

# MEETING MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff

### REGIONAL PLAN CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. November 18, 2010

Northern Arizona Healthcare Educational Offices: 1000 N. Humphrey's Suite 241, Flagstaff, AZ;  
in the Fort Valley shopping center, south of the hospital.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Bonita Sears at 928-779-7632, ext. 7294 (or 774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

*Draft Regional Plan Vision Statement:*

***The Greater Flagstaff community embraces the region's extraordinary cultural and ecological setting on the Colorado Plateau through active stewardship of the natural and built environments. Residents and visitors encourage and advance intellectual, environmental, social and economic vitality for today's citizens and future generations.***

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### II. Roll Call

A. **Committee Members:** X – in attendance; A- excused absence.

X__ Paul Babbitt (Chairman)	<u>A</u> Michael Chaveas	__ Maury Herman	X__ Mike Nesbitt
X__ Carol Bousquet (Vice Chairman)	<u>X</u> Alex Frawley	<u>X</u> Judy Louks	<u>X</u> Eva Putzova
<u>X</u> Ben Anderson	<u>X</u> Jean Griego	<u>X</u> William Ring	__ Eunice Tso
<u>X</u> Susan Bean	<u>X</u> Shaula Hedwall	<u>X</u> Devonna McLaughlin	<u>X</u> Nat White
	<u>X</u> Richard Henn	<u>x</u> Jerome Naleski	

**Alternate Members:** X Don Walters X Julie Leid A Trish Rensink

#### III. APPROVAL of MINUTES for October 21, 2010 CAC Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommend changes and approve 10/21/10 Meeting Minutes.

The minutes were approved with a notation of change to page 4 under Ecosystem Health Policy #2 whereby Eva Putzova corrected her comment that she didn't ask for the word "emphasize", but had questioned what the word "emphasize" meant and a recommendation that the future minutes be called "minutes" not "agenda" and include the notation of who was here with the excused and absent members noted.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

*At this time, any member of the public may address the Committee on any subject within their jurisdiction that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. Due to Open Meeting Laws, the Committee cannot discuss or act on items presented during this portion of the agenda. To address the Committee on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard. If time does not allow all comments to be heard, public comments may be posted to the Regional Plan blog:*

<http://flagregionalplan2012.wordpress.com/>

No public comment.

**V. OLD BUSINESS - (Continued, postponed, and tabled agenda items.)**

**A. Environment & Conservation Element *(est. 140 minutes)***

PURPOSE: Discuss and recommend goals and policies for 'Environment & Conservation' Element

FACILITATORS: Bob Caravona, John Aber and Mark Ogonowski

HANDOUTS: [Environmental Planning & Conservation Element Background Report – Packets 1&2](#)  
[Environmental Planning & Conservation Element DRAFT \(10/13/10\)](#)

a. Review sub-sections covered at the 10/21/10 CAC meeting [Climate, Ecosystem Health and Noxious and Invasive Weeds].

b. Discuss and recommend policies for 'parking lot' items from Climate, Ecosystem Health and Noxious and Invasive Weeds.

c. Discuss and recommend policies for the remaining sub-sections of 'Wildlife', 'Environmentally Sensitive Lands', 'Soils', 'Water Quality', 'Air Quality', 'Dark Skies', and 'Natural Quiet' as time allows.

Jim explained the new binders that will be used to help keep committee members organized and to help everyone keep track of progress.

It was announced that the City of Flagstaff was awarded by ADOT a \$250,000 grant for the regional plan and transportation effort. The process will begin in March.

**Climate Policies # 5**

There was discussion about clarifying what does restoration of wildlife entail. Clarification is needed by the term "restoration". Staff attempted to clarify for the committee what is meant by the term, stating that it is not the removal of human activity, but is focused on the ecological functioning of the environment. Staff is drafting a definition of "restoration" to be included as a footnote.

Clarification was provided on the difference between maintain and restore. Suggestion was made to look at the different strategies that will be made to achieve this policy.

