

City of Prescott General Plan Review Committee

May 31, 2023 | 2:00 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gambogi called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ted Gambogi, Chair
Terry Sapio, Vice-Chair
Andre Carman - Absent

Mary Frederickson
Ralph Hess
Jim Huffman - Absent
James McCarver - Absent

Don Michelman
Rod Moyer
Deborah Thalasis
Gary Worob

3. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Prescott welcomes public engagement and residents may comment & address the Committee on matters NOT included on the Agenda during the Call to the Public. Please complete a speaker card and submit it to the City Staff prior to the meeting being convened. Speakers are limited to four (4) minutes, and the Call to the Public will be limited to forty (40) minutes in total. Citizens are limited to addressing the Committee four (4) times regarding the same topic.

Please Note: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H), members of the Committee may NOT discuss items that are not specifically identified on the Agenda and, therefore, interaction will be limited to the following:

- 1) Responding to criticism
- 2) Requests to staff to investigate & report on the matter
- 3) Request that the matter be scheduled on a future agenda

None.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Revised March 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY DON MICHELMAN TO APPROVE REVISED MARCH 29, 2023
MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY ROD MOYER: PASSED (8 - 0).**

- B. Approval of April 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes.
MOTION BY DON MICHELMAN TO APPROVE APRIL 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY ROD MOYER: PASSED (8 - 0).
- C. Discussion & Presentation From the Parks and Recreation Department Regarding Open Space and Recreation in Prescott.

Recreation Services Director Joe Baynes provided a presentation regarding his department and IGAs related to open space in Prescott.

Trails and Park Land Planner Chris Hosking explained the parks and trail's locations throughout the City of Prescott.

Chair Gambogi asked how much open space the City of Prescott has in total or as a percentage compared to similar communities.

Mr. Baynes responded that he is not sure of the percentage, but Prescott will have more open space than Flagstaff if proposed purchases go through in the next fiscal year and Flagstaff is a bigger community than Prescott.

Member Moyer asked if the state trust land between Yavapai Hills and Storm Ranches is included in the IGA.

Mr. Baynes replied yes, that state trust land is included in the IGA.

Vice Chair Sapio asked if there have been any discussions about trying to include the private lands near that area into the regional park.

Mr. Baynes stated there have not been any discussions at his level.

Member Worob asked if water collection quality and trying to keep the silt from flowing into the lakes is a function of Recreation Services or another department like Public Works.

Mr. Baynes responded that it is not, but when working on the Granite Creek Corridor project they did do a bit of in-stream improvements to help with water quality and the keeping of water in the channel as much as possible. The water collection quality is a multi-departmental collaboration.

Councilmember Moore complemented Mr. Baynes on his presentation and said he thinks the City needs a permanent funding mechanism for open space acquisition that can be brought to the voters as an initiative to dedicate a small percentage of sales tax to purchase open space land as it becomes available to purchase.

Member Moyer asked if an open space commission would help the Recreation Services department do their work.

Mr. Baynes commented that citizen involvement is always important and past projects have come from the citizens, for example, the pickle ball courts.

Member Worob asked how the public can assist in diminishing trail rescues as the amount of open space and the population increases.

Mr. Baynes added that public education is a key factor; tell someone where you are going, bring a fully charged cell phone, wear the appropriate footwear and bring plenty of water. Working with the first responders to be as efficient as possible in how to get to people is also important.

Chair Gambogi asked how they count the number of people that visit the popular trails.

Mr. Baynes replied they do have trail counters that count the number of people that use the trails as they walk by.

Member Hess questioned if the current map they are viewing would be the map that will be included in the 2025 General Plan.

Mr. Baynes stated that it will be.

Member Hess commented that there was an open space element in the 2015 General Plan and he anticipates there will be discussion about a recreation element for the 2025 General Plan and asked if there was anything Mr. Baynes would like to add to the 2025 plan that was not in the 2015 plan.

Mr. Baynes stated that there was not a recreation component in the 2015 General Plan, there was a small mention of it, but he would like to see it get as much attention as trails and open space.

Member Michelman asked Mr. Baynes if, in addition to the current map, if he could do another map to show what he would like to see in the 2025 plan.

Mr. Baynes said he could and added that he would like to see a component that includes where they think they are headed in the future years and it would be nice to be able to look back and see if they were able to accomplish those plans.

Member Thalasis asked where the discussion around ecotourism goes because it was not included adequately in the 2015 plan.

