review:

- Director Mayer had requested J2 come up with a timeline.
- The final settlement agreement: MCO is responsible for designing, installing, and paying for the temporary utilities up there, which means the restroom and a drinking fountain and stuff like that. That's supposed to be done before the temporary road is done.
- The temporary road is real close to being done. They don't have the cap on it and I think there is a little jog they don't have done.

Director Mayer read from the attached handout, Adero Canyon Trailhead Timeline – Estimated Timeline. A lot of these are overlaps and so they can be done same time, wouldn't have to wait for one to be completed before the other. He's supposed to give me an updated estimated. He gave me a preliminary one this week and we are at about \$1,260,000. Based on my conversation with the Town Finance Director, he had indicated to me that we are probably closer to 1.8 million than we are to 1.9 million set aside for the project at this time. So depending on how the bid prices were to come back it would likely take some participation from funding in the CIP to be able to make up that difference.

Commissioner Thorton asked did you say the construction costs were 1.2 or 2.1 million?

Director Mayer verified the construction cost was \$2,160,000.00. That's about a difference of \$360,000.00 which is the anticipated shortfall. I will not know for sure those numbers until the project is bid.

Councilmember Magazine asked the following questions:

- What is the shortfall?
- Is there a potential opportunity with state or federal grants of any kind .

Director Mayer replied to both questions:

- The shortfall is between what we actually took in, in development fees before we could no longer collect those anymore and what the project is anticipated to cost. This would be including what was originally not listed in the design to go in this first phase, included a restroom building, a picnic and shelter ramada, and a low seating wall. Those were originally designed in and were brought to 95% and that's where we're at on all the design now. They were originally not supposed to go in because at that time we only had 1.5 million. We knew at that time we did not have enough to build it, so that's why it was listed the way it was on the drawings. Now he has indicated to us, that we are closer, we have a little bit more money in the bank, and so potentially with some infusion of CIP moneys we may be able to get there.
- There were none that he was aware of. Not for buildings.

Commissioner Thornton asked if that number was the engineer's estimate? Obviously when the project comes to bid, you would hope the low bid comes in significantly under that or somewhat under that.

Director Mayer stated, typically as you know that's the case because the architect likes to estimate a little bit high to help ensure there is sufficient funds to cover the project and there's always some contingencies in there but he's built that into that number.

Mayor Kavanagh asked do we know when they going to start since now we know how long it's going to take?

Director Mayer replied, I still have to get a couple numbers from him yet. I have \$20,000 in the account right now for design fees. Depending on the cost of the topographical survey, the geotech survey, the cultural and biological clearance and the native plant inventory, depending on those costs we could potentially start those, or some combination if they are under the \$20,000. Based on the preliminary numbers I saw they will be. We could in theory start that right away. That would put us in a position in theory to have those back pretty quickly to actually start the design work July 1st when we have the balance of the funds available.

Commission Thornton asked Director Mayer if there was a geotechnical investigation done originally?

Director Mayer responded, he was not sure if there was a geotech, but he knew there was a topographical survey, a cultural and biological and a native plant inventory, but did not recall if there was a geotechnical report and investigation and will have to check into that a little further.

Commissioner Craig said at an earlier Commission meeting we had asked you (Director Mayer) potential estimate of the trailhead and you had indicated at that time that it would when you talked with J2 it would be about 1.9 (million) and not higher than that. Is there any indication of what the difference is?

Director Mayer responded, yes a couple things. One is the addition of the restroom building, the picnic ramada and the seating wall. The other thing we had originally in there was a material that was made up of aggregate and of all things pine pitch that would provide the surface of the parking lot. That is no longer considered a viable alternative, so we are going to have to go with bituminous and that made the project more expensive.

Chair Myers emphasized that as you may know we have two civil engineers on our staff of seven and in addition I have been involved in real estate development for a little over three decades. We sent some questions to you (Director Mayer) and you have answered some of them. We are not questioning J2 or trying to slow the project down at all. Our intent was the best project for the least cost. On the original plans it showed the restrooms as future and asked Director Mayer to talk about that.

