

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION –
continued (Dark Skies & Natural Quiet)

Begin:
OPEN SPACE
AND
RECREATION

Presenter: Jim Cronk
Development Services Director
February 3, 2011



CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

A. Committee Members:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Babbitt (Chairman) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Chaveas | <input type="checkbox"/> Maury Herman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Nesbitt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Bousquet (Vice Chairman) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alex Frawley | <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Louks | <input type="checkbox"/> Eva Putzova |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Anderson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jean Griego | <input type="checkbox"/> William Ring | <input type="checkbox"/> Eunice Tso |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Bean | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaula Hedwall | <input type="checkbox"/> Devonna McLaughlin | <input type="checkbox"/> Nat White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Henn | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerome Naleski | | |
| <u>Alternate Members:</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Don Walters | <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Leid | <input type="checkbox"/> Trish Rensink |

II. APPROVAL of MINUTES for January 6, 2011 CAC Meetings

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

10) Parking Lot

Parking Lot

Ecosystem Health:

1. **Support and encourage collaborative multiple-stakeholder riparian restoration efforts along the Rio de Flag and other watercourses, including the return of native vegetation, channel structure and, where possible, preservation of in-stream flows.**

(a) Support and encourage the preservation and improvements of the riparian habitat along the Rio de Flag Greenway and other water courses and springs. (N. White)

(a)(b) Support and encourage collaborative multiple-stakeholder riparian restoration efforts along the Rio de Flag and other watercourses, including the return of native vegetation, channel structure and, where possible, preservation and restoration of in-stream flows. (B. McKellar)

(b)(c) Comment: "...return of native vegetation, channel structure..." This would mean removing City pond, flooding Coconino Estates which was a marsh and as I remember before Cheshire a wide flood plane..." (N. White)

CAC Discussion:

1. Include 'restoration' clearly in text, as suggested by: being very clear about the Army Corp of Engineers work and multi-stakeholder collaboration
2. What is the INTENT of the policy?
3. Need further discussion from ACE, Friends of the Rio and others.
4. Parking lot until further information and comparative text with water quality.
5. Presentation outlining issues/improvements/intent of Rio project

Staff Recommendation:

1. Presentation on February 3rd displaying closed/open channel configuration along with Rio and open space stakeholders considerations.

Watchable Wildlife (Expert Forum suggested policies):

A. Support the implementation of the Watchable Wildlife Recreation Vision for the Flagstaff Area through a collaboration of the appropriate government and private parties.

B. Support the development of watchable wildlife recreation opportunities including the development of viewing areas at wildlife-rich locations around Flagstaff through collaboration of appropriate government and private parties.

C. Through a collaboration of appropriate government and private parties, support the development of watchable wildlife recreation opportunities at wildlife-rich locations

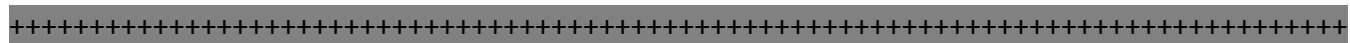
Staff Recommendation:

1. *Re-worded policy:* Support the development of watchable wildlife recreation opportunities.

2. *Strategy: a.* Support the implementation of the *Watchable Wildlife Recreation Vision* for the Flagstaff Area through a collaboration of the appropriate government and private parties.

(*Watchable Wildlife Recreation Vision* document needs to be vetted and approved by P&Z)

CAC Recommendation: PARKING LOT to allow for further reading. Referencing another document may not be appropriate in the RP (1/6/11).



11. Dark Skies

-- 10/21/10 original goals and policies are listed below.

-- Requested staff to synthesize comments/recommendation from CAC/public into a new Goal (1) and Policies (2) **see following yellow highlighted section**

Goal: Preserve Dark Skies as a natural resource, urban character and economic generator to a thriving astronomy, planetary and space science industry

1. Balance needs of astronomical research and industry needs with community character, growth and sustainability.
2. Research and employ emerging, energy efficient, illumination technologies and update regulations as necessary
3. Mandate new uses, zone changes and retrofits be compliant to lighting code.
4. Promote the benefit of dark skies through outreach.
5. Any regional plan amendment within the Zone I district shall include a preliminary Lumen Analysis calculating potential maximum lumens permissible.