Shaula Hedwall made a motion to replace "maintain and restore" with "manage", it was seconded by Nat White, and the motion was passed.

Chairman Babbitt wants to understand the physical attributes of wildlife corridors. Staff will pull something together so that the committee can begin to see what it actually looks like.

**Ecosystem health #3**

Staff is still doing work on this policy and it not ready to vote yet.

**Ecosystem health #7**

Staff is still doing work on this policy and it not ready to vote yet. However, discussion covered the fact that the collaborative approach to solving the problem has been very effective. It is felt that it would be a mistake to delete the idea of "collaborative". Staff agreed.

A suggestion was made to put "where possible" at the beginning of the policy. Staff said their goal is to reduce the flood plain.

Next month there should be a presentation and map of the small area in question. The decision was made to wait on this issue until the presentation (which will include new flood maps) can be made.

### **Ecosystem health #9**

Comment was made that the documents are missing a definition of the term “biodiversity”. Research was done on how important biodiversity is to the business community and development. Proposal was made that the community come up with some financial mechanisms (public partnerships, taxes or grants) to put aside resources for biodiversity.

Suggestion was made that a definition of the term “biodiversity” be developed and added to the glossary of terms.

Eva Putzova was asked to come up with some text to add to this section to set the stage for the policy and explain what “conservation investment mechanisms” means to help the reader understand the intent behind the policy.

Another issue raised was finding a steward to be the manager of the conservation spaces. Currently there is not a private, non-profit conservation entity in Flagstaff today willing to pick up a few acres here and there.

A vote on this policy was delayed as more action items needed to be taken.

### **Ecosystem health #5**

A correction of the original comment was made as to the difference between urban agriculture and edible landscaping. After a review of the zoning code they are awaiting the committee’s decision on the word require vs. encourage with regard to the use of native landscaping for commercial development.

Final decision was made that there would be a full discussion next month.

### **Wildlife Goal**

Grammar changes will be made at a later date by Staff.

Susan Bean made a motion to adopt version (a) in place of the original, it was seconded by Nat White, and the motion was passed.

A mapping exercise will be completed at the end of the text side of the issues. It was also suggested that there be consistency in phrases.

### **Wildlife Policy #1**

Jerome Naleski made a motion to accept version (a) to remove the word “important” and to remove the strategy from the policy, it was seconded by Richard Henn, and the motion was passed.

Flexible zoning was not understood by committee members and Staff explained the concept. Policy articulates what transfer of development rights means. Higher density rights may be given on certain pieces of property to preserve the open space in another piece of property.

Concern was raised about the timing of the correction to land development code. Sustainability section in the proposed code will get a lot of discussion as it goes through the Council.

### **Wildlife Policy #2**

The Conservation Land System (CLS) policy was explained by Staff. It is a way to be clear to everyone in the community about where the priority areas for conservation are in the planning area, based upon agreed to criteria.

Seems like policies and strategies are being mixed.

Eva Putzova made a motion to join #1 and #2 into one policy that is more broadly worded “protect, conserve and when possible enhance and restore wildlife habitat” and the strategies are the means to achieve that policy, it was seconded by Devonna McLaughlin, and the motion was passed.

It was discussed that Policy #5 could also be collapsed into these policies. A suggestion was made to collapse policies into fewer policies and have an expanded strategy section.

Concern was raised as to who determines what is an important wildlife corridor and what is a main habitat. A map would need to be created. Currently, an online atlas is being developed by Susan Bean’s efforts and the Expert Forum is working to map these areas in hope that a CLS could address directly. The county hired an urban wildlife planner to deal with a similar issue by identifying areas. It was suggested that we add one more reference beside the county. It was suggested that the policy use clear and direct language.

Suggestion was made to highlighting and exploring further having a policy that areas of higher priority are going to be set. The CLS is one of the tools that could be used, but it addresses more than just wildlife conservation.

### **Wildlife Policy #3**

It was felt that the word “protect” was too absolute.