Director Mayer gave the following background information:

- When the original estimate was put together 15 plus years ago it was based on the number we had at that time which was 1.5 million. The architect had indicated that there was not a likelihood of those being built and stay within that budget.
- Over time we have collected some more money, we've earned some interest off that balance, so that's why the new number is higher. We've gone up to a little over 1.8 million as I understand.
- The other question I had attempted to answer earlier was, on the diagram it shows that upper, little, lighter section. There is some confusion amongst some of the Commissioners. That was designed in there originally but was not actually included in the actual detail design nor is it included in the estimate. It was just intended, if at some point if there was a need for additional parking up there, would there be a space to provide it and what it would look like.
- Based on the numbers we have now and that we are no longer collecting development fees, we just don't have a way of financially paying for that. So the focus is to build the main trailhead and stay within the existing budget.

Chair Myers asked for clarification on the following items:

- We didn't get any of the 1.8 million in the 2015-2016 budget for various reasons, but you had put \$20,000 in there and I was under the impression that was to get the plans from 95% to 100%, isn't that you indicated?
- Also looking at your schedule, your design schedule, it takes 8-10 months?
- So we cannot start construction for at least 8-10 months down the road, is that correct?
- And when can we start?

Director Mayer responded to all Chair Myers questions:

- Yes that is what I had indicated, but that is not going to be sufficient moneys to do that and we have to do these other things first, before we can build this information into the design. For instance the survey and some of those other things, those survey data will be used in his final design.
- Yes, that total design schedule includes everything under number 1. You would have to go through the bidding process and the design process.
- Getting to construction, the earliest would be is 9 months from the start.
- As soon as I get the numbers back we are in the position that potentially if these are under the \$20,000 we can start that process. We may be able to do some combination or all of those (surveys), with that \$20,000 and we can start that right away. As soon as those are completed that information will be used then to go forward with the final design, taking it from 95% to 100%.

Commissioner Craig asked if the bidding process needs 100% and not the 95%?

Director Mayer responded that's correct you have to have the final drawings and approved drawings. They have to be sealed, stamped and reviewed by the Town.

Councilmember Yates inquired about the bidding process:

- There's no restrictions on the funding sources with regard to the bidding process? Is it open bid? Is there procurement? We can do lowest qualifying bid?

Director Mayer responded, it will be an open bid process.

Commission Thornton questioned about the engineer's cost estimate. His estimate is \$2,160,000. If our low bid at 2.5 million, is our engineer required to redesign within budget?

Director Mayer replied yes.

Chair Myers stated assuming the 1.8 million gets in the 2016-2017 budget, then we still need \$316,000 from the CIP, is that possible?

Director Mayer we need \$360,000. Ultimately that will be a Council decision.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DISCUSSION OF THE TRAILHEAD FUNDS IN THE 2016-2017 TOWN BUDGET

Vice Chair Barberic referred to the attached MMPC Proposed Budget handout, asked if the \$9,700.00 comes out of the 1.8 million.

Chair Myers confirmed with Director Mayer that comes from operating funds, the general fund.

Chair Craig commented and then asked the following questions. This fiscal year we did not get the trailhead funds put in, it was bumped primarily of the thought of the fire station and thinks there is more to that in terms as to what goes in what fund.

- Is there any chance of some of that is not being utilized being transferred back to the 2016-2017 budget?
- Can what is earmarked for next year being transferred into this year?

Director Mayer gave the following response to both questions:

- No. What we bumped into last year was the spending limits based mostly on the fact of Saguaro's construction at \$10,000,000. We were bumping up to the spending limit so the concern was we had to slide a project to be able to make some room.

Town Manager Miller added that is the state imposed expenditure limitation. We had to do some juggling around through the budget process to make sure we were not out of compliance. The overall budget expenditures that the Town may have incurred would have exceeded what the state imposed limit is for the Town. The money didn't go away, it just didn't get appropriated.

Vice Chair Barberic asked could this happen again?

