City of Benson
City Council Communication

Regular Meeting **January 11, 2016**

To: Mayor and Council Agenda Item # 2

From: William Stephens, City Manager

Subject:

Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 1-2016 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, to support efforts to have Congress designate the Chiricahua National Monument as a National Park

Discussion:

The proposal to rename Chiricahua National Monument as Chiricahua National Park was first discussed at a tourism partners meeting in Sierra Vista in early 2015. This action could potentially be a boost to tourism across Southeastern Arizona, and it could be done with minimal impact to the budget. There are no boundary, staffing, or land use-changes with this proposal. This National Park Service site really is a geologic wonder of the world, and it deserves national park status. To date, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, the City of Sierra Vista, and a number of chambers, commissions and councils have all backed this proposal unanimously.

The Campaign for Chiricahua National Park is not the first to take action because many other national monuments have been changed to national parks such as Saguaro, Grand Tetons, and Grand Canyon. Monuments can be declared by any US President, but national parks require approval of Congress. Also, Congresswoman McSally supports this action and is helping with the campaign.

Bob Gent is here to give a short presentation on this project and answer questions.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval of Resolution 1-2016

RESOLUTION 1-2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO HAVE CONGRESS DESIGNATE THE CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT AS A NATIONAL PARK

WHEREAS, a national park within Cochise County would benefit the local economy because national parks draw many visitors from around the country and the world; and

WHEREAS, statistics show during 2013, the National Park Service recorded more than sixty-three million visitors to National Monuments; and

WHEREAS, recreational tourism plays a large role in helping to sustain the economies of communities; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated group has begun the official process of seeking National Park designation for the Chiricahua National Monument.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, support reasonable efforts to have Congress designate the Chiricahua National Monument as a National Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is directed to authorize City Agents and Officers to take steps reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 11th day of January, 2016.

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TONEY D. KING, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

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VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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MESCH, CLARK AND ROTHSCHILD, P.C.
By Gary J. Cohen
City's Attorney