Mr. Baynes commented that it should be a goal with the strategies of how to get a bigger market share of the Eco tourism.

Member Worob commented that he supports Councilman Moore's recommendation and there is a good economic return on what is spent on open space and trails and that is a huge factor in making a commitment for the future. We are investing in the future of Prescott and our economic development.

Mr. Hosking pointed out that he started out with four volunteers that became the Over the Hill Gang and that grew to about 70 regular volunteers with about 300 on the mailing list that help build trails. The volunteers have made it possible to build the 120 plus miles of trails.

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya commented that he has seen many departments throughout the City of Prescott consistently do more with less and Recreation Services accomplishes a lot of work with their volunteers, which also shows they are invested in our community.

Member of the public Ellen Bashor asked if there is consideration in the General Plan for increased access to trails, parks and green spaces from neighborhoods throughout the city.

Mr. Baynes said the City is always looking for opportunities to connect the public to the trails, parks and green spaces.

Ms. Bashor asked how we can monitor ways in which engagement with our green spaces translates to economic engagement in the broader community.

Mr. Baynes replied that is geofencing and is regularly budgeted for by tourism. Recreation Services counts cars at lake events and helps by referencing those numbers back to the numbers tourism receives.

Ms. Bashor asked when planning new open space and trails, how Recreation Services or the City go about prioritizing which demographics have features that serve them, such as wheelchair accessibility or play features.

Mr. Baynes stated that they reach out to the schools, students and public to get an idea about what the community would like in their parks. He said he would like to focus on ADA access for the new Granite Dells Gateway Park.

Ms. Bashor asked about the relationship between the General Plan and the Recreation Departments plan and what it might look like to have a professional Recreation department plan.

Mr. Baynes replied that he has budgeted in his five-year plan to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan beginning in the next fiscal year and would like to do a hybrid approach of contracting and citizen input. He is planning to see what the General Plan Review Committee learns is important from the community through their discovery process and also take that also into consideration in developing the Recreation Services Master Plan.

Ms. Bashor asked if the general plan or Recreation Services plan includes any co-development of trails with the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe?

Mr. Baynes commented that the door is always open and if, at some point, they would like to work together to develop connecting trails that would also be his desire to do so.

Member Worob asked how to create an Open Space Subcommittee.

City Attorney Joseph Young responded that they need to work with the Staff Liaison and also work with the Clerk's office to announce and give sufficient

notice.

Ms. Walton also addressed the question by advising they will be talking about options related to Member Worob's question.

Member Hess asked if the City would use its power of eminent domain to complete a trail if a property owner is not willing to work with the City.

Mr. Baynes replied that is a policy decision but the best way is to work with developers to establish the trail easements before a subdivision is built. It is an amenity for the neighborhood, so developers are usually receptive to establishing trails.

D. Continued Round Table Discussion Regarding the General Plan Process and Next Steps.

Ms. Walton addressed the Committee and stated that they are continuing the conversation that started in the last meeting regarding the General Plan Process and next steps. She continued by reviewing the process action tracking spreadsheet of responses, feedback and ideas submitted by the Committee Members as provided in the agenda packet.

Member Thalasis asked if the Charter Review Committee does not adopt the recommendation for major plan amendments being brought before the voters does that preclude them from making the same recommendation to the Council.

Ms. Walton confirmed that they could still make the recommendation to the Council. She added and advised the Committee that they spoke with the Legal department and the Committee can have three separate breakout groups of Committee Members focusing on items of their passion in relation to certain elements during a regular General Plan meeting. The public would be able to participate and listen in on any group they choose and it would be publicized beforehand by being placed on an agenda.

Member Thalasis asked when they would talk about what the breakout groups would be.

Ms. Walton advised that an agenda item for the next meeting will be to discuss a format for break out groups.

Member Michelman requested to talk about the ideas for the breakout groups so the committee can talk more in depth at the next meeting.

Ms. Walton advised the Committee Members to send ideas for breakout groups to Ms. DeWitt via email.

Ms. Walton discussed public outreach feedback ideas from Committee Members.

Member Hess commented that he thinks it would be helpful for the department presentations to also include what the departments liked about the 2015 plan and what they would like to be included in the 2025 General Plan.

Mr. Worley responded that the city departments will have multiple opportunities to have input in the plan with review of their applicable elements they may be fully or partially responsible for and also during the staff reviews of each of the elements.