Town Manager Miller replied, it could happen again, but I don't see it happening next year. Our CIP is multi-year. It's a five year plan. In talking with the Finance Director I really think that we will be ok.

Councilmember Magazine added that we have very serious financial constraints. Staff has commissioned a study to look long range at what we need to put aside each year for facilities because we have some issues there as well.

Commissioner Thornton announced that for the QR codes we actually have to have a website and there is an annual fee for that. Last year I think we did designate \$300.00 for that, which we have not spent yet. It's actually going to be \$159.00 the first year and then every year thereafter to maintain the website is \$149.00.

Vice Chair Barberic mentioned as a Town here we have a shortfall and if we have to raise revenues and people see us building a trailhead, I foresee kickback. We need to do a job of marketing this thing to the people. It's going to be there, the money is not coming out of their pocket, it's already there. It's up to all of us, this group and the Town Council to make sure when this comes up, if we have to raise revenues, this has nothing to do with that.

Mayor Kavanagh responded, we come up on that every time we use CIP money. Each time we have to re-explain it and the Times is a great partner in helping us get that word out. As we get to the trailhead, just as this meeting will also be in the Times, this will be a beginning to people understanding the money is there and it's only for that. People who really keep up on issues will understand that and those that don't, there's not much you will be able to say. The money is there for the Preserve and it can't be used for anything else. It's been the dream of this Town for how many years to have true access to the Preserve which we have been paying for all these years with our tax money. The majority of the people of that have been here for a long time, have been waiting for it.

Vice Mayor Leger agreed there will be pushback when this money is spent. What we have for the Preserve is a dedicated fund. We'll just have to be really optimistic that this is going to work and the money available will work for us. I'm optimistic that will happen and if not, sometimes there are certain things we just don't do. The parking lot for example, who knows it might be a dirt parking lot instead asphalt parking lot.

AGENDA ITEM #9: DISCUSSION OF A SITE VISIT TO THE TRAILHEAD WITH THE COUNCIL

Chair Myers arranged two site visits. Meet at the Copperwynd gate. Estimated about 2 hours.

- Saturday, January 30th at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #10: DISCUSSION OF THE 2016-2017 MMPC BUDGET

Chair Myers stated that we turned in our budget in December. It was \$9,700.00 for various items.

AGENDA ITEM #11: UPDATE FROM THE PRESERVE MARKETING GROUP REGARDING THE NEW TRAIL MAP, CONNECTING TRAILS MAP, AND THE PRESERVE EMERGENCY MARKER AND RESCUE MAPS

*This was discussed under the objectives.

AGENDA ITEM #12 UPDATE ON THE SIGNS FOR THE ANDREWS-KINSEY TRAIL

- 55 signs – eta 2-3 weeks
- 9 posts

AGENDA ITEM #13: UPDATE ON THE EAST LOOP SONORAN TRAIL

Commissioner Craig reported it took us a number of weeks to get permission to go through Eagle's Nest with the Trailblazers, but we meet on Saturday mornings. We go from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We drive through the gates up to Coyote Way, right near where the water tower is. We've done it for 3 weeks now and estimate of just over 1,900 feet that we have built. The next part will be a little more difficult, but I don't know if we will continue at that pace.

AGENDA ITEM #14: CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Barberic made a motion to adjourn at 6:33 p.m., Commissioner Aiello seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission

By: _____
Bill Myers, Chair

Reviewed by: _____
Mark C. Mayer, Director of Community Services

McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission

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Prepared by: _____
Jennifer Lyons, Executive Assistant

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission Meeting held on January 26, 2016. I further certify that the meeting as duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Jennifer Lyons, Executive Assistant

Dated this 18th day of February 2016

MMPC items worked on/completed in 2015

A significant amount of items were completed on in 2015 compared to the Objectives list developed at the beginning of the year. We have a working Commission and also recognize that most of the accomplishments were due to many others including Town Staff, Conservancy folks and others. A list of items follows:

