

Open Space Alliance Council Meeting

1. April 19, 2006

Meeting called to order by President Tom Pettit at 5 pm.

Present: Tom Pettit, Ron Smith, Ed Parry, Howard Mechanic, Tom Slaback, Ashley Fine, Sequoia Shannon, Janet Preston, Elizabeth Majors, Helene Kaplan, Laurel Freeman.

Executive Committee Actions:

Membership in Sustainable Arizona – we will suggest an exchange of membership with them.

Presentation at Council: We will have 5 minutes available for a presentation next Tuesday. The presentation will include a recommendation for a full time coordinator position for open space and trails. Ashley agreed to make the presentation.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report is attached.

Correspondence: Nature Conservancy sent a letter regarding writing letters to Ken Bennett in opposition to HC 2045, the bill trying to oppose the state trust lands initiative. It is below.

There is an opening for the Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.

SW Land Trust will have a conference in San Antonio May 4-6.

April 29 is National Trails Day.

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee Report is attached.

Friday April 28th 5-7 pm will be the Citizens Empowerment organizational formation meeting.

Earth Day Report: This Saturday 11-4 at Granite Creek Park. We can use people to help at our table and info table which will be together. We will have Conserving Arizona petitions for those who want to sign or circulate.

The full calendar of the Earth Day schedule is on our web site.

The schedule for the movie festival that night will be also posted and sent out on email.

Greenways Committee: There was a meeting on the 7th. The report is attached.

Verde River Basin Partnership: The last meeting was April 7th. The group will continue work, even without representatives from the quad-city governments. Motion to donate \$100 to the Partnership, with the check to be made out to Prescott College. Passed. We will notify the Partnership that we want to be a member but will not be participating at the table. Passed.

Announcements: Granite Creek Clean Up: May 6th at 8:30 am, at Granite Creek Park.

On the same date, Sierra Club and Prescott Creeks will meet at the Parking Garage at 9 am. It will end about noon.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Minutes submitted by Howard Mechanic

OSA

19 April, 2006

Treasurer's Report

Reconciled Balance Forward \$3900.52

Income

Memberships and Related Contributions 65.00

\$3965.52

Expenses

Reimbursement to Tom Pettit 10.00

Band Shell for Earth Day 300.00

Band Shell Set up 175.00 Reimbursement to Ashley for copies and stamps 8.00

Unreconciled Balance –general funds available \$3472.52

Badger P Mountain Fund:

YTD Interest 2006 - \$12.82

Balance – \$6936.56

Earth Day Account:

Payment to Earth Day Coordinator - \$400.00

Prescott Parks and Recreation - \$100.00 (deposit)

\$60.00 day use fee

Copies of poster at Staples - \$64.23

Other copies- \$8.45

Auto Owners Insurance - \$220.00

Channel 13 Access - \$15.00

Income:

Tables - \$260.00

Transfer from Savings – 200.00

Balance - \$373.46– checking

Balance - \$716.84 - savings

My name is Cheryl Lombard and I am Director of Government Relations with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Dan Campbell of TNC's Verde Program in the Prescott area gave me your e-mail addresses to see if you could possibly help TNC and others supporting the Conserving Arizona's Future ballot initiative to reform State Trust Land, by having your friends and colleagues contact Senator Ken Bennett and tell him to vote NO on HCR 2045.

Right now the Arizona Legislature is considering placing a competing measure on the November 2006 ballot on State Trust Land Reform. Their bill, HCR 2045, is currently awaiting action by the Senate. This bill is purely an attempt by special interests to stop the Conserving Arizona's Future initiative from being successful on the November ballot.

Sen. Bennett has been briefed on the Conserving Arizona's Future initiative and he is aware of the benefits that come to the Prescott area and the tremendous assistance the initiative will have in helping to save the Verde River. Alternatively, he is also aware that HCR 2045 is very bad for the Prescott area because it makes it almost impossible to conserve the lands in order to save the Verde River.

Look at the facts:

The Conserving Arizona's Future initiative permanently conserves almost 55,000 acres of State Trust Land around the Prescott area; While HCR 2045 conserves approximately only 6,200.

HCR 2045 conserves only 42,511 acres of State Trust Land in urban centers across the entire state.

HCR 2045 puts the Arizona Legislature in charge, and at their discretion, of conserving up to only 400,000 acres of State Trust Land in rural areas across the entire state.

Please CALL or E-MAIL Senator Bennett and respectfully ask him to give himself a legacy and choose conserving land and benefiting education over special interests and stopping real reform by voting AGAINST HCR 2045.

Senator Bennett's contact information is: 602-926-5584 or kbennett@azleg.gov.

Report on The Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee

The Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee met on March 15th and on March 29th and April 12th. The Mayor announced his appointment of Lora Lopas as chairperson.

The committee decided to continue to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and as necessary on the 4th Wednesday.

Discussion was held at all three meetings on the direction and structure of the committee. Lora reported on her meeting with the Mayor on the direction of OSAAC. Additional properties were reviewed. Action continues on a number of properties.

Eric Smith described the Open Space Acquisition and maintenance budgets. With the completion of pending action there will be a sharp increase in the amount needed for maintenance as there will be about 400 open space acres.

Two field trips were held on Thursday and Monday.

The Next scheduled meeting is May 10th.

Jim Lawrence

Subject: Greenways Project meeting

Greenways Subcommittee Meeting - Convened at 9:05 AM, April 7, 2006 by Tom Pettit at 119 Grove with Jim Knaup, Karen Warrick, Michael Byrd, Tom Pettit and Eric Smith in attendance.

Eric Smith gave a report on the history of the project, 1999 to the present. There has been quite a bit of success over the years with 13 or 14 of the key property owners on board. These participants were wrapped up in February 2005. Since that time, momentum for the project has markedly decreased which included the dissolution of the City of Prescott Trails and Open Space Coordinator in May 2005. Eric reported that he had submitted a request for a Trail Maintenance Technician in the upcoming City budget proposal, without a lot of expectation that it will be filled. We concluded that we need to clearly identify the progress that has been made, including expenses and hours, in the project for presentation to city officials and other possible funders.

We had a discussion about the next step and concluded that a "press kit" would be useful in getting the message out about how valuable this project can be for the City of Prescott. This "kit" will include testimonials from

land owners already on board, and draw upon statements in the approved General Plan.

All at the meeting were interested in continuing to pursue the project. Michael will be attending the National River Conference to investigate more resources.

Meeting adjourned, 10:30 AM, same date and place.