

Doney Park-Timberline-Fernwood Area Plan Update Committee
Meeting Notes February 13, 2020 5:00-8:00 pm
Fire Station 33, 6050 E Fire House Lane, Flagstaff

I. Welcome and Introductions

Committee members

Jim Clifford
Leo Parent
Harriet Young
Evelyn Wannie
Rob Wilson
Bryan Bates
Bernice Carver
Saylor Caudill
Dave Browning
Liz Baldwin
John Ruggles

Staff

Melissa Shaw
Jess McNeely
Jessica Simmons
Leland Jones

Guest Speakers

Peter Pilles, US Forest Service
Chris Pasterz, Coconino County

Supervisors

Jim Parks, Supervisor District 4

Members of the Public

Warren Hubbard
Glenn Ross
Chris Duersen
Elizabeth Collins
Jim Johnson
Leota Jordan

B. Bates and R. Wilson will take turns and lead every other meeting. Wayne Rutledge has resigned from the committee; someone else will be sought to take his place.

Discussion on communication and how the committee will communicate with DPTF residents and make sure they know what's going on and that they can participate in the process. There is existing structure at the county and social media that can be used.

Bates: Reiterated that it's important to reach out to the community early on. Make sure they know how to get ahold of us and where and when meetings are. There's an existing DPTF facebook page that we can use.

Wilson: The facebook page has 8,000 members, and its administrator said he'd be happy to have our meeting info and minutes posted there. Nextdoor could be used as well. Regular mail might also be a good option.

Shaw: Current and archived agendas are posted on the county planning and zoning webpage. Notes and presentation powerpoints can also be placed there. The County site can also accommodate public comments.

R. Wilson volunteered to be the liaison to the DPTF facebook page administrator.

Clifford and Wilson: Bulletin boards at local businesses, such as at Silver Saddle, fire stations, and the school can also be used.

Visitors, guest speakers, and members of the public introduced themselves.

II. Review Meeting Notes from January 23, 2020

The meeting notes from the previous meeting were reviewed; no one had any comments.

III. Presentation: Archaeology, History, and Culture in DPTF – Peter Pilles, USFS

History of the original people who lived in the area back to 9000 BC.; there's a very high density of archaeological sites in the DPTF planning area (41 per square mile). Listed the major sites within the planning area, the biggest one being Picture Canyon. Early European history: railroads, sheep herding, homesteading, Ben Doney, farming.

Committee questions and work session key presentation points:

- How can the DPTF planning committee help protect archaeological sites in the planning area?
 - Education
 - Support interpretive efforts
 - Archaeological surveys
 - Refer to and discuss the laws that protect sites, e.g. if burial sites are encountered during construction.

IV. Presentation: Wildlife in DPTF – Jessica Simmons, Coconino County/Arizona Game and Fish

Wildlife corridors in the planning area; listed and candidate species; prairie dogs as a keystone species needing and creating a unique habitat beneficial to other animals; benefits of low-impact development; other unique habitat features.

Committee questions and work session key presentation points:

- Which animals move through the DPTF planning area, and when (migration routes)?
- Are there counts on elk, and on road collisions?

- Are there Mexican Grey wolves? How can corridors be protected?
- The committee would like to see the ERT report.
- There is a generally a negative perception about prairie dogs within the community. The presentation offered a different way to view these animals and gave clarity on their benefits to the ecosystem.
- Consider ways to protect wildlife points – signage, preserve/enhance habitat, protect locations of sensitive plans, protect habitat features; protect nests, encourage low-impact development and wildlife-friendly fencing.

V. Presentation: Economic Development in DPTF – Chris Pasterz, Coconino County

Three key areas: housing, industry, and neighboring areas. Housing in Flagstaff is expensive, and wages aren't enough for the average worker to afford the average home in Flag. Building up new industry for growth, for example logging to thin the forest. The higher minimum wage could move businesses away from Flagstaff. Deciding what types of business and activities to encourage or discourage in DPTF, for example tourism. Think about what the committee wants this area to look like for the next generation.

Committee questions and work session key presentation points:

- Consider the types of new or additional business opportunities that the community wants to attract to the DPTF planning area, such as:
 - Promoting tourism while balancing challenges of increased traffic.
 - Offering new and additional housing options that are consistent with wages of new industry anticipated with the developing 4FRI (Four Forest Restoration Initiative) project. This project may bring an influx of employees to the region and these new residents will be in need of housing.
 - What challenges other than traffic do these opportunities bring?
 - Does the community wish to promote and make space for new economic opportunities?

VI. Presentation: Land Use Planning – M. Shaw and J. McNeely

What is planning? Deciding what goes where, for example transportation and utilities. Brief history of planning in the US – Arizona – Coconino County – municipalities – neighborhoods/areas. State requires counties to write comprehensive plans and update them every 10 years. Regional plan and area plans are amendments to the County Comprehensive plan. Components of an area plan. Area plans don't change existing entitlements and are not regulatory. The Zoning Ordinance ties to the Comprehensive plan and other plans. Zoning is the regulatory part of what Community Development does. How a Zoning Ordinance is used.

Committee questions and work session key presentation points:

Carver: The 2001 DPTF plan area said that zoning enforcement should be stepped up.

McNeely: That had no effect because it's unenforceable.

VII. Work Session

Wilson: A top-down approach to writing this plan will be good; information and education presented during meetings will help inform how we make decisions regarding what will go into the plan.

The main points from the four presentations were reviewed.

The next meeting will be **March 12 at Station 32 on Koch Field Rd.**

Topics will include:

- Trails, parks, recreation
- Transportation
- Land use planning
- Horseman's Lodge zoning considerations (we will try and get the new owners to come to the April meeting)

Assignments for the next month:

- Keep reading the 2001 plan
- Read the Bellemont area plan
- Look at the list of speakers for the next meeting and think of who else we should hear from so we're informed

Shaw: Let these ideas sink in and start crafting a vision. Then we'll start community outreach in earnest.

VIII. Public Comment

C. Durson: Should Doney Park water be involved? We should talk about water and whether there is enough in DPTF for further development.

Answer: They're invited to the April meeting.

IX. Committee Final Thoughts

Carver: Zoning enforcement in DPTF is still a concern.

Wilson: We should make a list of things that are out of our control but that we'd like to make the supervisors aware of, such as enforcement.

Clifford: Let's use the 2001 DPTF plan as a template and just update it with some reorganization; this should be our baseline.