Dark Skies Suggested Policies: (10/18/10 received)

6. City and County shall vigorously enforce existing lighting codes. (EF:)
Staff findings: Zoning code addresses and enforced through available level of staffing.
Staff recommendation: Reject.

7. Protection of dark skies and light ‘trespass’ is required of all new development.(N. White)

Staff findings: *Reword policy to, “Prevent light trespass” and include strategy of light standards. Similar to 8 listed below. Zoning code addresses through lumen light analysis and submission of shielded light fixture designs for compliance. There should be a strategy to regularly update as new technology becomes available.*

Staff Recommendation: Combine suggested policy 7 and 8 into proposed Policy 2.

8. *Protect dark skies and light trespass with shielded lighting and standards and defined intensities. (N. White)*

Staff findings: *Reword to policy, “Prevent light trespass” and include strategy of light standards.*

Staff Recommendation: *Combine suggested policy 7 and 8 into proposed Policy 2.*

9. Outdoor lighting of recreational facilities should use lighting systems that illuminate only the facility. (N. White)

Staff findings: *Discussion for clarification. Health and safety issues may existing (e.g. Parking lots)*

Staff Recommendation: *Nat White to clarify issue.*

10. *Gas station must follow current lighting regulations. (N. White)*

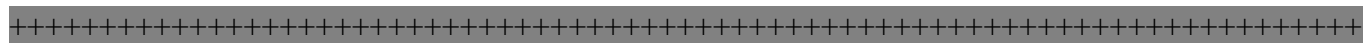
Staff findings: *Zoning code addresses through standards and enforced by staff.*

Staff recommendation: *Now addressed in proposed Strategy 2.a.*

11. Beyond the standards of the outdoor lighting codes, discourage developments which require all-night outdoor illumination in the Lighting Zone I district, and encourage development that does not require outdoor night lighting. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

Staff findings: *“Beyond the standards” may be viewed as arbitrary. Could address with an analysis to substantiate.*

Staff recommendation: *Incorporates language and analysis into Policy 1, Strategy b.*



11. Dark Skies

(Synthesis of comments to propose 1 Goal, 2 policies and strategies)

Goal: Preserve Dark Skies as a natural resource, visitor attraction, urban character and economic generator to a thriving astronomy, planetary and space science industry. (N. White)

Staff Recommendation:

1. *Re-worded GOAL:* Preserve Dark Skies as a natural resource and as important element of community character.

CAC RECOMMENDATION:

Dark Skies Policies:

Staff Recommendations:

Policy 1. Consider the impacts on the dark skies at local observatory sites of all lighting regulation changes, land-use designations or changes, and proposed transportation developments within the region. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

Strategies *(Note: Staff edited suggested policies/ comments to create strategies in support policy 1):*

- a. Promote through outreach the benefit of dark skies to astronomy, sustainability, quality of life, and tourism. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)
- b. Any proposed regional plan amendment within Lighting Zone I district shall include an analysis of the expected outdoor lighting changes resulting from the amendment; amendments which appear likely to increase light pollution at the observatory sites shall be strongly discouraged. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

CAC Recommendation:

Dark Skies Policies:

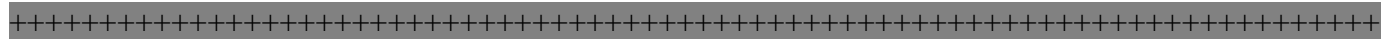
Staff Recommendations:

Policy 2. Prevent light trespass. (Combines N. White’s suggested policy 7 and 8)

Strategies (Note: Staff moved selected, suggested policies to strategies to support policy 2):

- a. Continue to evaluate and revise outdoor lighting regulations to reduce impacts on dark skies of already-installed lighting and new lighting resulting from continued regional growth. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

CAC Recommendation:



12. Natural Quiet

Goal: Preserve natural quiet, soundscapes through reduction of noise pollution.

