



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
AUGUST 27, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Myers called the meeting of Tuesday, August 27, 2019, to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

**2. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Bill Myers, Commissioners Thomas Aiello, Bill Craig, Paul Garvey, Scott Grzybowski, and Darrienne Slater.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Chairman Tom Barberic.

STAFF PRESENT: Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin and Executive Assistant Jamie Salentine.

**3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no comments from the citizens present.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE JUNE 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Grzybowski moved to approve the June 25, 2019, meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Craig; passed unanimously by those present (6-0).

**5. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION ON AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED'S) AND FIRST AID KITS PLACED AT DESIGNATED PARKS AND/OR TRAILHEADS**

Commissioner Aiello reviewed his visit to Scottsdale's Lost Dog trailhead that has an AED located in the women's restroom with a sign on the outside indicating that the AED is inside. He added that the AED is enclosed in a metal cabinet. He pointed out that Fire Chief Dave Ott has expressed that an AED be installed at the Adero Canyon Trailhead (ACT).

Discussion ensued relative to use of an AED and other locations of AED's throughout the Town of Fountain Hills.

Chairman Myers recommended that the Commission hold off on first aid kits due to liability.

Commissioner Garvey emphasized the only vetting criteria applied for the AED is safety and to instead utilize the vetting process particularly when costs are incurred to the Town.

Chairman Myers commented that having an AED is reasonable.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Craig, Commissioner Grzybowski responded that he believes the liability on the AED is covered under the Good Samaritan Law.

Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin pointed out that there are numerous other public facilities with AED's and is not aware of any issues, however, deferred the clarification to Fire Chief Dave Ott.

Additional discussion ensued relating to AED response time, being aware of AED locations, and training on AED through CPR training.

Chairman Myers moved to approve the implementation of one (1) AED at the Adero Canyon Trailhead with appropriate signage and once the trail is officially open to public, seconded by Commissioner Aiello; passed by majority vote by those present (5-1; Commissioner Garvey - Nay).

#### **6. UPDATE ON ORDINANCE 19-13 AMENDMENT TO TOWN CODE, ARTICLE 9-5, SECTION 9-5-3 GENERAL PRESERVE REGULATIONS ADDING 9-5-3(R) PROHIBITING GEOCACHING AND ARTICLE 9-5, SECTION 9-5-5 GOLDEN EAGLE TRAILHEAD REGULATIONS TO ALLOW BICYCLES ON THE PRESERVE**

Executive Assistant Jamie Salentine stated that the ordinance was approved at the August 13, 2019 Council meeting and Town Code will be updated accordingly.

#### **7. UPDATE ON TRAIL COUNTER ACTIVITY**

Chairman Myers stated that two (2) trail counters are not working and will change out the batteries. He noted that Stan Ruden updates the trail counter sheet. **(See Attachment 1)**

#### **8. DISCUSSION ON IDEA QUALIFICATION CRITERIA PROCESS**

Commissioner Garvey explained that this process is an opportunity to move from an idea mode to implementation. He added that the criteria will move the idea off the list either by disqualification or to pursue. He noted that the criteria could vary especially when used within the workgroups objectives. **(See Attachment 2)**

Chairman Myers suggested that the workgroups use the idea qualification criteria process.

#### **9. UPDATE ON JOINT MEETING WITH STAFF AND MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY**

##### a. Volunteer Forms

Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin reported that she and Commissioner Garvey worked on gathering the Conservancy and Town's Volunteer forms for comparison. She noted that she was to reach out to the Town's Risk Manager to discuss the forms, however, during that time the Town's Volunteer Coordinator announced her retirement and this item has moved down in priority.

Ms. Goodwin pointed out that with the retirement, reorganization of the departments structure is taking place and the Volunteer Coordinator position will be moving to the Community Services Department.

Ms. Goodwin emphasized that the change is an ideal situation to bring the new person on board and better vet the relationship between the Conservancy volunteers that are on Town property.

In response to a question posed by Chairman Myers, Ms. Goodwin confirmed that the Town has over 800 volunteers.

In response to a question from Commissioner Garvey, Ms. Goodwin responded that there is no baseline at this time regarding hosts.

Discussion ensued relative to risks as hikers increase over the coming months and forms that cover the participants versus volunteers working on a trail.

b. Inclusion of Town Trails

Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin reviewed her meeting with Town Manager Grady Miller regarding the role expansion of the MMPC to include Town Trails and that at this time he is not supportive of expanding the role. She noted that the focus of MMPC should be on the preserve.

In response to a question from Commissioner Garvey, Ms. Goodwin stated that the Sonoran Conservancy is not under the Town's jurisdiction and no changes on what the Conservancy is currently maintaining. She thanked the Conservancy for everything they do.

Ms. Goodwin clarified that the question posed, was should town trails such as Lake Overlook, Botanical Gardens, and FIT Trails fall under the MMPC and the Town Manager denied at this time.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Garvey, Ms. Goodwin explained that she is working with the Town Attorney on all groups, not specific with MMPC but all groups throughout the Town, such as the Botanical Garden and Sports Leagues, (aka Friends groups) which includes the Conservancy. She noted that the Town is developing a boilerplate agreement to determine a scope on what each group does and how the Town derives from them.

c. Additional Topics Discussed

No additional items.

**10. UPDATE ON EAGLE RIDGE DRIVE**

Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin highlighted on the most recent visit to the construction site and noted that the area has a lot of topography change that includes the individual subdivisions. She noted the next meeting with the Developers and Public Works Director would be mid-September. She added that access at this time to the trailhead is not possible and no temporary trail access or parking will be made.

Discussion ensued relative to opening date, access to trailhead, and progress of project.