- 1) **Quick Read (QR)** codes were prepared and are ready to be placed on signs in the Preserve.
- 2) **East Loop Sonoran Trail** was approved by Town Council. Work on the new 2 mile Trail has begun.
- 3) **"Scar" on the Mountain** was addressed and perhaps MCO has responsibility to repair that scar
- 4) **Emergency Markers and Helicopter landing Zones** maps were updated due to the new A/K Trail
- 5) **Recognition of the Conservancy.** Numerous accolades have been given to the Conservancy including at the Council at recent meeting.
- 6) **Coordination with Scottsdale and Reginal Park.** We continue to have excellent relations with these two entities and work together on various items.
- 7) **Firewising.** We have had several meetings with fire and came away with the impression that they are well aware of the fire danger to the Preserve and surrounding areas.
- 8) **New Trail Flyer.** A new updated Trail Flyer has been produced. In addition there is a new map showing the "Connecting Trails" to our Preserve Trails
- 9) **Marquee at Golden Eagle.** Suggested changes have been approved and will be installed soon at Golden Eagle Trailhead.
- 10) **All signage at Preserve.** 55 signs mostly for the A/K Trail have been approved. Installation is anticipated in the first quarter of 2016
- 11) **Trail Counters.** One trail counter was placed in the Lake Overlook Trail and several others have been purchased by the Town and will be installed in the first part of 2016
- 12) **Test 911.** Several meetings were held with both fire and sheriff's offices. All appears to be working well.
- 13) **Bench Criteria.** The recommendation was made to have no new benches in the Preserve. If that changes, a criteria can be produced later.
- 14) **Budget.** A Budget was suggested to the Town for the 15-16 budget year.
- 15) **Coordinate with MCO on various items.** We continue to have contact with MCO on various items. Mr. Hall of MCO addressed our Commission with an update on the Adero and has offered to speak to the Commission upon request.

- 16) **Quarterly updates** directly to the Council for about 10-15 minutes. We hope to address this issue in 2016.
- 17) **Participation in the 2 Town Fairs** and McDowell Mountain Month continues and other ideas for improving information flow about our Preserve were discussed.
- 18) Additional review and questions of **the Adero Trailhead plans** have been ongoing with the intent of improving plans and helping the Town be ready to build the Trailhead if funds are included in the 16-17 Town Budget.

Preserve the Preserve

Fountain Hills Preserve

McDowell Mountain Preserve Commission

MMPC Objectives for 2016

Many of the 2015 MMPC objectives were completed. Some are carried over to 2016 and some will be ongoing for years to come. The accomplishment of objectives will increase safety, usability and value of the Town's Preserve. The list is not in any specific order, but is intended to be the basis for discussion and direction for MMPC efforts.

Each of the objectives is assigned to one of the existing 3 workgroups of MMPC. There will be other items that MMPC will be working on during the year that will be addressed as needed. Since we are an advisory Commission to the Town Council, we will take their direction on objectives and our involvement in the Preserve.

PRESERVE MARKETING AND FAIRS WORKGROUP

- 1) **Quick Read (QR).** The Quick Read codes will be placed on several signs to help hikers and others obtain info on the trail they are on. These are ready to go. They will be placed on the specific signs when the Andrew/Kinsey signs are installed.
- 2) **Grand Opening of the Trailhead.** Not too early to be thinking about the Opening of the Trailhead and the festivities around that event.
- 3) **New Map for the Preserve.** We have completed the new Preserve Trail map. Many compliments on the Map. When the ELST is complete, the then new map and signs can be made.
- 4) **Two Town Fairs.** Help with the two Town Fairs and McDowell Mountain Month to recognize the Preserve and its benefits to the Town such as Trails, value to real estate etc.