Policy:

1. Recognize urban environment soundscape differs greatly from rural areas through the creation of applicable noise ordinance with respective criteria.
2. Major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas shall be evaluated as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land.

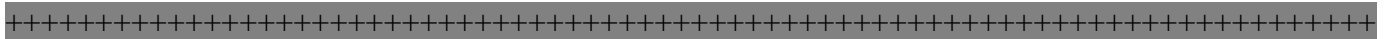
12. Natural Quiet

Goal: Preserve natural quiet, ~~soundscapes~~ through reduction of noise pollution.

Staff Recommendation:

1. *Re-worded GOAL:* Preserve natural quiet through reduction of noise pollution.

CAC Recommendation:



12. Natural Quiet

Natural Quiet Policy 1. Recognize urban environment soundscape differs greatly from rural areas through the creation of applicable noise ordinance with respective criteria.

Comments received:

a) Recognize **that the** urban environment soundscape differs greatly from rural areas ~~through~~ **and create applicable noise ordinance to preserve natural quiet in residential neighborhoods and open preserves.** ~~the creation of applicable noise ordinance with respective criteria.~~ (EF: M. Jackson)

Staff Recommendation:

Either 1 or (a) listed above is acceptable. Include strategies listed below:

Strategies:

1. Noise ordinance criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land.

(From comments)

Natural Quiet Policy 2. **Evaluate** major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County.

(Note: Taken from comments to make a strategy. If made strategy, then proposed re-worded, Policy 2 becomes eliminated.)

CAC Recommendation:

+++++

12. Natural Quiet

2. Major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas shall be evaluated as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land.

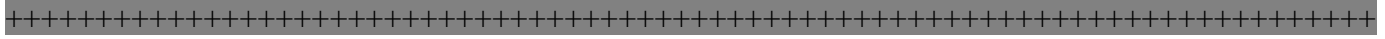
- a) **Evaluate** major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas ~~shall be evaluated~~ as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land. [Use] (EF: M. Jackson)
- b) **All** major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas shall be evaluated as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land. (E. Putzova)
- c) Major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas shall be evaluated as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land. (N. White. This is a strategy.)
- d) We're talking Shooting Ranges here. (B. McKellar)

Staff Recommendation:

2. Reword policy to: Evaluate major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas as to their potential noise impacts.

Include Strategy:

- a. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land Use



New Business:

Open Space

Open Space Definition:

Proposed:

Open Space lands are a complex mosaic of undeveloped land with a wide variety of qualities, values and purposes affecting all other elements of the Regional Plan. These undeveloped parcels may offer scenery, ecological networks, wildlife habitats and corridors, watercourses and wetlands, opportunities for outdoor enjoyment, or historical and archaeological significance. Just as importantly, they serve as the spatial definition of urban areas. As such, they may host low-impact recreational uses, such as trails, fishing, picnicking, or sustainable agriculture. The Regional Plan identifies Open Space lands for current or future public or permitted private use and designates these lands with such tools as conservation easements, zoning classification, or other official designation for such a purpose.

Proposed Amended Definition (**Expert Forum**)

Open Space lands are a complex mosaic of undeveloped parcels **may** offering **scenery**, ecological networks, wildlife habitats and corridors, watercourses and wetlands, opportunities for outdoor enjoyment, or historical and archaeological significance **and linkages between features**. Just as importantly, they serve as the **separate and buffer sections of our community such as Doney park and Kachina Village**. As such, they may host low-impact recreational uses, such as trails, fishing, picnicking, or sustainable agriculture (**see definition of ‘sustainable agriculture’ attached**). The Regional Plan identifies Open Space lands for current or future public or permitted private use and designates these lands with such tools as conservation easements, zoning classification, or other official designation for such a purpose.

