



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 24, 2017**

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 5:02 p.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2017 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, Commissioners Tom Aiello, Bill Craig, Stan Ruden, Klaus Schadle and Ken Thornton. Absent at roll call was Vice-Chair Tom Barberic. 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 DECEMBER 6, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Schadle made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting, Commissioner Ruden seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #5: CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING A COMMISSION CHAIR

Commissioner Craig made a motion to appoint Commissioner Myers as Commission Chair, Commissioner Aiello seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #6: CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING A COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Thornton made a motion to appoint Commissioner Barberic as Commission Vice-Chair, Commissioner Aiello seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #7: DISCUSSION OF TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL

Chair Myers read topics from the attached document and after some discussion among the Commissioners, the following topics were chosen:

- 2017 Disbanding of the Commission
- The Commission's Accomplishments for 2016
- New Trails – Sonoran Loop
- Trailhead Update
- Quarterly Update to Council
- Objectives for 2017
- Grand Opening of the Trailhead

- Naming of the Trailhead
- Parking at Trailhead

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

- Commissioners Aiello and Craig have been working on the signs and have coordinates for the emergency markers and landing zones for the helicopters. The cut throughs and the distances are still needed, but everything else is pretty much coordinated.
- Commissioner Craig reported that the work on the East Loop Sonoran Trail is going very well and this Saturday (January 28) we will be going to the point of being about 100 yards from the end. The following week work will be done on the cut throughs and the emergency landing zone. Following that maintenance will be done on the other trails that need it. The Trail is about 2.1 miles and the elevation change is about 415 feet. There is average of 17 to 18 volunteers every Saturday with the highest being 21 volunteers a couple weeks ago. The Trail will be done except for 100 yards on each end until the finish of the Trailhead.

AGENDA ITEM #9: UPDATE ON THE SONORAN CONSERVANCY

Chair Myers and Commissioner Craig attended the last meeting and below are topics that were discussed.

- East Loop Sonoran Trail
- Donations to the Conservancy. On Amazon, plug in the words Amazon smile and you can designate who you want to give funds to and one of those organizations is the Conservancy. One half of one percent of every \$1,000.00 you spend on Amazon, that organization gets five dollars.
- Hike schedule updates
- Botanical Garden
- Fountain Park Islands
- Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills website update for people to more readily access Fountain Hills Trails information.
- Planning for the February (Great) Fair

AGENDA ITEM #10: UPDATE ON THE IGA WITH MARICOPA COUNTY REGARDING THE MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Director Mayer explained that the IGA (Inter Governmental Agreement) was extended for another five years, which allows us (the Town) to have access into the Regional Park.

AGENDA ITEM #11: DISCUSSION OF THE QR CODES AND THE WEBSITE

The Town's IT person Mike has updated the information on the website and he is working with Ken Valverde to develop the maps that will go on the website. There have been some snags with the QR codes and the URL. The QR code goes to a central website fhtrails.com, then you click on whatever point you are on and it takes you to the map that shows the area, elevation, and the coordinates.

AGENDA ITEM #12: DISCUSSION OF THE 2017-2018 MMPC SUBMITTED BUDGET

The Commission reviewed and discussed the attached document detailing the submitted budget. Director Mayer answered the following questions:

- Electric is part of the overall Trails budget and not part of the MMPC budget
- ISF-Copies (Internal Service Fund) are any in house copies that need to be made and are charged to us through our lease agreement.
- Budget will go to Council in May or June.

- If there is more money budgeted for the Trailhead construction than actually spent, it will go back in the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) fund because we had to cover the shortfall in development fees with money from the CIP.

AGENDA ITEM #13: UPDATE ON THE 2017 MMPC OBJECTIVES

Chair Myers read through the objectives that are attached to the minutes. The below listed objectives were discussed in more detail.

