



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 24, 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 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 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 Bill Craig, Klaus Schadle and Ken Thornton. Absent at roll call were Commissioners Tom Aiello and Stan Ruden. Staff member present was Director Mark Mayer.

AGENDA ITEM #3: CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public wished to speak.

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

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

AGENDA ITEM #5: UPDATE ON THE 2016 OBJECTIVES

- Three trail counters are installed and functional.
- Commissioner Craig will be sending one trail counter back to see if it is repairable.
- Commissioner Ruden had been going up occasionally and recorded information from the trail counter, but he is gone for six months. Currently there is not a system in place and the Commission will look into discussing this topic further.
- One of the five stipulations that must be met when the Council approved the East Loop Sonoran Trail was signage, currently that has not been completed.

AGENDA ITEM #6: ON THE PRESENTATION “KEEPING WILDLIFE WILD”: COEXISTING WITH JAVELINA AND OTHER WILDLIFE IN THE FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER ON MONDAY MAY 23rd, 2016

Commissioner Craig attended the presentation and updated the Commission.

- Amy from Game and Fish gave the presentation along with three officers.
- Amy emphasized the need for elimination and the necessity of not feeding javelinas or any other wildlife.
- Locally thirteen javelinas were euthanized by Game and Fish.

AGENDA ITEM #7: DISCUSSION OF THE 2016-2017 MMPC BUDGET

Chair Myers reminded the Commission that the Town has about \$1.8 million dedicated to the trailhead, with another \$468,000 in CIP funds that is so far is in the budget. The final approval or disapproval is at the June 2, 2016 Council meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Director Mayer responded to questions from Commissioners Bill Craig and Ken Thornton.

- The \$130,000 in design fees includes, taking the design from 95% to 100%, the plant inventory and salvage plan that has to done (a sub under J2), and Wright Engineering as a sub under J2 to review the specifications for the structural to make sure there haven't been any changes made to the code.
- The plant inventory and salvage plan are included in the next phase which will take place after July 1, 2016. This will not hold up J2 from going from 95% to 100%.
- The thought is to put restroom building, the shade ramada, and load retaining wall in as add alternates, but we will need to verify with the architect. The assumption being that if we have sufficient money, we include that in there. If not we have to figure out how to cover those and if there is some way to do that, or phase them in at some future phase.
- This year \$20,000 was used for J2 to see if there would be a savings of using boulders and dirt vs. gabion baskets and an assessment of the temporary utilities.

AGENDA ITEM #8: UPDATE ON THE EAST LOOP SONORAN TRAIL

Commissioner Craig gave a summary of the season.

- 1.25 miles of trail has been built, with 1 mile to 1.25 miles left to build.
- We had twenty people working at least six days during the season. Thirty-six different people worked during the season. Total volunteer hours are somewhere over 900 hours.

AGENDA ITEM #9: UPDATE ON MAY 23, 2016 COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

Director Mayer summarized the meeting from the previous evening.

- The Chair wanted to establish work groups along the lines of each division and there has been push back from the majority of Commissioners. In the past, if there was an item that came up, we asked if anyone was interested in serving on that work group. The Chair asked them to think about it a little bit more as they are about to adjourn for the summer and probably won't have permanent assignments until next fall.
- Rotary Community Musical Park in Fountain Park: The Rotary is doing fundraising and is doing better than expected, so they asked and were approved by Council to increase the number of instruments from 12 to 14, as well as the potential to put shade structures over the instruments. Install should start within the next few months.
- Issues were raised about the lighting at Fountain Park and we are working with an electrical consultant to do some testing of both the bollards that are there as well as some black ones, to try and see what kind of different light levels we are going to get.

AGENDA ITEM #10: UPDATE ON ADERO CANYON

Director Mayer informed the Commission of the latest developments on Adero Canyon.

- The archeological and biological assessment was completed and there was nothing of significance

found. As required, a copy was sent to Arizona Office of Historic Preservation last Monday. They have to review, approve and give us the go ahead to develop this site. Typical turnaround time is a week or two.

- The (topographic) survey was started last week and should be finished this week. It should take a couple weeks to get that information on the maps and get it over to J2.
- The J2 contract to take the plans from 95% to 100% is on the agenda for the June 2, 2016 Council meeting.
- Temporary utilities: MCO had indicated that they would cut us a check for \$30,000. We are still having discussions back and forth trying to provide them credit for the fill material that we received, which was far in excess of \$30,000. Part of the discussion has been the question of, are we in need of temporary utilities? We are collectively under the opinion that we don't really need the temporary utilities and we think we can put up what we need to, in order to get by for a season or two before the temporary utilities have to be put in. The permanent utilities would be put in as per the Development Agreement.
- A legal request was sent to the Town Attorney to render his opinion to the interpretation of this section (7.1.4) of the Final Settlement Agreement.
- Coordinated Construction Schedule: When J2 puts their timeline together, they will get together with MCO to make sure that the two plans mesh.
- Trails and Towns Together, How Communities Capitalize on Trail Tourism: The webinar had three speakers, one was from the private sector that did a lot of work with trails groups, especially bikes, the National Park Service, and a gentleman is involved with groups that utilized trails. It focused on the Allegany River Scenic Trail, which is 186 miles long and runs through a lot of different small communities. The communities were very much tied into the trails by providing bed and breakfasts, bicycle shops, and hospitality places. A lot of what they were talking about doesn't apply to our trail system, but when they talked about things you can do in the community, for instance, we have a couple of bike shops in town and we will be curious to see once the trailhead is open if that helps boost some of the revenue for those facilities. There are also some opportunities from a tourism standpoint to really do some marketing.

AGENDA ITEM #11: CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Thornton made a motion to adjourn at 6:02 p.m., Commissioner Barberic 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 May 24, 2016. I further certify that the meeting as duly called and that a quorum was present.

By:

Jennifer Lyons, Executive Assistant

Dated this 2nd day of June 2016