“Just as importantly, they serve as the spatial definition of urban areas; **providing buffers to land with more significant intrinsic value.**” (BMcKellar)

“mosaic of undeveloped **or minimally developed** parcels...” (MChavaes)

Staff Recommendation: Add “minimally developed” as it allows trails, trail heads, visitor centers, and interpretive signs. Add “and linkages (or connections) between features”. Do NOT change next sentence, for ‘spatial definition’ include buffers in regional context, and not proprietary to specific neighborhoods. Allow RP Open Space map to define “land with significant intrinsic value” through both County &

City Open Space Commissions. The Regional Plan can include ‘sustainable agriculture’ in the definitions.

CAC Recommendation:

Open Space GOAL

The region will have a balanced system of open lands, natural areas, wildlife corridors and habitat areas, trails, and greenways to support the natural environment that sustains our quality of life and ecosystem health.

Open Space Policies:

OS Policy 1.1: Form and use the appropriate inter-agency institutional group (federal, state, city, county and non-profit) for coordinated open space planning, acquisition, conservation and protection.

OS Policy 1.2: Open Spaces will be used to connect neighborhoods and developed areas to each other within the larger regional open space system, to preserve priority open lands and to protect “Neighborhoods”.

OS Policy 1.3: Preserve the rural character and protect the natural environment of the region.

OS Policy 1.4: Promote the development a ‘Conservation Land System’ (CLS) as a means to inventory, map and prioritize and manage the ‘green infrastructure’ for the region.

Suggested Edits:

Open Space GOAL: The region will have a balanced system of open lands, natural areas, wildlife corridors and habitat areas, trails, and greenways to support the natural environment that sustains our quality of life, **cultural heritage**, and ecosystem health. *(BMcKellar)*

Staff Recommendation: Accept addition of “cultural heritage” into Open Space Goal.

CAC Recommendation:



OS Policy 1.1: Form and use the appropriate inter-agency institutional group (federal, state, city, county and non-profit) for coordinated open space planning, acquisition, conservation and protection.

Suggested edits:

OS Policy 1.1: Form and use the appropriate ~~inter-agency institutional group~~ **Stake Holders Group** (federal, state, city, county ~~and~~ non-profit **and interested citizens**) for coordinated open space planning, acquisition, conservation and protection. (EF)

CAC Recommendation:

OS Policy 1.1.

Suggested Strategies:

- a. Use the guiding documents of the *Greater Flagstaff Area Open Spaces and Greenways Plan*, the City of Flagstaff Urban Open Spaces Plan, and the City's *Long Range Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space*, and County Area Plans which have Open Space Objectives as the framework for the inter-agency group.
- b. Form the inter-agency institutional framework group.
Form the inter-agency **Stake Holders Group** (EF)
- c. Use Inter-agency planning and acquisition for collaborative buying power. Ownership, operation and maintenance should center in a single entity.
Use Inter-agency planning and acquisition for collaborative buying power. Ownership, operation and maintenance should center in a single entity, **and may vary from parcel to parcel.** (BMcKellar)

Suggested additional strategies:

- d. **Develop a Conservation Lands System and committee to weigh options, prioritize potential conservation of sites, and seek funding for conservation and to coordinate efforts.** (EF: new strategy)
- e. **Renew the 1998 MOU with cooperating agencies and assign a subgroup to implement the Watchable Wildlife Site network.** (EF: new strategy)

OS Policy 1.2: Open Spaces will be used to connect neighborhoods and developed areas to each other within the larger regional open space system, to preserve priority open lands and to protect “Neighborhoods”.

Suggested edits:

Policy 1.2: Open Spaces will be used to connect neighborhoods and developed areas to each other within the larger regional open space system, to preserve priority open lands ~~and~~ to protect “Neighborhoods” **and to develop a network of Watchable Wildlife Sites.** (EF: needs discussion)

CAC Recommendation:

OS Policy 1.2:

Suggested Strategies:

- a. The inventory, criteria and objectives should be used as part of an open spaces management program to acquire, protect, and manage properties and their resources and values.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA AND OBJECTIVES? (BMcKellar)

- b. Map proposed open space ‘connections’, ‘priority open lands’ and ‘Neighborwoods’.