1. East Loop Sonoran Trail (ELST) updates including a possible name change. The Commission will address this issue at the next scheduled meeting.
2. Signage on the ELST including the 5 Council stipulations. Director Mayer has the “No Trespassing” signs and access to boulders, but will make a site visit with Commissioner Craig and Chair Myers for placement of these items to be in accordance with the five stipulations.
4. Improvements on the 2 Town Fairs info for the Preserve. Commissioner Ruden made two PVC stands where we can put our banners up higher.
9. MCO updates of Adero with Jeremy Hall. The Commission would like him to give an update of how many homes have sold and all the things that are going on including their ideas about staining various cuts that they are or are not going to do.
11. A three minute video of what the Preserve is and where it is. It can be used at the fair on a continuing loop.
12. Scar on the Mountain (Promenade) Improvements. Commissioner Thornton stated that it somewhat subjective of how much of that area needs to be done but measured the area to be about 18,000 feet would roughly estimate 20,000 feet to put it in. After calling several companies that this type of work, he received an estimate of about 30 cents a square foot, which seemed low for that volume of work but their mobilization costs may be more than doing the work. The product is an oxidizer which accelerates the natural aging process. Since this doesn't work well in all situations, test panels should be done first.
13. Five layers of Protection for the Preserve. The State allows for the sale of up to 250 acres without approval of voters. Scottsdale has five layers of protection in addition to what the state gives.
15. Kiosk at Trailhead improvements. The Commission wants to look at improvements in the plan for the kiosk at the new Trailhead to make it safer and more informative.

AGENDA ITEM #14: REVIEW OF THE 2016 MMPC OBJECTIVES

Chair Myers read from the attached list of 2016 Objectives and the ones listed are still being worked on.

- Grand Opening of the Trailhead is to be determined.
- Trailhead workgroup is ongoing.
- Trailhead counters are ongoing and a work in progress.
- Continue to work with Town Staff and MCO to ensure the construction of the Trailhead at Adero.
- Coordinate with the Conservancy for construction of the East Loop Sonoran Trail.
- Final Settlement Agreement. Commissioner Craig asked for clarification of why they (the Commission) are not allowed to talk about it since it an agreement between MCO and the Town Council, and questioned if it a public document. Director Mayer agreed that it is a public document but since you are arguing points that are in the agreement that as a Commission authorized by the Council, you superseding their authority by discussing it in a public forum. If at some point this would go to a legal debate, everything you say in here as a record would be part of that case and that is what the Town Manager wants to avoid. Discussion ensued among the

Commissioners and concerns were voiced in regards to the terms of the agreement and whether the terms of the agreement are being met. Director Mayer advised the Commission to contact the Town Attorney regarding these matters.

- Scar on the Mountain
- Marque at Adero Trailhead
- Firewising needs to be revisited, especially in regard to home owners associations.
- Five Layers of Protection
- Recognition of the Conservancy
- Recognition of the value of the Preserve
- Coordinate with Scottsdale and the Regional Park
- Facilitate Coordination with MCO

AGENDA ITEM #15: REVIEW OF ALL THE WORKGROUPS

The workgroups will stay the same for this year. A listing of the workgroups is attached to the minutes on the last page of the 2016 Objectives handout.

AGENDA ITEM #16: UPDATE ON THE JANUARY 23, 2017 COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Aiello attended the meeting and updated the Commission.

- There were eight Commissioners at the meeting including new Commissioner Kathy Haynes.
- There is a work study group looking into the sound system at the Community Center.
- Commissioner Mott spoke about (possibly doing) a “Yappy Hour” and a “Stroll Around the Park”.
- The April 24th meeting was rescheduled to April 17.
- Events on the Avenue
- Community Garden
- Public Art
- Adero Canyon update – possibly done by December 2017.
- Water quality at the Fountain. The aerators will be replaced and horizontal water movers will be installed. Lake water turn over will go from seven days to one.

AGENDA ITEM #17: DISCUSSION ON WHO WILL ATTEND THE FOLLOWING CSAC MEETING DATES

Chair Myers will make up a schedule for the Commissioners to attend these meetings.

- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24 – has been rescheduled to April 17 as the Joint Meeting with Council at 5:30 p.m.
- May 22
- June 26
- No July or August Meeting
- September 25
- October 23
- November 27
- No December Meeting

AGENDA ITEM #18: DISCUSSION OF MERGING THE MMPC INTO THE CSAC AT THE END OF 2017 AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE MMPC

Chair Myers stated that his sense was that where it stands right now, we (the Commission) will be gone by the end of this year, however after speaking with Mayor Kavanagh, she was going to talk to some people to see what the possibility was of extending the Commission. Chair Myers feels there is plenty of reason to keep the Commission at least another year past the Trailhead completion and part of that reason is, with all the items on the (MMPC) agenda there would be that many more items on the CSAC agenda, thus increasing their meetings by an hour and a half.

