



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 22, 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 4:55 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 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 FEBRUARY 23, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Schadle made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting, Vice-Chair Barberic seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UPDATE ON THE 2016 OBJECTIVES

Updates were given on the following objectives that had activity in the last month or so.

- QR Codes are done and mounted on a little piece of plexiglass. We are going to drill some holes and go out and mount them on the posts. There are 8 points designated right now and will add additional points in the future. We will see how this works for a year and if works ok, then we can have them etched in metal.
- New maps – We will have an update mid-summer, with about a half a dozen changes. Scottsdale will put our maps in the Sunrise kiosk. We have not addressed putting their maps in our kiosks. There is also a link to our maps on the McDowell Park Association website and the Conservancy website. Chair Myers will talk with Scottsdale to see if there is link to our maps on their website.
- Two town fairs. The following are suggestions of items that would make it better next year: bring enough maps, get some irrigation white poles to put the banners up, make a 2-3 minute video that runs continuously, Commission Ruden made weights for the four corners, and possibly a new tent. Thanks to Commissioner Thornton for putting everything together. Also organize early.
- Adero Canyon Work Group was established consisting of Commissioners Thornton, Ruden and Chair Myers.
- Forty-five to fifty of the signs for the Andrews-Kinsey Trail have been installed and the remaining will be relatively easy.

- The Sonoran trail counter is working and after operating for 23 days the passage count was 365, which is an average of 15.9 passages per day and most of those are round trippers, so 7 people are passing each day on an average. The Andrews-Kinsey trail counter has been up and running for about a week but no reading has been taken.
- Recognition of the Conservancy – There was almost a full page article in last Wednesday’s paper (Fountain Hills Times) about the Conservancy and the people building the East Loop Sonoran Trail. Commissioner Craig has been taking pictures and sending weekly emails after trail building sessions on Saturdays.

AGENDA ITEM #6: UPDATE ON ADERO CANYON

Director Mayer gave the following update:

- Fill material – We had reached an agreement at the staff level with his staff (MCO), but when he (Francisco) took it to Jeremy, he was not interested in not only doing what we had planned but also incurring the cost. Within the past few weeks Jeremy from MCO has reached out to the Town Manager and indicated there might be a possibility of putting some material on their property, which is what we had asked for originally. The nice thing about that is it doesn’t hold us up on the Preserve because we are not hauling material up on to the Preserve. The thing that is not resolved is there is going to be some impact on their site. They would have to clear and grub to be able to take the material on there. If they want us to incur the cost, we don’t have the budget for it. Director Mayer suggested to Town Manager Miller that they meet with Jeremy and talk it through since there is the potential to save \$88,000.
- Surveys – We are close to have an agreement in place to start the work up there. We have a new procurement process that may take weeks to months to process a purchase order where we used to be able to do that in days. It has to go through the Finance Department, the Legal Department and sometimes back and forth several times. The Town Attorney’s office has reached out to us twice wanting additional information and we have provided that both times. Director Mayer has reached out to Francisco (MCO) about getting access and asked him to meet with himself and perhaps our town engineer to work out some type of schedule and what they need to be able to do to gain access.

Director Mayer addressed the following questions and concerns:

- Depending on the construction, there will be times when there won’t be pedestrian access. They are not obligated to put the road in until they pull a certificate of occupancy for Phase II or until the drop dead date.
- The Town is responsible for the topographical survey, the geotechnical report, the biological and cultural clearance (antiquities), and the native plant inventory. A salvage yard will be established on site.
- The document we are hoping to get in the next day or two is the legal agreement between ourselves and J2 to take the project and include those elements (listed in the above bullet point) in it. Those are the things we have to get done.
- Then we will have a second contract will take the project from 95-100%. That will be executed after July 1st, when the funds are available. The contract will be in place so the first Council meeting prior to the July 1st date, Director Mayer can have it on the agenda and they can pass it.
- Temporary utilities plan – We had a proposal from MCO, that we’re in discussions with, on the cost we estimated it would take to do the solar and electrical on the site. They offered us a price that included that. We felt that the price was low, so we’ve gone back to our architect and said, tell us what you think it’s going to take and what it’s going to cost to do what we need on a

temporary basis up on the site. Then we're in the position to go back to MCO and say here's what we're told it's going to cost and here's what we need. The Town is responsible for the maintenance of the temporary utilities.

- Drinking fountains will not be hooked up until we have permanent water.
- Fill material from MCO is budget situation. It is not a question of not wanting to do it. It's a question of not having the money to do it.

AGENDA ITEM #7: UPDATE OF A SITE VISIT TO THE TRAILHEAD WITH THE COUNCIL

Chair Myers passed out a map that of the trailhead plan and stated that it had been a positive experience when Councilmember Yates, Mayor Kavanagh and Councilmember Magazine visited the site. Vice Mayor Leger is coming up in April and Councilmember Brown sometime next week.

Commissioner Craig, commented that Councilmember Magazine expressed appreciation for all the work that has been done and that will be done.

Commissioner Barberic expressed that the perception with the citizens of us doing this is a concern for the Councilmembers. We need to be express this in the best possible light and trying to explain it the best we can. This is not coming out of the any other budget, it's been there for years and we are now using it and we have to use it before 2020.

Director Mayer asserted that once we get the contract cleared and they start the initial work up there, this would be a perfect opportunity to hit that for the first time, to explain where the funds come from, how they are being used, and what the point of the project is.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DISCUSSION OF THE 2016-2017 MMPC BUDGET

- The Town Manager is going to take it to Council to approve a onetime expense for next year of \$7,500. The difference was the attorney fees.
- The Commission had turned in a budget of \$9,700. The attorney fees (\$2,200) are in connection with the Five Layers of Preserve Protection, similar to what Scottsdale has.
- Year to date budget reports will be included at future meetings.
- The Town has the ability to maintain the (QR Code) website at no expense, which we will have to check into. There was some confusion on Finance's part, there was an assumption the \$200.00 was a monthly fee, instead of a onetime charge and maintains it for a year.

AGENDA ITEM #9: UPDATE ON THE SIGNS FOR THE ANDREWS-KINSEY TRAIL

This item was discussed under Agenda Item #5.

AGENDA ITEM #10: UPDATE ON THE EAST LOOP SONORAN TRAIL

Commissioner Craig reported that there is progress. We should make one mile out of the projected two to two and half miles for the total trail by the end of April/first of May, which is when we will stop. We had 21 volunteers this past Saturday, ranging in age from upper 20's to 81 years old.

AGENDA ITEM #11: CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ruden made a motion to adjourn at 5:58 p.m., Chair Myers 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 March 22, 2016. I further certify that the meeting as duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Jennifer Lyons, Executive Assistant

Dated this 30th day of March 2016



● PT4

● PT2

● PT1




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

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS CENTRAL TRAILHEAD

MASTER PLAN