



**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

**JOINT CITY OF FLAGSTAFF/COCONINO COUNTY MEETING**

**Monday, October 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m.**

**Flagstaff City Council Chambers, 211 West Aspen Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor Becky Daggett called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Flagstaff City Councilmembers Mayor Becky Daggett, Deborah Harris, Miranda Sweet, Khara House, Board of Supervisors Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Patrice Horstman and Judy Begay were present in-person, and Flagstaff City Council Vice Mayor Austin Aslan was present virtually, and Supervisor Lena Fowler joined the meeting virtually at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**Absent:** Supervisor Matt Ryan, Councilmember Lori Matthews, Councilmember Jim McCarthy

**3. Pledge of Allegiance, Mission Statement, and Land Acknowledgement**

Councilmember house read the City of Flagstaff's Mission Statement. Councilmember Deborah Harris read the City of Flagstaff's Land Acknowledgement statement. They did the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public Participation**

Mayor Daggett stated that there is no one wanting to provide public comment at this time.

**5. Update on the Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045 Process**

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by City of Flagstaff Comprehensive Planning Manager Sarah Dechter and Coconino County Long Range Planner Melissa Shaw. They introduced themselves. The title of the PowerPoint Presentation was *Flagstaff Regional Plan Update*.

Planner Melissa Shaw spoke about the process for updating the plan and showed a graphic of phases included in updating the plan. She explained that they are entering the end of Phase II in the process. She stated that they started with visioning and have had many workshops and open

houses for the public and are starting to launch into Phase III with plan creation. She explained that the public participation plan has guided them in the process and within each phase, making adjustments as needed. Planner Shaw provided a summary of the guiding process principles learned from the existing plan.

Planner Sarah Dechter spoke about scenario choosing, the planning workshops they have already had, growth idea, growth principle and how they developed scenario themes and scenario development. She explained that they have been deep in the analysis process and that within four weeks they hope to provide the first draft to the public of the narrative, map and set of performance metrics that have the different scenarios developed. Planner Dechter spoke about different scenarios (scenarios A, B, C, D) and the differences between them and the outcomes of the scenarios and what that means for the Flagstaff area.

Planner Sarah Dechter spoke about community engagement that will occur with scenario choosing, the meetings of the Technical Advisory Group and Regional plan Committee, planned public open houses and survey that will be available in November.

Mayor Dagget asked Planner Dechter about when the planning committee meets and if it is a regularly set day. Planner Dechter answered that there is not a set day as with a committee so large it is difficult to have a set day, so they are scheduling according to what works best for the majority. She stated that staff will be posting online when the meeting dates are, and that they are open to the public to attend and are also in virtual format as well as in-person.

Sarah went over the accomplishments of the committee and staff to date, including workshops for Spanish speaking citizens, youth engagement, open house, and the community-based organizations that they are outreaching to. She explained that it has provided opportunity to for relationships and will be offering an ambassador orientation for those excited about the process. Planner Dechter thanked the committee members of the Technical Advisory Group and the Regional Plan Committee. She spoke briefly how they became members.

Planner Melissa Shaw spoke about key milestones of the process, including committee set up and procedures, review of scenario choosing, recommendation of a preferred scenario, land use framework and growth illustration, chapter reviews, endorsing a draft plan for public review and incorporating public comments. She went over the Committee schedule and how they are convening November 2023 to August 2024, there will be a 60-day public review, they will reconvene in January/February 2025. She also went over the adoption schedule for the Plan with a joint retreat of the City Council and Board of Supervisors to go over the Plan, when it will go through citizen review session (April 2025), public hearings (May to June 2025), ballot initiative (November 2025), and County adoption of Regional Plan (November to January 2026).

Supervisor Lena Fowler joined the meeting virtually at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Chair Jeronimo Vasquez asked about the ballot initiative. Planner Shaw explained that is a requirement by statute and Planner Dechter stated that cities with population over 50,000 have to have the general plan to the ballot and then it goes for the yes or no vote. Planner Dechter explained this has often been done out of sequence of the general election. Chair Jeronimo

Vasquez asked if the city ballot initiative fails, if it will still go to the County to approve or if it starts over. Planner Dechter explained that Flagstaff is the only City that does a joint City County Plan. She explained that when other cities had a no vote, they continued to have the plan and then started all over again. She explained that if there is a no vote then they would have to have a joint meeting and see what to do. She also stated that Flagstaff has historically been able to get the plan approved because they do not rush the process and provide outreach.

Flagstaff City Attorney Sterling stated that the terms ballot initiative and ballot measure get interchanged and that he wants to make sure it is understood that Council does not refer ballot initiatives and that they refer ballot questions and measures while the voters drive ballot initiatives.