AGENDA ITEM #19: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF A NAME FOR THE TRAILHEAD AT THE TOP OF ADERO CANYON

Chair Myers encouraged the Commissioners to come up with some names for the next meeting, so they can be discussed and then talked about at the Joint Meeting with Council.

AGENDA ITEM #20: UPDATE ON THE ADERO CANYON TRAILHEAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Director Mayer had received the 100% plans back from the architect a week ago today and they were distributed the Sanitary District, the Fire Department, the Town engineer and the building official for review and comment. The only change that was significant was when we did the original plans we had included HVAC and the thought was there really was not a need to do that, so we eliminated that to save some dollars. There were a few other changes but they were pretty minor. The plans are due back a week from today to return to J2. Then there will probably be one more sit down meeting with the committee to go through any of those changes and answer any questions. The bid documents are due to the Town by March 3rd and should be a short time after that we can go ahead and advertise for bidding. After bids go out it should take a month and half to two months to get their estimates back. Before construction can begin there will be an awarding of a contract by Council and then an authorization to proceed from the Town. The construction money is in the budget starting July 1st. Everything is going to be built, all the landscaping will be in, all the plants and restrooms. The only thing that won't be done is three or six feet from the cul-de-sac because we don't know the elevation of the cul-de-sac yet and we will reserve some funds to do that once the cul-de-sac gets done. It was suggested we reserve \$100,000 for this project.

AGENDA ITEM #21: DISCUSSION OF THE NEW KIOSK AT THE ADERO CANYON TRAILHEAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Chair Myers asked the Commissioners to bring their ideas to the next meeting to help the Town have a better presentation and be safer in connection with the kiosk.

AGENDA ITEM #22: CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Thornton made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m., Commissioner Schadle 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 January 24, 2017. I further certify that the meeting as duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Jennifer Lyons, Executive Assistant

Dated this 16th day of February 2017

Topics for the Joint Meeting with Council on
March 28th, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

- 2017 Disbanding of the Commission
- The Commission's accomplishments for 2016
- New Trails – Sonoran Loop
- Trailhead Update
- MCO Jeremy Hall
- Crosswalks for the Overlook Trail
- Quarterly Update for Council
- Objectives for 2017
- Grand Opening and naming of the Trailhead

MMPC Budget Submittal Request

Signs	East Loop Sonoran Trail related signs	\$ 3,000
	New Trailhead related signs 7+/-	\$ 2,000
Electric	Same as last year	\$ 2,208
Printing	Updated maps due to ELST & New Trailhead – if open in 2017	\$ 3,500
Food	Same as last year for McDowell Mountain Day	\$ 120
Program Materials	3 Minute Video	\$ 1,300
	Map Holders	\$ 800
	3 Trail Counters	\$ 1,500
	Trailhead Grand Opening	\$ 3,500
Equip/Small Tools	Rakes, Shovels, etc.	\$ 300
ISF-Copies	In House Copies	\$ 450
		\$18,678
Electric	(Parks expense subtracted from MMPC Submitted Budget)	\$ 2,208
	Amount submitted as MMPC Budget	\$16,470

Ideas for the 2017 MMPC objectives.

- 1) East loop Sonoran Trail updates (ELST)
- 2) Signage on the ELST including the 5 Council stipulations
- 3) QR codes progress
- 4) Trailhead construction monitoring
- 5) Grand Opening of the Trailhead
- 6) Improvements on the 2 Town Fairs info for the Preserve
- 7) Quarterly updates to Council for MMPC items
- 8) Testing 911 system in coordination with Assistant Fire Chief Jason Payne
- 9) MCO updates of Adero with Jeremy Hall
- 10) New maps with updated trail info
- 11) 3-5minute video of Preserve for Fairs, Town website, etc.
- 12) Scar on the Mountain (Promenade) improvements
- 13) Five layers of Protection for Preserve
- 14) Naming of Trailhead
- 15) Kiosk at Trailhead improvements
- 16) Change signage on Saguaro, etc., for Fountain Hills Trailhead
- 17) Budget 17/18

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

2015. The new "Emergency Marker & Landing Zone Location Plan" has been completed and distributed to first responders.

- 3) **Trail Counters.** 3 new trail counters were purchased by the Town. Those will be placed 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 *

Coordinator / Trailhead workgroup

* Workgroup coordinator

*Tom A. **
Ken T.
Stan R.

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