**11. UPDATE OF 2019 MMPC OBJECTIVES**

Chairman Meyers requested that the Conservancy Host Program be placed on the next agenda.

## **12. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF 2019 MMPC WORKGROUPS**

### a. Preserve Marketing and Fairs

Chairman Myers asked for a delay in discussion of EBikes and EWheelchairs until Toll Brothers project is complete.

Chairman Myers stated that access to the easy trail is not easy due to the marble on the ground and asked the workgroup to look at alternatives.

### b. Safety

Chairman Myers clarified that Marksmen Security no longer monitor the project area.

### c. Trailheads

Chairman Myers commented that the workgroup may assist in the Adero Canyon Trailhead (ACT) completion when needed.

Commissioner Slater reported that two (2) of the four (4) benches were donated on the ACT and asked the Commission if they wanted to add more benches, keep the trail as natural as possible, and limit the number of benches. She noted there are 42 benches at Fountain Park of which only about 14 benches have been dedicated; however, this would be the time to decide if more benches would be dedicated due to the promotion of the other benches. She added that the cost of the bench with the plaque is \$2,000.

Chairman Myers requested the workgroup to meet and come up with recommendations on the benches.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Garvey, Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin responded that consistency of the type of benches throughout the parks is important. She noted that the new benches are slated, which is easier to replace if damaged, and made of a composite material to withstand the heat better.

Discussion ensued relative to bench placement throughout the preserve and preservation of the preserve.

### d. Value of Preserve

No discussion.

## **13. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF 2020 MEETING DATES**

Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin requested that the September 22, 2020 meeting be moved due to a conflict with a conference.

Discussion ensued relative to a new meeting date in September 2020.

The Commission agreed upon September 8, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Commissioner Grzybowski moved to approve the 2020 MMPC meeting dates with the amendment of the September meeting to be held September 8, 2020, seconded by Chairman Myers; passed unanimously by those present (6-0).

**14. SCHEDULING OF SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin commented that she and Parks Superintendent Kevin Snipes are at a conference for the regular scheduled meeting.

Executive Assistant Jamie Salentine reported that each suggested date for September (9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>) only four (4) commission members are available.

Discussion ensued relating to a new meeting date in September 2019.

Commissioners Grzybowski and Slater pointed out they can be available for September 16.

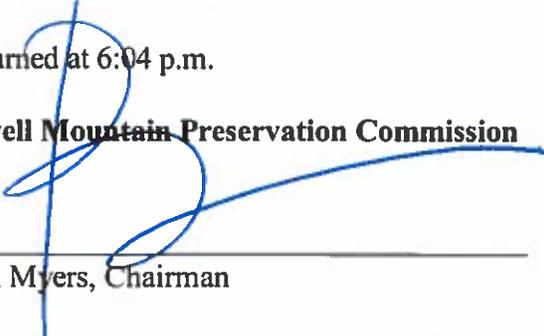
The Commission agreed upon September 16, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Grzybowski moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Myers; passed unanimously by those present (6-0).

The McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

**McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission**

By:   
Bill Myers, Chairman

Reviewed by:   
Rachael Goodwin, Community Services Director

Prepared by:   
Jamie Salentine, Executive Assistant

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission Regular Meeting held on August 27, 2019. I further certify that the meeting as duly called and that a quorum was present.

By:   
Jamie Salentine, Executive Assistant

## MONTHLY TRAIL COUNTER PASSES

	BOTANICAL GARDEN	LAKE OVERLOOK	SONORAN NORTH END	AK/WL TRAILS	ADERO CANYON
<b><u>2017 Total</u></b>		<b>57277</b>	<b>4825</b>	<b>3775</b>	
<b>2018</b>					
Jan		6984	483	240	
Feb	Counter Start	6448	737	1059	
Mar	2491	9948	1581	1461	
Apr	1262	5153	2409	*500	
May	925	3356	898	*300	
Jun	563	1816	1042	*300	
Jul	439	1646	*500	*300	
Aug	*700	1622	*500	*300	
Sep	*1080	1935	*500	*300	
Oct	*1500	3715	*500	*450	
Nov	*1900	5463	655	628	Start 12/7
Dec	2251	5001	487	2101	7363
<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>13111(10M)</b>	<b>53087</b>	<b>10292</b>	<b>8739</b>	<b>7363 (1M)</b>
<b>2019</b>					
Jan	2291	6969	677	*2550	10237
Feb	2467	5505	731	*2250	9010
Mar	3295	8080	1150	*4150	<b>16564</b>
Apr	1452	5488	1581	1879	**6645
May	945	3938	754	1212	666
Jun	449	2471	254	115	183
Jul	402	1736	152	No Reading	No Reading
Aug					
Sep					
Oct					
Nov					
Dec					
<b>2019 Total</b>					

\* Estimate. Counter was not functioning.

\*\* On 4/29/19 Eagle Ridge Road closed

July 27, 2019

## MMPC Idea Qualification Criteria

### Step 1 - VETTING:

1. what's the source? (if the idea comes from the Town, it should receive the highest consideration)
2. what problem does it solve or what need does it satisfy? (this needs to be articulated rationally and objectively)
3. what about funding? (both non-recurring and recurring costs as well as funding sources)
4. what's the LOE to pursue? (it has to be achievable within the means of the MMPC)
5. with the vetting results, put it to a vote of all Commissioners. (this ensures anything moving towards implementation is endorsed by the majority)

### Step 2 - PRIORITIZATION:

- a. are there time constraints in implementing the idea? (budget deadlines, seasonal considerations, resource availability, etc.)
- b. are some more strategically relevant than others?
- c. will funding complexities affect completion?