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Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 9:21 AM

Good morning everyone,

Reminder: for all who would like to receive this periodic update, the signup link is at <http://lowell.edu/local-updates>.

Section 17

My April 5 tour of campus and the section with Mayor Deasy was postponed and is being rescheduled.

Our consultant Bob Holmes tells me the Senate committees will not be ready for any bills until probably next month. We are working on a revised bill regarding the section but have not finished the language, which we want to make explicit that a master plan, of necessity done with public participation and subject to approval by P&Z and Council, will be required for any future development. Due to the various delays, we have deferred a discussion with Council originally scheduled for April 13.

Astronomy Discovery Center

No change since the last update.

Section 17 Trails

On Monday the 5th, I spoke by Zoom with Robert Wallace of the city's Open Space Program, Parks & Rec director Rebecca Sayers, and Multimodal Planner Martin Ince. We agreed that Lowell and the Open Space Program will collaborate to ensure that trails on Section 17 integrate well with the developing plan for the trails on the City's 2200 acres of open space to Lowell's north and west.

I will be contacting next week the several individuals who expressed interest in evaluating the current trails on Section 17 (thank you for your time!). We will stay in touch with the open space program as we consider which trails on the section are most favorable for preservation and/or upgrading, and which of the many and proliferating unauthorized trails can be removed and remedied. We must also ensure that any existing or new trails or FUTS segments work well with the location of our future Astronomy Discovery Center and its parking lot. We need to think about all this carefully, as trail types and locations will be part of any future master plan for the section.

Lowell Public Program Operations

We remain in Phase 2A of our operations, with limited guided tours throughout the day. It has been great to see some guests again enjoying the sights on campus. I hope that the current and (so far) slow rise in Covid cases in AZ and in Coconino County remains slow and minimal and that we'll be able to move to our phase 2B soon.

We require masks throughout all of our tours, and we appreciate the many Flag organizations and businesses who also continue to use similar measures. It's critical to minimize the virus's ability to find dangerous corners of the mutation space while we get shots into arms and increase the immunity level among the population. There's light at the end of the tunnel!

Jeff Hall
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