ADERO CANYON TRAILHEAD WORKGROUP

- 1) **Trailhead Workgroup.** An initial site visit to the Trailhead location was performed earlier. Much of the planning work has been done. The 95 % complete J2 civil plans were reviewed and suggestions were made by MMPC folks to those plans. Consistent involvement by the Workgroup will hopefully be beneficial to the Town and Trailhead.
- 2) **Emergency markers and Helicopter landing zones.** The 55 signs for the new A/K trail will be delivered soon. Those signs, posts etc. should be installed in the first quarter of

2016. The new "Emergency Marker & Landing Zone Location Plan" has been completed and distribution to first responders.

- 3) **Trail Counters.** 3 new trail counters were purchased by the Town. Those will be planted at several locations in early 2016 to get a baseline for traffic at those counter places.
- 4) Work with Town Staff and MCO to ensure the **construction of the Trailhead at Adero.**
- 5) Coordinate with Conservancy for construction of the **East Loop Sonoran Trail.**
- 6) **Budget.** The Proposed budget for 16-17 was forwarded to the Town. The main budget item is the \$1.9 million to build the Trailhead. We need to do what we can to see that the amount is included in the 16-17 Budget in order to begin construction in mid-2016.
- 7) **Final Settlement Agreement.** Review the Agreement to see if MMPC can assist the Town in any way in implement of the Agreement.

VALUE OF PRESERVE WORKGROUP

- 1) **Scar on the Mountain.** The Promenade Trail (Jeep Trail) scar can be seen from many places in Town. That scar may be able to be revegetated and rock stained to increase the esthetic appeal of our Preserve. The Final Settlement Agreement between the Town and MCO in Section may indicate that MCO may be responsible for work on the Scar. If not, the MMPC can address the Scar.
- 2) **Marquee at Golden Eagle and Adero Trailheads.** The Golden Eagle Marquee will be updated probably in January of 2016. Some of the ideas for marketing the Adero Canyon Trailhead marquee can be gleaned from other Trailheads in Scottsdale and other Preserves in the Valley.
- 3) **Firewising.** There have been several meetings with fire and sheriff's personal. There appears to be recognition of the fire danger and we believe they are prepared to respond. We may want to look at the perimeter of the Preserve to see if any of the adjacent areas to the Preserve may need additional attention. Probably the greatest chance of fire in the Preserve would be ignition in adjacent washes.
- 4) **Test 911.** Again, we have had several meetings with fire and Sheriff's officers. It appears that the 911 is working properly. Additional monitoring may still be an ongoing process.
- 5) **Five layers of Protection.** Other cities have worked to protect their Preserve from being sold in part or whole. In addition to the existing state laws that protect our Preserve, we may want to look at additional protections as others have done.
- 6) **Bench Criteria.** The Commission has recommended that no additional benches be placed in the Preserve. A criteria is needed if additional benches are ever placed into the Preserve.

ALL COMMISSIONERS

- 1) **Recognition of the Conservancy.** Continue to give recognition to the Conservancy. If the new East Loop Sonoran Trail (ELST) were to be contracted out, the estimated cost would be in excess of \$120,000 based on the amount Scottsdale paid to build their portion of the A/K Trail.
- 2) **Recognition of the Values of the Preserve.** Several folks have indicated the value of the Preserve. At the Council meeting that approved the East Loop Sonoran Trail, an individual spoke of the value of the Preserve for its educational, ambiance, views, financial value to homes in Town, and intrinsic value of the Preserve. I think many folks are recognizing that Value.
- 3) **Preserve the Preserve.** If we finish building the Preserve Trailhead, many folks will use the Preserve and want to preserve the Preserve.
- 4) **Coordinate with Scottsdale and the Regional Park.** We continue to be in contact with both entities for many reasons. The relationships continue to grow which helps our Town and Preserve in many ways.
- 5) **Facilitate coordination/communication with MCO.** Any way we can help the Town with this effort, we would be happy to do so.
- 6) **Quarterly update to Town Council on progress/plans of the Trailhead construction and other Preserve items.**

These objectives are brief. Objectives can be prioritized by MMPC with input from the Town and others. There will be other items that arise during the year as well. Some of the Workgroup assignments have changed from last year, but the attempt is made to even the workload of the Commissions to accomplish these objectives.

Also attached is the 3 workgroups assigned to objectives. Other Commissioners and others can work on objectives as long as the open meeting laws are kept in mind.