- c. Priority open lands to consider as collaborative efforts for preservation will include Picture Canyon and Walnut Canyon.

May want to be more specific here....most of Walnut Canyon is already in a National Monument. (SHedwall)

- d. The FUTS Masterplan is one means of connection by open space and trails.

Use ~~The FUTS Masterplan is one means of~~ **to** connection by open spaces and trails. (EF)

- e. Identify tools and clearly articulate legal means to acquire and maintain connections, priority open lands and neighborwoods.

(EF: needs discussion)

- f. All subdivision applications be assessed for open space and recreational amenities (parks, open space and trails) within walking distance of project; either provided within subdivision or already in close proximity.

Assess all subdivision applications ~~be assessed~~ for open space and recreational amenities (parks, open space and trails) within walking distance of project; either provided within subdivision or already in close proximity. **(EF: needs discussion)**

- g. Permit recreational use of regional open space lands where it is consistent with the Land Use Plan and other policies.

Suggested Additional Strategy:

h. Assign implementation of network of Watchable Wildlife Sites to a subgroup of the Stake Holders Group formed from the MOU and cooperating agencies. (EF: new strategy)

OS Policy 1.3: Preserve the rural character and protect the natural environment of the region.

Acceptable, although I'm not sure I would use the phrase "rural character" to emphasize open space, maybe just the "natural environment" part of this. (MChavaes)

CAC Recommendation:

Suggested Strategies:

- a. Identify and give examples of 'rural character', how the built environment can be respectful of the natural environment. Give clear examples of what this means: i.e. Fort Valley Corridor's views, ridgelines, and 'green' setbacks.
- b. Identified significant natural and cultural resources, wildlife habitats and scenic views will be protected from development. (*See CLS*)

OS Policy 1.4: Promote the development a ‘Conservation Land System’ (CLS) as a means to inventory, map and prioritize and manage the ‘green infrastructure’ for the region.

Suggested Edits:

Needs discussion/clarification. This one really is a strategy, not a policy. Are we talking about a CLS for privately held and City owned lands? We already have a network of National Forests, National Park units, State and County lands, what exactly would we be developing here? (MChavaes)

OS Policy 1.4: **Develop** a ‘Conservation Land System’ (CLS) as a means to inventory, map and prioritize and manage the ‘green infrastructure’ for the region. **(EF: needs discussion)**

CAC Recommendation:

OS Policy 1.4:

Suggested Strategies:

- a. Utilize the ‘green infrastructure’ as an ecosystem framework to maintain and promote ecological integrity and enhance human well-being, which protect and enhance: unique aesthetic values, unusual terrain, scenic vistas, unique geologic formations, dense or unique vegetation, wildlife habitat and corridors, important riparian areas, air sheds, non-motorized transportation corridors, and set aside for recreational use such as hiking, skiing, bicycling, nature studies, and other similar uses.
- b. Clearly map and articulate the ‘green infrastructure’ as a means to establish a Conservation Land System.
- c. Use ‘inter-agency planning’ group to utilize and implement Conservation Land System.

Use ~~‘inter-agency planning’~~ **Stake Holders Group** to utilize and implement Conservation Land System.

Suggested new strategies:

- d. **Form a committee to flush out a proposal for a CLS in time to become a part of the Regional Plan which goes to the voters.** (EF: new strategy)
- e. **Incorporate restoration into management under the CLS and prioritize unique habitat such as escarpments and springs.** (EF: Larry Stevens) (EF: new strategy)

Announcements

1. Next regular CAC Meeting:

March 3, 2011, 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at N.AZ Healthcare facilities

Agenda Items:

- a) Recreation goals & policies
- b) Community Character:

II. ADJOURNMENT