

## Open Space Alliance Council Meeting

at 119 Grove Ave. Prescott, Arizona  
November 19, 2008  
[www.yavapaiosa.org](http://www.yavapaiosa.org)

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Judy Greenberg. Present: Jim Lawrence, Howard Mechanic, Ed Parry, Howard Mechanic, Amylee Thornhill, Tom Slaback, Tammy Linn, and Ashley Fine

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report is BELOW.

Correspondence: None

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee:

Jim Lawrence reported that the Open Space Master Plan will be submitted to the Park Committee, before action by City Council. This was a major report and done at little cost to the city because it was done by volunteers.

In the past there was a problem finding willing sellers. Now, there are many willing sellers, partially because of the real estate and economic downturn. Since many of these sellers are willing to take extended payments, the city may still be able to purchase more properties than may be indicated if we looked just at available funds.

The city is making progress on the PAD/Open Space Code proposal. This would facilitate better subdivisions while allocating 50% of the properties' property for open space. The county Sustainability Committee is continuing meetings.

Earth Day:

April 18<sup>th</sup> is Earth Day. The creeks cleanup will be in the morning. We will have the event in the afternoon – preferably at the Courthouse Plaza, but otherwise at Granite Creek Park. Ashley will send the job description for the Earth Day coordinator to Judy, and Judy will get the notice to Prescott College, Yavapai College, and the Courier.

Motion was approved and passed unanimously:

OSA requests Prescott Creeks work with us in the future to mutually agree on the date of Earth Day events following the 2009 event.

Greenways:

Tammy Linn reported that workgroups are working every weekend on the Greenways Trail System. She will see if the schedule for completion can be moved up so an official opening can be on Earth Day.

Jim Boyd is checking into setting up a “Volunteer Ranger” program to help on city Open Space and trails.

National Forest Visioning:

Tom S. gave a report:

The group agreed to consolidate efforts on the trails and cleanup efforts.

The Hyde Mountain Vista Group will be renamed to and their by-laws tweaked so that the existing group, which is a 501(c)3, will be taken over by the PNF Visioning group.

There is a possible \$40,000 matching grant available from the National Forest Foundation. The group will have until April to come up with the \$40,000 local donations and then there will be funds to get a full-time paid person to coordinate efforts, and also money for educational efforts.

New Business:

Charlene brought up the fact that we need to renew our AZWildlifeSymposium domain. Unanimously, we agreed to renew.

Iron King Mine Superfund site

Tom P. and Jim L. met with EPA personnel regarding the cleanup.

The EPA agreed to make a presentation to OSA when available – probably in the spring.

Sales Tax Extension:

Next Tuesday there will be a City Council workshop regarding the Roads/Open Space.

Jim L. stated that there is a good chance that the State Trust Land Initiative will be put on the ballot by the legislature. There is a lot of interest to split the local vote into two issues – roads and open space.

Tom S. reported on the CYMPO and ADOT meeting. There are plans to put freeways in areas that bisect wildlife areas and open space areas.

Minutes submitted by Howard Mechanic

## OSA Treasurer’s Report

Prepared by: Ashley Fine

19 October, 2008

<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>2255.88</b>
Income	
Membership	10.00
Contribution	10.00
<hr/>	
	2265.88

Expenses

No expenses this month

---

**Current Balance (reconciled)**

**2265.88**

**Other Accounts:**

**Badger P Mountain**

Income- No activity  
Expenses- No activity  
Balance- 7165.67

**Wildlife Symposium**

Income- No activity  
Expenses- No activity  
Balance- 707.21

**Earth Day**

Income- No activity  
Expenses- No activity  
Balance- 801.57

Article submitted by Jim Lawrence:

November 19, 2008 / Editorial / [NYTimes](#)

## **A Resounding Vote for Open Space**

Almost unnoticed in the election results was some very good news for the environment — and for land preservation in particular. Despite the financial crisis, voters made it clear that they want to increase spending on preserving open land, even at the cost of higher taxes.

Across the nation, voters approved \$7.3 billion in new spending for parks and open-space preservation. Sixty-two of the 87 referendums to acquire or otherwise protect open space were approved. And the support came in rural, Republican areas, as well as in those that lean toward the Democrats.

California and Florida said yes to more than \$700 million in new spending on open space. In Minnesota, voters increased the sales tax by three-eighths of a cent to generate \$5.5 billion over the next 25 years for land preservation and environmental protection. It was the largest open-space state referendum in the nation's history.

Despite especially tough economic times, New Jersey voters showed that they feel strongly about acquiring open space before it is all eaten up by strip malls and McMansions. The state is reeling from high property taxes, unemployment and a budget deficit. But voters still approved 14 of 22 county and municipal referendums to increase

or extend property taxes dedicated to acquiring or preserving open space.

These votes are an explicit rebuke to President Bush, who failed miserably to honor his 2000 campaign promise to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the government's main vehicle for buying open space. They should give Congress a strong push to approve a public lands measure that, among other things, would grant permanent wilderness protection to two million acres of public land.

We had hoped that Congress would approve the legislation in the current lame-duck session. On Monday, the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, withdrew it from the calendar after Senator Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican, threatened to filibuster the bill. Mr. Coburn called it a waste of money and an unnecessary expansion of federal control over public lands.

Mr. Reid said the Senate needed to focus on the economic crisis, but he promised to bring the measure up for immediate action early next year. Old business tends to get lost in the early days of a new Congress, especially when there is a new administration. Come January, we will remind Mr. Reid of his promise and of the voters' clear commitment to preserving open spaces.