Preserve the Preserve for the benefit of all

January 2016

MMPC Workgroups

<u>Workgroup</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>
Preserve Marketing and Fairs	Tom Aiello
	Tom Barberic *
	Ken Thornton
Adero Canyon Trailhead	Bill Craig
	Bill Myers *
	Ken Thornton
	Stan Ruden
Value of Preserve	Bill Myers
	Klaus Shadle *

* Workgroup coordinator

Possible to work on items not specifically assigned to your workgroup keeping in mind the open meeting laws.

Adero Canyon Trailhead Timeline – Estimated Timeline

Jeff Engelmann, J2 Engineering and Environmental Design

Total combined design (8-10 months), bidding and award (1-2 months) and construction at (9-12 months) Total time is estimated to be between 18-24 months until opened for business/hiking. Note there are some unknowns (access, biological and cultural clearance, bids received and how legitimate and legal they are, etc.) that may alter this time line. The first four bullet points are necessary due to the time frame that has passed, some ten years since originally completed.

1) Design Schedule: (estimate based on notes below to be between 8-10 months (dependent on cultural and biological clearance issues)

- Topographic Survey – estimated completion 1 month
- Geotechnology Report and Investigation – estimated completion 1 month, but concurrent with survey
- Cultural and Biological Clearance – estimated completion 4-6 months
- Native Plant Inventory and Salvage – estimated completion 1 month, start after survey to establish limits needed for inventory
- 95% Re-Design Effort – First Final Design – completion estimated 2 months (includes Town review of 4 weeks)
- 100% Design Effort – Final Design Bid Ready – completion estimated 1 month (No Town review issue for bid/construction)

2) Bidding phase: Typically on public works projects is 4 weeks to receive bids. Add 1-2 more months to review contractor bids, contractor insurance, contractor licenses, references, etc. and if considered a responsible and legal bid, get on Council Agenda for approval.

3) Construction schedule: Estimated based on current trail head we designed under construction in Phoenix that the site and issues relative to Fountain Hills' site may make construction a little more difficult and would estimate that to be between 9-12 months.

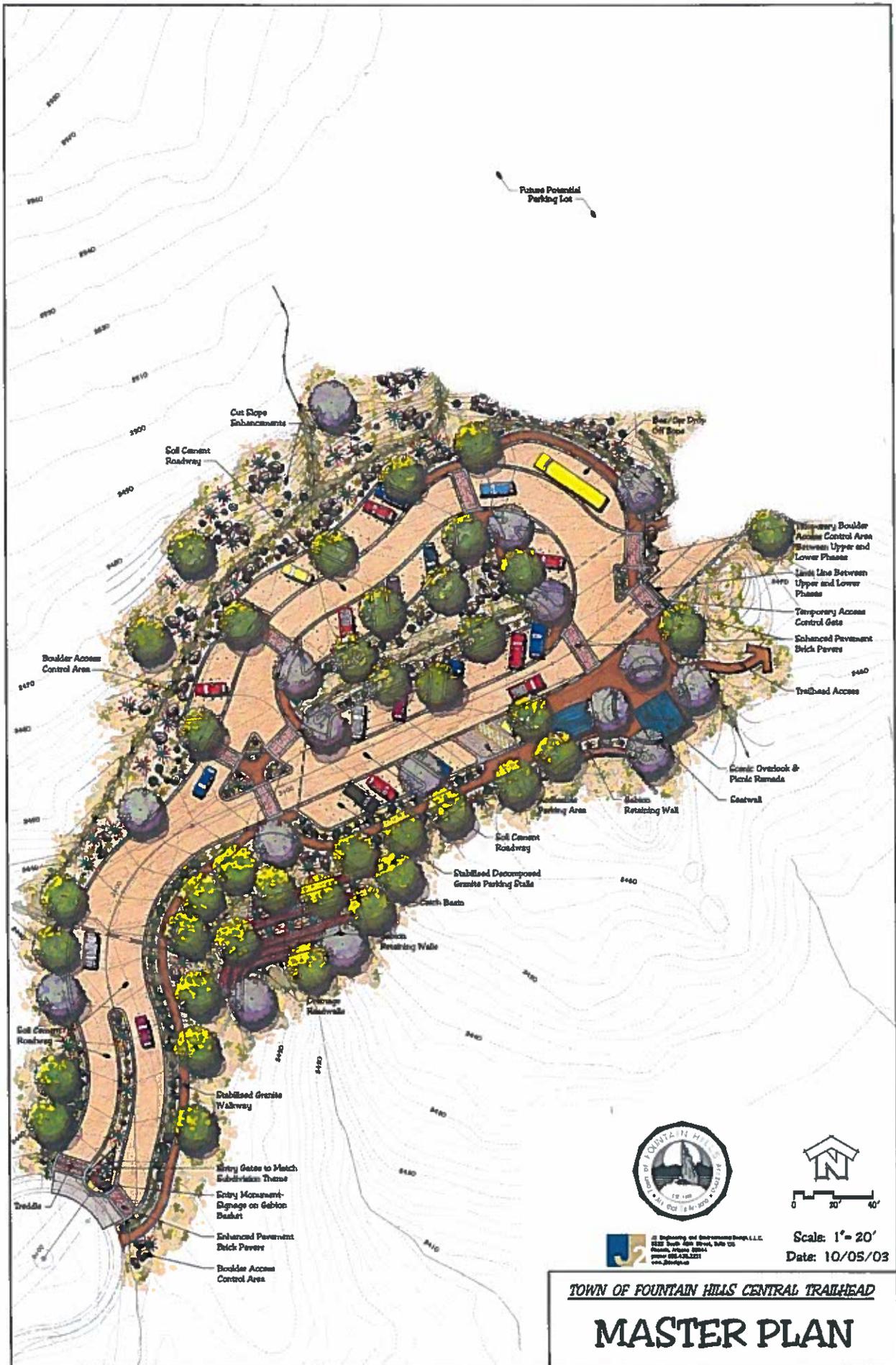
McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission

