

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORK-STUDY MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY**

Friday, May 12, 2017 @ 4:00 P.M.

**Star Valley Town Hall
3675 E. Highway 260, Star Valley, Arizona**

- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member Coon; Council Member Hartwell; Council Member Davis; Council Member Stephenson.

Assistant Town Manager Chancy Nutt; Operations Superintendent Robert Rippy; and Town Clerk Edie Chapin were also present.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Discussion regarding the development of trails and trail heads in Star Valley and participating with other agencies to do so.

Assistant Town Manager Nutt stated this meeting is open for discussion and asked Operations Superintendent Rippy to go over the information provided to Council. Mr. Rippy explained that the pink highlighted areas on the Payson Area Trail System (PATS) map are the three locations for the trail heads in Star Valley that are to be tied into the PATS system, and that according to the Forest Service they are unsanctioned trail heads. Council Member Davis stated that once sanctioned, the Forest Service will get federal funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the trail system. Mr. Rippy pointed out that part of the reason they are not sanctioned is due to lack of the environmental review study, and one of the hurdles is to get this process done. Council Member Hartwell questioned if the Town will have to pay for the environmental study. Council Member Davis answered he thinks the Town will have to pay for it in order to get it completed, and reported that Chris Welker, with the Forest Service, felt confident about the grant cycle this year and is pushing to get the grants to fund these reviews. The Forest Service is asking for the individual Towns to come together and help support this so that they can acquire a larger amount in funding, reported Council Member Davis.

Operations Superintendent Rippy stated the Town owns the property at the Highline trail head, and that Mayfield Canyon and Moonlight trail heads would be on Forest Service property. Mr. Rippy explained that the pink highlighted area on the Gila County Assessor's map and the Google Earth image will give everyone an idea of where the Mayfield Canyon trail head will be located. A very distinguishable fence line can be seen on the Google Earth image, which is the separation of Forest Service property and private property, and that once you pass the cattle guard you are on Forest Service property. Council Member Coon asked if that would be the location of the trail head. Mr. Rippy answered he believes it would be located somewhere in the big open area, and that he and Chris Welker will be getting together at a later date regarding the exact location. Council Member Davis wondered if the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") study would be affected by any ruins found

out there, and believes that if any ruins are found, they would just need to be encased and preserved. Council Member Coon stated there are Native American ruins in that area that may be located off the trail, and that it may be a problem with motorized vehicles. Mr. Rippy stated he knows there is a bunker in the area that he believes was used for seismic testing.

Operations Superintendent Rippy explained that the pink highlighted area on the next Google Earth image shows the location of the Moonlight trail head - a small turn out just past the cattle guard. Council Member Coon asked who owns the parking area property. Mr. Rippy answered it is Forest Service property. Council Member Coon stated this trail will eventually tie into the Monument Trail, and questioned if it is on any private property. Mr. Rippy stated he believes it skirts private property. Council Member Stephenson stated that the cattle guard is the boundary into the Forest Service property. Council Member Davis asked if the peak area is the Town's responsibility for this trail head. Mr. Rippy answered the peak area is what he is considering would be the Moonlight trail head - it is what is being used already. Council Member Hartwell asked if the Town would be responsible for the maintenance. Mr. Rippy stated he believes the Town would be maintaining all three trail heads. Council Member Stephenson stated the trails and trail heads are two distinct things. Council Member Davis stated he too believes the Town will have to maintain the trail heads.

Council Member Hartwell asked if there is any idea of the cost involved. Council Member Davis pointed out there is \$25,000.00 budgeted for trail head development this year, and an amount budgeted for maintenance after that. Assistant Town Manger Nutt stated trail heads will fall into something the Town can directly manage, and the Town would be maintaining the trail head in the Knolls regardless, because it is Town property. She does not see them as being expensive upkeep. Council Member Davis questioned enlarging the trail head at Moonlight for more parking. Ms. Nutt explained the Town would have to be careful, as the trail head is on a creek bed, and any work done would affect the flood plain. Council Member Coon commented the trail head would be just a sign. Ms. Nutt responded that just a sign is okay, as it is a residential area and we may not want it to be high traffic. Council Member Stephenson stated that half a dozen vehicles can currently park there. Council Member Davis asked about the possibility of parallel parking. Council Member Coon answered the parking area that is already there will be enough. Ms. Nutt pointed out that the Town does not want to congest a residential area, nor do we want the citizens to be adversely affected – and that the present size is well managed.

Operations Superintendent Rippy explained that the pink highlighted area on the last Gila County Assessor's map shows the location of the Highline trail head. The well site is Town property and parking spaces will be located toward the well building. Mr. Rippy reported that the property on the east side is currently for sale, and he believes that part of the cul-de-sac will go with the sale of that property. Council Member Coon questioned how much of the cul-de-sac is Town property. Mr. Rippy reported he does not know, as it has not been surveyed yet. He believes this will be the easiest trail head to complete. Council Member Davis questioned if the Town will need to have Forest Service permission to start work on the Highline trail head. Mr. Rippy stated he does not believe we need their permission, but that the Town will work with the Forest Service as far as development and signage. Council Member Davis recommended that the Town proceed with this and start getting quotes to level out the area, and then asked how many vehicles it would accommodate. Mr. Rippy

answered it will accommodate between 8 and 12 vehicles, and that he sees mainly horse trailers and horses in that area.

Council Member Coon stated he believes there will be plenty of parking there, and that parking at most trail heads is not that big. Council Member Davis asked if a bid can be requested on the Highline trail head. Assistant Town Manager Nutt answered that she will talk with Town Manager Grier when he returns, and inform him that Council is interested in the Town moving forward with the Highline trail head. She requested Council keep in mind that we are proposing to put a trail head on a non-sanctioned trail. Council Member Stephenson stated he believes it would be a good idea to move forward - it would show that the Town is trying to help the Forest Service, and it may possibly help in speeding up the process. Ms. Nutt pointed out that the entire PATS is a non-sanctioned trail system. Council Member Davis asked if the grants the Forest Service is applying for would require a match or percentage from the Town. Operations Superintendent Rippy explained that if the Town wants to be involved in the Forest Service grant process, it would take a long time for completion of our projects. If the Town puts up the money for the NEPA process, our projects would be completed before the Forest Service gets their paperwork done. Ms. Nutt explained that the Forest Service does not employ sufficient staff to perform the NEPA study, and that if the Town wants our projects to move forward, we would need to fund the NEPA study.

Council Member Coon stated proper signage, along with etiquette rules will have to be posted. Operations Superintendent Rippy stated the Forest Service would direct the Town as to proper signage. Council Member Stephenson stated his recommendation to Council is to move forward with the Highline trail head, and work with the Forest Service on the other two trailheads in order to complete the NEPA process.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Coon stated the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Ronnie O. McDaniel, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Work-Study Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley held on this day, the 12th day of May, 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2017.

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk