

Open Space Alliance Council Meeting

July 19, 2006

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

Present: Tom Pettit, Ed Parry, Howard Mechanic, Tom Slaback, Sequoia Shannon, Janet Preston, Laurel Freeman, Susanne McMillan, Jim Lawrence.

Executive Committee Actions:

Decided to spend \$75 to the Secretary of State for a ballot pamphlet statement in support of the Conserving Arizona's Future Initiative, and \$14.40 for overnight postage.

Minutes from the June meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report is attached.

Correspondence: We received various publications from the Trust for Public Lands. They are available from Tom P.

Unfinished Business:

Open Space Acquisition Committee report from Jim Lawrence. It is below.

State Trust Lands: There are two measures on the ballot – one is the Conserving Arizona Initiative, and the other is the alternative put on the ballot by the legislature with the support from the Homebuilders' Association and the Cattlemen.

Tom's Talk of the Town about Open Space was published by the Courier on June 30th.

Jim L. will look into what the Open Space maintenance funds will do this year, and if any of it will be used to clear up brush and weeds.

Wildlife Symposium:

We are planning on doing it Sept. 2007. It is recommended that Elizabeth Majors be the coordinator and Ashley Fine will assist. The motion is to contract in the amount \$1500 for coordination of the event. Approved by consensus. We will have a proposed contract for next month's meeting.

Earth Day:

We are planning on having an Earth Day contract by October.

Greenways:

Various right-of-way properties that have not yet been acquired are on a list put together by the committee. They are working on a promo package to get to those owners.

Friday the 28th at 1:30 is the next meeting at The Grove.

The website is www.PrescottGreenways.net

Granite Gardens:

This is located on the east side of Hwy. 89 off of the T when the pavement ends.

Their web site is www.Granite-Gardens.info

This was the property that Mr. Hazelton had bulldozed and filled in the wetlands.

Susanne McMillan, who lives in the Granite Gardens, could use some assistance in making sure the area is put back to the condition it was previously in. Right now, the Corps of Engineers may not consider the lake to have been in existence before the dam, and therefore not a Water of the United States, and therefore out of their jurisdiction. Jim L. said there is a legal framework for a Scenic Protection Area that could be applied to that area. Jim suggests a committee be set up to work on a Dells Protection area.

People will meet at Suzanne's house on July 30th at 2 pm, to look over the situation in that area. The map is attached.

Gil Shaw wrote that Meredith Marder's lawsuit regarding Open Space will have a hearing Aug. 25th at 1:30.

The annual meeting will be in September. There is a suggestion to meet at The Grove, have a pot luck, and have a couple short presentations. We may have a grill outside.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Howard Mechanic

The Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee met 6/14, 6/28 and 7/12/06.

There appears to be a very positive outlook regarding the possible purchase of the Nature Center from both the City Council and the school board. The School Board has until August 11 to remove the property from the ballot. There has been many letters in support of this sale to Open Space received by the City Council and the School Board.

In Closed Session the committee reviewed the status of properties in process and unanimously voted to have the Chairman approach the Council on some of these properties at their Executive session on Tuesday, July 18.

Lora will also ask Council to support the "Conserving Arizona's Future" Proposition 106 which received over 300,000 signatures. Pat Graham and Maria Baier will address the PV City Council 5:30 Thurs. July 20 and Prescott Town Council 3:00 Tuesday August 8. They will ask both Town Councils to endorse Proposition 106 from the perspective of protecting important State Lands in our area--Glassford Hill, Badger Mountain, and most importantly , 55,000 ac in Big Chino Valley.

Jim Lawrence

Please go to <www.azcommerce.com/CommunityPlanning/guidingprinciples.asp> to participate. Note the August 4 extended deadline.

After much deliberation, the Council has developed a set of proposed Growing Smarter Guiding Principles to help manage Arizona's rapid growth and long term planning for the next 100 years.

Please take some time to review the proposed Guiding Principles and participate in a survey to provide the Growing Smarter Oversight Council with further comments and ideas. The public review period will extend through August 4, 2006.

Please also feel free to email any comments you have regarding the Growing Smarter Guiding Principles. The Growing Smarter Oversight Council sincerely appreciates your time and consideration.

