

Open Space Alliance Council Meeting
May 16, 2007

at 119 Grove Ave. Prescott, Arizona.

Meeting called to order by President Tom Pettit at 12:05 PM

Present: Tom Pettit, Jim Lawrence, Howard Mechanic, Tom Slaback, Lisa Barnes, Carmen Stagg, Ashley Fine, Lou Bellisi, Barbara Walrafen, Lora Lopas, Ron Smith

Executive Committee Actions: Just items on agenda

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report will be presented in the future. Ashley has been busy with the Wildlife Symposium.

We received \$1500 from the New Frontiers 5% Wednesday.

Correspondence:

See www.Sonoran.org or call Mia 602-393-4310 x. 4

for a copy of the Guidelines for Meeting the Needs of People and Nature in the Arid West. (Note: CWAG and/or the Verde Watershed Association is working to bring a speaker to Prescott on this.)

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee;

The committee is looking into Granite Gate to see if there is a possibility of extending the rights of way by Willow Creek from Willow Lake to the Granite Dells area west of 89. There are only a small number of owners involved, and some have already indicated interest. The right of way would cover areas above the flood plain on both sides of the creek. Some might be purchased, some may be easements. The city may not want to approve unless trail construction and maintenance costs are covered by others.

Wildlife Symposium:

Moving right along. The exhibit at Sharlott Hall may be supported by SRP. Fundraising is continuing. Various organizations have been invited to participate. There will be a meeting with Alan Quan to discuss the Forest Service's participation. There may be a school curriculum to be associated with the event so there could possibly be an expansion of the scope of work.

Earth Day

Despite the weather, it was a successful event. The attendance was about the same as the previous year. The Granite Creek clean-up worked out well. There was a smaller number of participating member booths. That could be because of late notification and because the groups may be overworked. Next year we will see if the City of Prescott will help sponsor the event to the extent of providing the band shell, etc.

Greenways:

Report is attached.

Where the new Fire Station is going in there will probably be new signage. The Fire Chief is

cooperating in enhancing the gateway to the trails.

Motion to allocate \$100 to the Greenways for display materials (this includes any earmarked funds). Approved.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

See attached. The schedule seems to have been delayed until September.

Prescott Nature Center: OSA could adopt one Saturday each month to cover with volunteers to help staff. This would involve keeping people on the trails, answer any questions and just observe activities. Ashley will check to see exact roles. Motion to adopt the fourth Saturday of each month. Barbara will be coordinator. Approved.

Streets Tax:

We are not taking a position.

Elisabeth has volunteered to get a citizens initiative for a 2% bed tax increase.

Funds will go to tourism development, arts, and other purposes. Elisabeth will contact the city manager to see if open space maintenance funds can come out of this.

Lisa Barnes of Prescott Alternative Transportation gave a presentation on the national Complete Streets programs. Write up is attached. They would like to get policies in all the states. Complete Streets would include bicyclist and pedestrian access. New federal legislation may help implement these programs.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Howard Mechanic

Greenways Report from Laurel Freeman

so the first meeting we were in small groups with somewhat similar agenda, i was with equestrian interests, Audubon, frisbee golf and lora from the city's open space committee and we discussed what we would miss if it was gone, and what we'd like to see here in the future. i tried to really emphasize how the trails are multi purpose, everyone was on their bandwagon of course. the people wrote down somewhat what we shared. the next meeting the presented a distillation of what they had gotten from the first two stakeholders meetings, and a quick powerpoint review of the city wide survey results, however, this info supposedly wasn't available for

public review at that time./ i haven't checked yet if it is now, they said "soon". then jim mccstland said there wasn't any money. i think the important thing is to continue to emphasize the several birds with one stone for the greenways, traffic, health, community building, you know the drill. and we have to get some more public exposure, look at the article today about "push is on for city pool", someone else is getting to cindy barks! we have to help her believe again!! i'm sure the cities we were compared to all have great hiking trails as well! but like i say, the more we can incorporate other groups values and needs, eg find a spot in that aps land for at least 6 holes of disc golf, so the students could walk or bike to play instead of driving way the hell off somewhere, and the more we work with Audubon and etc etc etc. i'll check now how much more if on the web, bye for now!

