

COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Goat Camp Ruin Agreement

MEETING DATE: 11-16-2006

CSP ITEM: Yes No KRA# 6-1

ITEM NO.:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

SUBMITTED BY: Mary McMullen *MM*

AMOUNT BUDGETED: N/A

SUBMITTAL TO AGENDA
APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: Minimal to none

CONT. FUNDING REQUIRED: None

AB

EXHIBITS (If Applicable, To Be Attached): See attached letters of support from Harry Swanson, Dean of Gila Community College. The Archaeological Society has indicated their support and a letter will be forthcoming.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to direct staff to prepare the necessary agreement with the Rim Country Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society to become authorized stewards of the Goat Camp Ruin site, with the goal of protecting and developing this site as an archaeological park, as part of the Trails Master Plan.

SUMMARY OF THE BASIS FOR RECOMMENDED MOTION: Goat Camp Ruin is a 10-acre parcel of land that was sold to the Town of Payson as part of a Federal Land Exchange with the US Forest Service on April 18 1995. This land exchange occurred under a Memo of Agreement with the Forest Service and the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that Goat Camp Ruin would be secured and developed to provide public archaeological education and interpretation. In order to have an implementation plan, the Town commissioned a consultant to complete a Master Development Plan for Goat Camp Ruin Archaeological Park in 1995. Goat Camp Ruin was simultaneously included in the Trails Master Plan as an Existing Trail Access point.

Since this time, protection and development of Goat Camp Ruin has not yet occurred on all involved fronts. The Forest Service owns land on the north side of the Ruins and has contributed to this project by building a trail through the west side of the site to encourage those passing through to avoid disturbing the ruins. They have also mended fencing on the north side that is repeatedly cut by offenders eager for access to the area. Unfortunately, motorized vehicles are able to access the site on both north and south sides and do not always stay on the established trail, causing damage to the area and the ruins. Protection of the site is essential to preserve what archaeological remnants are left. Feasible ways to permanently secure the site for access by foot or by horse have been discussed in the past, but measures have not been taken by all involved parties to make this happen.

The Rim Country Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (RCCAAS) met with the Parks and Recreation staff in August of 2006 with a proposal to become "stewards" of Goat Camp Ruin. By doing so, they offered to conduct routine maintenance, monitor and protect the site, and research grants as a collaborative effort between RCCAAS and the Town that will enable costs associated with protection/securing of Goat Camp Ruin to be covered with minimal to no cost to the Town of Payson.

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Goat Camp Ruin is a part of the Trails Master Plan. Council unanimously voted to approve the implementation of the Trails Master Plan, named the Community Trails Network proposal, at the November 2, 2006 meeting. It makes perfect sense to begin implementation with Goat Camp Ruin with the offered services of the RCCAAS.

PROS:

- This can be a first step towards implementation of the Trail Master Plan
- Will protect and secure the Ruins for future generations
- Will provide a new park site for Payson at little or no cost to the Town
- Will open doors for additional grant opportunities by collaborating with the RCCAAS
- Will provide a unique educational and research opportunity for Payson, including support and potential collaboration with Gila Community College (see letter of support from Harry Swanson, Payson Campus Dean)
- Will honor the Memorandum of Agreement made between the Town of Payson, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer and the US Forest Service

CONS:

- Will affect motorized vehicle access to this site if implemented

PUBLIC INPUT (if any):

- Penny Minturn – Archaeology Advisor, RCCAAS
- Bob Breen – Membership Chairman, RCCAAS

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS (if any) (give dates and attach minutes):

The Parks and Recreation Board reviewed the Goat Camp Ruin agreement with the RCCAAS at its October 18, 2006 meeting and made a motion to petition the Town Council to protect and develop the site. The motion was passed unanimously.



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Town Council
Town of Payson
303 N. Beeline Hwy.
Payson, AZ 85541

Dear Town of Payson Council:

Please accept this letter as an expression of our support of the proposal to include the Goat Camp archaeological site in Parks and Recreation planning for trails, parks, and other public use and education focuses. The Payson Campus of Gila Community College, which continues to offer a significant array of anthropology/archaeology courses and programs, agrees that an active partnership between the Town of Payson; the Rim Country Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (RCCAAS); and the Tonto National Forest, US Forest Service (USFS) will serve the best interests of our community plan and our mutual obligation to protect an endangered Rim Country cultural site.

Several of our employees and students are members of the RCCAAS. Two of our anthropology instructors are state-approved advisors to the RCCAAS, and one of them is a regular participant with USFS and other controlling agencies related to Arizona archaeological projects. Also, a special relationship exists between these RCCAAS members and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Arizona State Parks. Consequently, it is anticipated that our college may be a significant provider of professional expertise, student project research, and coordination assistance, as the plans to develop this important site proceed.

I would be honored to provide you with any additional assistance or information you require related to this topic.

Sincerely,



Harry Swanson, Ph.D.
Payson Campus Dean

cc: Mary McMullen; Acting Director, Parks and Recreation
Larry Nemeth; President, RCCAAS
Margo Bracamonte; Senior Dean, GCCC