Member Hess responded he thinks it would be helpful to have that information during the presentations so the Committee can go back to it during public meetings and reinforce what the department presented.

Member Thalasisitis asked for an outline of the elements staff sees in the 2025 Plan that is being discussed with the departments and any ideas of what may be missing so the Committee Members can give feedback and provide ideas and have a general road map.

Ms. Walton replied that is a great comment and will put that on the next meeting agenda.

Member Hess commented that he feels there was a lack of collaboration between staff and Committee Members by staff setting the agendas and controlling the discussion and that was not a productive way to do it. He thinks it would be advantageous every once in a while to have a workshop to check to see whether the communication and working together between staff and the committee was still on track. The reason he suggested a facilitator outside the organizational culture was because he felt it was important to have a facilitator that could engage conversation equally from staff and the Committee Members to have an even more productive conversation.

Member Thalasisitis thanked Ms. Walton and staff for the work they have done and commented that her concern is community outreach and getting off schedule.

Ms. Walton replied that public engagement is also important to the other members of the Committee based on their feedback and they have also shared ideas on how to accomplish that.

Member Thalasisitis commented that she would like public feedback to be brought back to the Committee Members.

Ms. Walton advised the Committee that the issue of a facilitator keeps coming up and the Committee needs to come to a consensus whether to hire a facilitator and at what level.

Chair Gambogi commented that dialogue has improved since the first meeting and instead of paying for a facilitator, if they broaden the definition of facilitator, the Committee may already have what is needed within the current group.

Ms. Walton asked that each Committee Member provide feedback via email to define the scope of what exactly they would like a facilitator to do and if that facilitator is from the outside or in-house, and then staff can compile the responses.

Member Hess clarified that he thinks a workshop type meeting that allows time for more in-depth conversations would be beneficial to the Committee and could take place on an as-needed basis.

Ms. Walton responded that is very feasible and they could gather topics along the way that could then be discussed at a future workshop meeting.

Ms. Walton moved on to the topic of public outreach and asked the members to provide feedback on talking points to use for public outreach, so the Committee Members have a coordinated message.

Chari Gambogi commented that he uses the current one-page General Plan Flyer and hands it out if he is at a meeting with another one of his groups.

Member Worob asked what venues are being looked at for the future and what kind of feedback was received from the recent Home and Garden show.

Ms. DeWitt responded that 275 people have taken the survey so far and about one to two people a day subscribe to the email distribution list.

Chair Gambogi asked who of the Committee Members had filled out the survey.

Ms. Walton commented that there are different modes of public outreach which depends on the venue.

Member Thalasis commented that talking at people and engaging people are two different things. She would like to focus on engaging people, for example, the City Manager candidates open house setting and asking for feedback at the end of the event was engaging.

Member Moyer commented that the current General Plan flyer is not inviting to the reader to encourage them to take the survey, and needs to emphasize that public input is needed.

Ms. Walton advised that we can update the future surveys, each is independent due to the tallying of responses and results, so do not want to change them part way through. We will conduct a new survey in the future to capture the next set of ideas for public input.

Vice-Chair Sapio asked if Committee Members should take the current survey at this time, he feels his role is to be objective and not submit their personal opinions and be an advocate for the community.

Ms. Walton advised that she encourages Committee Members to take the survey and use that as an opportunity to input their personal opinions.

Ms. DeWitt advised she has been sending each department their specific element to review and submit their ideas for the City's General Plan from the standpoint of their specific department.

Chair Gambogi advised they have a very small percentage of feedback from the public and need to have more community feedback since it will be going to voters to vote on.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. DeWitt advised that she is working with each department to update their specific part of the General Plan.

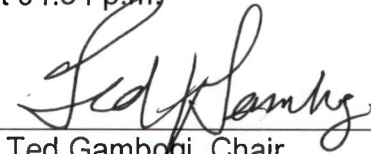
6. NEXT MEETING- JUNE 28, 2023

Ms. DeWitt advised the Airport and Library will be providing presentations at the next meeting. The Committee will also review what other nearby communities have done with their General Plans and ask for feedback from the Committee Members.

Ms. Walton advised the Committee would continue the Round Table discussions regarding the process moving forward, including the topics the Committee Members were asked to provide feedback on.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gambogi adjourned the meeting at 04:34 p.m.



Ted Gambogi, Chair

ATTEST:



Torey Dawson, City Clerk Specialist