Greenways regarding new Fire Station:

so i spoke to the deputy fire chief, really nice guy, who says they are excited about backing on to the greenways, as is the architect they plan to work with, and they want to capitalize on it and enhance it as much as possible. so that was good news. they are getting a survey and a fema report on flood plain issues, so that won't all be in for probably at least 3 or 4 months. so tho he liked the idea of a colorful noticeable greenway gateway arch or whatever over the trail there at sheldon and montezuma, with the survey still out we don't want to put in anything real permanent there yet.

so what about going for a kiosk a la aker or watson woods? something fairly vandal proof, to show maps of the greenways as they progress, hold brochures and maybe also give a nutshell railroad and other history info? anyone have any idea how to price such a project out? between that and maybe removing some of the siberian elms, people may feel safer entering in!

Complete Streets

Prescott Alternative Transportation

O

PO Box 2122

Prescott, AZ 86302
www.prescottbikeped.org
(928) 708-0911

Complete Streets are roadways that safely and conveniently accommodate all users - whether on foot, on bicycle, in a car, using transit, in a wheelchair — regardless of age or ability, both along and across the road.

A regional complete streets policy would require that all new road construction and all road reconstruction projects would result in complete streets.

**Transportation Enhancements Project Proposal:
Turning Grove Ave. between Gurley St. and Schemmer Dr. into a Complete Street**

This project can be seen as a model for complete streets in the region. Transportation Enhancements is a federal transportation funding stream that can go towards bicycle and pedestrian accommodations as well as landscaping, street beautification, etc.

This section of roadway comprises approximately one-half mile of roadway.

As of 2005, the Average Daily Trips (ADT) along Grove Ave. are: Gurley St. to Sheldon St. = 14,500

Sheldon St. to Schemmer Dr. = 21,500

Primary elements of the redesign:

- Convert from four lanes of traffic to three lanes (one in each direction plus center turn lane).
- Add striped bike lane on each side.
- Improve sidewalks on each side: repair damage, adjust to meet ADA requirements, improve alignment; ensure a `buffer' is present between pedestrians and roadway wherever possible.
- Improve and add landscaping, focusing on native plants. Add street furniture (benches, trash receptacles).
- Improve the intersections at Gurley St., Sheldon St., and Schemmer Dr. to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Improve the mid-block crossing at Lincoln Ave. This is a particularly dangerous intersection for bicyclists exiting the Greenways Trail System.
- Improve the mid-block crossing between Gurley St. and Sheldon St (Western Ave?) for safer pedestrian access.

**Celebrate National River Cleanup Week
on the Verde River!**

Please join the Sierra Club in celebrating National River Cleanup Week and help protect the Verde River! The Verde is one of the largest perennial streams in the Southwest and supports numerous native species, including the southwestern willow flycatcher, bald eagle, Arizona toad, and razorback sucker. The river also provides outstanding recreational values, including boating, hiking, bird watching, and fishing and is a critical source of drinking water to Phoenix and other communities. American Rivers named the Verde as one of America's ten most endangered rivers

for 2006.

Help us protect this important resource! We will be removing trash from the Verde River Greenway through Cottonwood. This is a great opportunity to have fun, make a difference, and help protect one of Arizona's most treasured resources!

Saturday, June 2

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dead Horse Ranch State Park

We will meet at the River Day Use Area off Owl Rd. (first right after entering the park).

What to bring: Hats, sunscreen, work gloves, sturdy shoes, long pants, and snacks. The Sierra Club will provide lunch and water refills. Please bring your own bottle so we can reduce waste!

For more information or to R.S.V.P.,

please contact Tiffany Sprague at 602-253-9140 or tiffany.sprague@sierraclub.org.

Sandy Bahr

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