Susan Bean made a motion to leave the word “protect” in and add a footnote defining the term “protection” and mark it subject to strategies and the word will be revisited, it was seconded by Ben Anderson, and the motion was passed.

Clarification was needed on the term “protect”. Staff said that to them “protect” meant to strive to maintain as many of these habitats as possible.

### **Wildlife Policy #4**

Eva Putzova made a motion to keep the original language, it was seconded by Jerome Naleski, and the motion was passed.

Discussion followed about what is meant by “support” and “restore” as well as a listing of endangered/threatened.

AZ Game & Fish has a list of animals that are considered rare and sensitive species. This is in addition to the endangered species list. There are laws that protect other non-endangered species.

Concern was raised as to whether or not this policy is to protect historic or potential habitats. It was suggested that it is anything that qualifies as habitat today. Unless there is a group who wants to restore an area back to a habitat area. Staff feels that overall if you maintain the habitat, you maintain the species.

### **Wildlife Policy #5**

Devonna McLaughlin made a motion to change the policy to “identifying, conserving and managing important wildlife corridors for a broad range of species”, it was seconded by Jerome Naleski, and the motion was passed.

### **Wildlife Policy #6, #7, #8, #9**

Jerome Naleski made a motion to collapse policies #6, #7, #8 and #9 into separate strategies, it was seconded by Richard Henn, and the motion was passed.

Concern was shared that there should be a list of what a pest wildlife species is. It was expressed that it should be really clear that we are working from a list. It was also suggested to define the term “pest”.

Concern was raised that these are all very different things and should all be separate. However, it was pointed out that a policy and a strategy are not different levels. It was also clarified that the strategies were all being kept separate, not being collapsed.

When collapsing policies staff is encouraged, not be constrained by the committee’s recommendations if they feel that further explanation or additional policy/strategy are required.

Jerome Naleski made a motion to develop a new policy stating “support the control and removal of terrestrial and aquatic exotic and invasive plants and animals...”, it was seconded by Nat White, and the motion was passed.

#### **Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policy #7**

Discussion revolved around whether or not “and views” should be added to the policy. The importance of views to the character of our community was expressed.

Jerome Naleski made a motion to keep paragraph (a) as written, it was seconded by Shaula Hedwall, and the motion was passed.

#### **Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policy #1, #2**

Richard Henn made a motion to keep the policies as written, it was seconded by Jerome Naleski, and the motion was passed.

#### **Policy #3**

The committee felt that the language needed clarification regarding the terms “in a broad landscape context”. Staff provided an explanation as to the meaning of the terms to them. Staff uses this to look at each project and what its effects are in the broader landscape context and not just the immediate boundaries of the project itself. Projects where zoning changes or conditional use permit is required could be denied.

Bill Ring questioned the use and application of the term “broad landscape” when applying to a review of a project.

Julie Leid made a motion to use the language “assessing potential adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive lands”, it was seconded by Bill Ring, and the motion was passed.

#### **Policy #4**

Jerome Naleski made a motion to adopt the policy as written, it was seconded by Susan Bean, and the motion was passed.

#### **Policy #5**

Due to the fact that this is a current engineering standard for development this policy may not be necessary. Staff suggested omitting this policy following discussion and concerns raised by the committee.

Richard Henn made a motion to delete “by the US Army Corp of Engineers” and add “by the appropriate agency prior to public review” and to add this as a strategy under Policy #1, it was seconded by Don Walters, and the motion was passed.

#### **Policy #6**

Bill Ring made a motion to adopt the policy as written, it was seconded by Jerome Naleski, and the motion was passed.

**Policy #7, #8, #9, #10**

These are suggested policies parking lot for now.

**B. Announcements**

1. **Next regular CAC Meeting:** December 2, 2010 - 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at N.AZ Healthcare facilities

**Agenda Items:**

1. Completion of 'ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT' if needed.
2. OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT – Goals & Policies

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Babbitt at 6:03 PM.