You may have gotten this from other sources, but you might be interested in the fact that Pat Graham (and Maria Baier) will address the PV City Council 5:30 Thurs. July 20 and Prescott Town Council 3:00 Tuesday August 8. They will ask both Town Councils to endorse Proposition 106 from the perspective of protecting important State Lands in our area--Glassford Hill, Badger Mountain, and most important, 55,000 ac in Big Chino Valley. Your voices there would be most helpful.

Dan Campbell

State trust lands at risk

ARIZONA REPUBLIC Opinion Jul. 12, 2006 12:00 AM

Should rooftops cover the foothills of the Superstition Mountains?

Should the trails at Picacho Peak be cut off by development, such as an upscale resort or a shopping center?

Should subdivisions go up next to Kartchner Caverns, disrupting the water flow that produces its delicate formations?

Can there actually be any question about the fate of these wonderful places? No. No. No. And, shockingly, yes.

These, and other outstanding spots throughout Arizona, are at risk because they're on state trust land. And there are virtually no legal tools to safeguard them.

But protection is coming. If voters approve Conserving Arizona's Future, a ballot initiative to reform trust land.

Arizona received trust land from the federal government at statehood as a way to raise money for

public services, mostly education. But the rules governing these 9.2 million acres are antiquated, reducing the profit potential and standing in the way of conservation.

The initiative would:

- Conserve outstanding pieces of state trust land: 694,000 acres with stunning scenery, rich wildlife habitat, wonderful recreational opportunities and irreplaceable archaeological sites. About half would be immediately preserved, while 361,000 acres would be sold for conservation purposes at the appraised value.
- Change the state Constitution to update the management of trust land, increasing the potential profits from sales and leases.

More open space. More dollars for the classroom.

Conserving Arizona's Future is a winner all around.

And it needs more than your vote.

It needs your support through a long, tough campaign.

The opponents, led by the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association and the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona, have been fighting the initiative for months.

Already, they've helped push a weak, competing ballot measure through the Legislature to confuse voters.

Now they're promoting a funhouse-mirror view of Conserving Arizona's Future. The distortions start by portraying conservation as a "giveaway," ignoring the long-term, overall economic value of keeping some areas free of development.

Just think of Camelback Mountain. Its value for tourism, recreation, wildlife and icon for the Valley is far greater than the profits that could have come from development. Even a faraway view of its magnificent, unspoiled silhouette boosts the value of surrounding property.

That's why the Arizona Education Association, a professional organization with a compelling interest in the profitability of trust land, supports Conserving Arizona's Future. The association also recognizes that the State Land Department, which manages trust land, could bring in bigger bucks with the extra flexibility and resources it would gain from the initiative.

The state land commissioner, appointed by the governor, is the current decision-maker on trust land. The initiative would establish a seven-member board of trustees to approve major decisions in land use. Besides experience in real estate or finance, a majority of board members would also be required to have a track record of involvement in public schools. It's just common sense for the major beneficiary of the trust to have a voice.

More open space. More dollars for the classroom.

Conserving Arizona's Future should be a slam-dunk.

Yet the opponents' campaign of distortion and disinformation has already persuaded the Arizona School Boards Association to vote to oppose Conserving Arizona's Future.

More than 300,000 Arizonans signed petitions to put Conserving Arizona's Future on the ballot. That's 12 percent of registered voters.

There's no time for a breather, though. The initiative must have a hard-hitting, well-financed publicity push.

It must have strong support at the grass-roots level, with a well-organized campaign to mobilize individual volunteers and concerned groups.

Whatever you love about Arizona, from outdoor recreation to wildlife to the sheer beauty of the scenery, you have an interest in the success of trust-land reform.

If you care about funding for education and wise planning of future development, you have a stake in the success of Conserving Arizona's Future.

For more information about the initiative, go to www.conservingarizonasfuture.com.

OSA

July, 2006

Treasurer's Report

Unreconciled Balance Forward \$3264.52

No Income To Report

\$3264.52

Expenses

Arizona Heritage Alliance 100.00

State Commissioner 75.00

Unreconciled Balance –general funds available \$3089.52

Badger P Mountain Fund:

YTD Interest 2006 - \$25.80

Balance – \$6949.54

Earth Day Account:

Unreconciled Balance - \$832.69– checking

Balance - \$516.84 – savings

Wildlife Symposium:

Balance - \$520.97