



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
February 23, 2016**

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

A public meeting of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission was convened and called to order by Chair Bill Myers at 5:01 p.m., Tuesday, February 23, 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 Chair Bill Myers, Vice-Chair Tom Barberic, Commissioners Tom Aiello, Bill Craig, Stan Ruden, Klaus Schadle and Ken Thornton. Staff members present were Director Mark Mayer and Executive Assistant Jennifer Lyons.

AGENDA ITEM #3: CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public wished to speak.

AGENDA ITEM #4: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE JANUARY 26, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair Barberic made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting, Commissioner Thornton seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #5: CONSIDERATION OF ELECTING NEW COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commissioner Schadle made a motion to re-appoint Commissioner Myers as Chair, Vice Chair Barberic seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Commissioner Craig made a motion to re-appoint Commissioner Barberic as Vice Chair, Commissioner Schadle seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #6: UPDATE ON THE 2015 OBJECTIVES AND 2016 OBJECTIVES

Chair Myers gave an overview of the attached document.

- QR Codes are pretty much ready to go when we get the signs for the Andrews-Kinsey Trail.
- Two Town Fairs - we are set.
- Trail counters: Commissioner Ruden stated, we went up there to try to install the second trailhead counter. It's about a third of a mile in on the Andrews-Kinsey Trail. These traffic counters are supposed to work up to a couple hundred feet. That one as well as the one we had previously installed on the Sonoran Trail worked at about 6 feet and not beyond. Commissioner Craig had called the (factory) representative and it didn't sound like anything they were aware of. We can send them back. The new one, if it's not working will be replaced. The old one they will look at and see if they can refurbish it for a charge or if it's something, they would completely replace it.
- Marquee at the North trailhead is in. Thanks to Mark (Director Mayer) for making that happen.
- Recognition of the Conservancy – Councilmember Yates suggested that you (Commissioner Craig) take pictures and send them at least on a sample basis to the Council, Mark (Director Mayer) and

Volunteer Coordinator Heather Ware. After Saturday work (trail building) send one occasionally and let people know what is going on.

- Coordination with Scottsdale and the Regional Park – We deal with the Regional Park fairly consistently. On a monthly basis we talk to somebody over in Scottsdale. Chair Myers will check with Scottsdale and the Regional Park about putting our maps in their kiosks. Our large picture map will be put on what used to be called the McDowell Park Association website. The Conservancy will also put the map on their website. Discussion ensued among the Commissioners about McDowell Mountain Month Day and the consensus was they would like to do something different as well as get the Conservancy more involved or possibly suspend it for a year until the Grand Opening of the Trailhead.

AGENDA ITEM #7: UPDATE ON ADERO CANYON

Director Mayer reported that we have been working on an arrangement with MCO for the fill material and were asked to put something in writing between the two parties. The Town Attorney has generated that and we forwarded it this morning to MCO. Assuming that's in place and they sign off on it, then we will be able to start the process of moving 8,800 cubic yards of fill material (500 truckloads). What we want to do is put as much as we can on the roads that lead up there and outside the entrance. It would be on MCO's property and also on the Town property. What is left over, minimize the amount that physically goes on the trailhead site. They have also agreed, at least in theory but we don't have the written sign off yet, to do a lot of the clearing and grubbing, as well as move the material in there. Then also the plant inventory and move the plants and put them in their nursery with the exception of the saguaros. There are only five or six (saguaros) up there and some might not be salvageable, so our expense will be relatively minor. Assuming that's in place we can move forward with the other items that were listed that needed to be done.

Discussion ensued among the Commissioners and Director Mayer addressed the following issues.

- They (MCO) would be responsible for compacting the roads, the old jeep trail and the new road they built.
- Cultural and biological clearance can be done after the dirt is moved. It is to protect antiquities.
- Elevations at 95% will be different from 100%, so that is why the site will need to be surveyed (topographic) again.
- If MCO decides no, then we would move on the cultural right away.
- As requested by Chair Myers, we will check MCO's construction schedule for their project and the trailhead as required in the Final Settlement Agreement.
- Bid the project with the restrooms, ramada and low seating wall as add alternates. So when the money is there we can add that to the project.
- In the CIP we have the opportunity to put in not only Development Fees but also CIP funds. The request that will go in front of the Council will include a combination of those two. The CIP funds would make up the difference between the 1.8 and the 2.1/2.2 (million) that we would actually need.
- Open Bid. What we typically put in the document (bidding packet) is that they have had to have done a similar size project, within a certain amount of time and with an equal or significantly close to dollar amount.
- Stain of the cut on the Promenade Trail depends on the money we have left at the end of the project and we will probably do that as an add.
- Sequence of events: MCO to agree to that agreement, clearing and grubbing, tree and plant salvage and then all the other stuff we have to do.

AGENDA ITEM #8: UPDATE OF A SITE VISIT TO THE TRAILHEAD WITH THE COUNCIL

Only the person we had was Cecil Yates. Councilmember Yates was extremely positive and very excited about the project. Several of the Council members and the Mayor could not do either Saturday, so we have two more dates set up, March 8th and March 10th. If those don't work we can do some others. It's all subject to MCO's schedule.

AGENDA ITEM #9: DISCUSSION OF THE 2016-2017 MMPC BUDGET

Director Mayer reported, the budget process this year was different. Every Town Manager has a different way of doing it and this is our first experience with Town Manager Grady Miller. He asked us to put together a budget that was exactly the same as last year. If we wanted to increase it anywhere then we needed to submit a supplemental. I did several supplementals, one of which was the MMPC request.

AGENDA ITEM #10: UPDATE ON THE SIGNS FOR THE ANDREWS-KINSEY TRAIL

- Posts and rivets are in.
- Signs shipped on Monday (February, 22).
- Put QR codes on the signs – only 8 right now.

AGENDA ITEM #11: UPDATE ON THE EAST LOOP SONORAN TRAIL

Commissioner Craig commented that things are going extremely well even through very difficult areas where we are building across a very steep slope. Last Saturday we had 19 trail builders, the average is 15. We have built somewhere over half a mile so far since the beginning of January.

AGENDA ITEM #12: CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schadle made a motion to adjourn at 6:05 p.m., Commissioner Ruden 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

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 February 23, 2016. I further certify that the meeting as duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Jennifer Lyons, Executive Assistant

Dated this 9th day of March 2016

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
Value of Preserve	Stan Ruden
	Bill Myers
	Klaus Shadle *

* Workgroup coordinator

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