Councilmember Khara House wanted clarification on the citizens review session and wanted to know more about what the requirement is and if there is a need for multiple retreats of the City Council and Board. Planner Dechter that it is typical for "a session" in Title 11 statute, the requirement is that the planning and zoning commission hold a review session.

Supervisor Patrice Horstman expressed her appreciation for the partnership the city and county have and the collaboration. She stated that the city gets a general plan and then the County Board will amend it into the County Comprehensive Plan, which provides a roadmap to residents. She thanked the staff.

Planner Melissa Shaw spoke about the schedule of the Comprehensive Plan and that it is currently in Phase I and how they will be coordinating with City and County staff as there will be an overlap in adoption timing with the Regional Plan. She stated that there is potential for confusion about the two plans so they will make sure there are not conflicting meetings.

Supervisor Judy Begay thanked the staff and regional plan committee in developing this and she stressed the importance of working together.

#### **6. Informational Items To/From Chairman, Supervisors and County Manager, Mayor, Council and City Manager**

Councilmembers Khara House and Miranda Sweet stated that they have no information to provide.

Supervisor Judy Begay stated there are many things going on with meetings and plans and that she is thankful because the county is proactive in a lot of areas. She also stated the Envision 2045 Plan is one of the plans being worked on and it means a lot to the citizens.

Councilmember Deborah Harris spoke about Northern Arizona University's Black Student Union making plans to sponsor and coordinate a Martin Luther King Program event on campus. She explained that there is a new group of students who are starting to plan and want to make it a big event for 2024 and will be looking for support from the County Board and Flagstaff City Council. She encouraged her colleagues to support the event and support the students.

Supervisor Patrice Horstman explained that the Arizona Governor has appointed a groundwater advisory council for giving advice on redrafting amendments of the 1980 groundwater law to

allow counties to have management and control over local groundwater. She stated that some people decided they do not want to be part of it, which is unfortunate. She stated the Governor will be having something in December related to this issue. Supervisor Horstman also explained that there is a local groundwater networking lunch on October 25 in Flagstaff and provided the time and place and encouraged others to attend as it is hosted by the Southwest Audubon Society.

Vice Mayor Austin Aslan thanked the committee for working on the Regional Plan, and that he looks forward to many joint conversations with the County Board in the future.

Supervisor Lena Fowler explained that she is heading to a broadband meeting so was not able to be there in person. She stated that the Western Navajo Fair is coming up in Tuba City this weekend, and that the Balloon Regatta event in Page is coming up the first weekend in November.

Chair Jeronimo Vasquez announced that Supervisor Matt Ryan is retiring at the end of December and that he wanted to recognize Supervisor Ryan for his service. He explained that the County Board will be going through the process to fill the vacancy that will occur with Supervisor Ryan's departure. He also explained that he will be attending the Rural Transportation Advisory Council retreat in Yuma and will be advocating to the state legislature about the Lonetree Road Corridor Project and requesting additional funding to help that project. He also spoke about an Indigenous Peoples' Day event that is happening this weekend as well as the Celebraciones De La Gente event this weekend. He stated that the County is helping with sponsorship of these events and is excited for these cultural events in the community. Lastly, he stated that he appreciates the update from staff on the Regional Plan and that he looks forward to seeing the process continue.

Mayor Becky Dagget thanked staff at the City and County for how well they work together and for the outreach done and stated that she is grateful for the strong relationship of the Council and Board and appreciates that staff also has strong relationships.

County Manager Steve Peru stated that he has no information to provide. Flagstaff City Manager Greg Clifton stated he has no information to provide.

## **7. Public Participation**

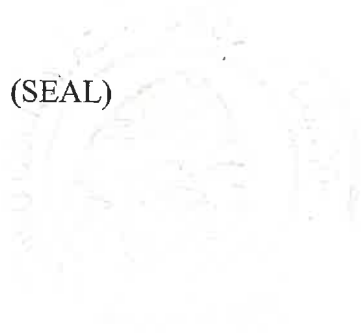
There were no comments provided by the public.

## **8. Adjournment**

City of Flagstaff Mayor Becky Dagget adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

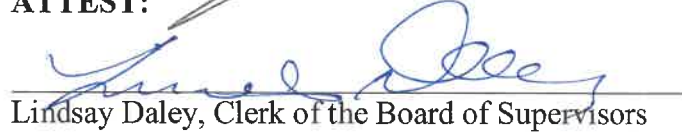
**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

(SEAL)



  
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Jeronimo Vasquez, Chair

**ATTEST:**

  
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Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