Proposed 2016-2017 Budget

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1	2000- 12 fold maps/flyers of Preserve Trails-- \$350 per 1000	\$ 750
2	1000- Fountain Hills & Connecting Trails maps--\$350 per 1000	\$ 350
3	Various copies, emails, tools (5 rogues, 3 picks, etc.), McDowell Mountain Month items, Town Fair items e.g. banner, Preserve Pictures.etc	\$1,800
4	Attorney time and expenses: a) Preserve the Preserve b) 5 layers of Preserve Protection	\$2,200
5	3 minute video loop on the Preserve by professional	\$1,300
6	Better map holders to protect against rain etc.	\$800
7	Signage for the East Loop Sonoran Trail	\$2,500
<hr/> Total 2016-2017 Budget Request		\$ 9,700

This request assumes there are funds in the \$1.9MM Trailhead included in the 16-17 budget for Trail opening items, and other items in connection with the Preserve Trailhead.

Submitted by: McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission



Fountain Hills Potential Parking Lot

Cut Slope Embankments

Soil Cement Roadway

Beer/Cy Driv Off Slope

Boulder Access Control Area

Temporary Boulder Access Control Area Between Upper and Lower Phases

Limit Line Between Upper and Lower Phases

Temporary Access Control Gates

Enhanced Pavement Brick Pavers

Trailhead Access

Scenic Overlook & Picnic Ramada

Castwalk

Parking Area

Retaining Wall

Soil Cement Roadway

Stabilized Decomposed Granite Parking Stalls

Catch Basin

Retaining Wall

Drainage Retention

Stabilized Granite Walkway

Entry Gates to Match Subdivisions Theme

Entry Monument Signage on Gablets Desert

Enhanced Pavement Brick Pavers

Boulder Access Control Area

Driveway



City of Fountain Hills, Arizona
 1222 South 44th Street, Suite 105
 Fountain Hills, Arizona 85248
 Phone: 480.433.1221
 Fax: 480.433.1222

Scale: 1" = 20'
 Date: 10/05/03

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS CENTRAL TRAILHEAD
MASTER PLAN