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Good morning everyone -

Section 17

At its meeting on Tuesday, November 9, City Council voted 5-2 against a letter of support for Lowell Observatory's Section 17 bill. We do not want to introduce legislation affecting Flagstaff that is at odds with the opinion of our Council, so we feel it is best to withdraw the bill and continue to manage Section 17 under the original language of the 1910 Act. We appreciate the extensive time and consideration that Council devoted to this matter.

Because the 1910 Act will continue to restrict use of Section 17 to "observatory purposes," there is now no cause to create a public process to determine which non-observatory possibilities might grace the section in the future. Nevertheless, we thank those Flagstaff residents who have offered to be part of such a process, as well as those who have met with us before now to dream of possibilities on Section 17.

We will continue to be good neighbors and welcome our local runners, hikers, bikers, and dog-walkers to come up to Mars Hill to enjoy the informal trails of Section 17. As we have with our Astronomy Discovery Center, which is now under construction, we look forward to engaging with City Council and staff whenever our next idea for an observatory purpose on Section 17 begins to take shape.

Best regards,

Jeff