

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes
Monday October 6, 2014
Community Chambers Conference Room 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rachel Aptekar, Helena Chung, Marc Hoshovsky, Greg House, Patrick Huber, Roberta Millstein

Commissioners Absent: David Miller, Colleen Rossier

Commission Liaisons: Rec and Park, Planning

Assigned Staff: Mitch Sears

Council Liaison: Lucas Frerichs

1. Agenda

Approved

2. Minutes

June 2, 2014 minutes approved.

3. Public Communications

Two members of the public spoke on additional access to funding for open space projects.

4. Yolo Natural Heritage Program (YNHP) – Funding Proposal

Petrea Marchand, Acting Executive Director, Yolo Natural Heritage Program presented on the YNHP funding package that included a non-binding commitment by the City of \$200,000/yr of the Measure O Open Space Tax revenue. Other annual contributions are being sought by the YNHP JPA that total an additional estimated \$500,000/yr. If a plan is ultimately adopted, the City may have additional state and federal funding sources for habitat related open space projects. The City Council will receive an update on the draft plan on October 21, 2014.

Following discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Hoshovsky, seconded by Commissioner House, the Commission took the following action:

The OSHC recommends that the City Council support the non-binding funding concept as described below by the YNHP JPA with the following clarifications:

1. A non-binding \$200,000 annual allocation of Measure O Open Space Tax revenues is reasonable.
2. As described by the YNHP JPA, the allocation of these funds is consistent with the City's open space priorities provided there are assurances that the ultimate expenditure decisions are made by the City and projects go through the City's standard acquisition process.
3. Acquisitions are within the Davis Planning Area as required by Measure O.
4. That the JPA and City will use a community planning process to establish joint priorities for expenditure of Measure O funds.

Yolo NHP Funding Proposal Description 10/6/14 - City of Davis

The City of Davis intends to commit up to \$200,000 annually, on average, from the open space protection special tax toward conservation consistent with the Yolo HCP/NCCP, as long as the citizens of Davis continue to renew the tax and the investment is consistent with the City's open space priorities. This commitment will help ensure the City of Davis' ongoing efforts to protect open space and other natural resources are partially focused on areas identified in a community planning process as priorities for the protection of sensitive species. This commitment of funds will also allow the City to maximize revenue from other sources, utilizing the ability of the HCP/NCCP to bring additional state and federal conservation funds to Yolo County. The Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Agency, of which the City of Davis is a member, will administer the Yolo HCP/NCCP and propose potential easements or other

conservation projects to the City consistent with the City's open space priorities. The City may at any time decline to partner with the Yolo HCP/NCCP or decide not to invest in land acquisition or other projects proposed by the JPA. The City recognizes a partnership with the JPA has the potential to help fulfill the City's open space priorities, as well as contribute to conservation of important habitat.

Motion passed 6-0

5. **Project Introduction Presentation – Nishi/Gateway project**

Mike Web, Community Development and Sustainability Department Director, presented background information and responded to questions on the proposed Nishi/Gateway project. Commissioners raised questions regarding effects on existing greenbelt and habitat connections, opportunity to use on-site detention ponds as ecological features, retention of existing trees (especially oaks), opportunity to establish pollinator network in green spaces, and the amount and location of agricultural mitigation.

Staff outlined the project timeline with a possible Measure R vote in Spring 2016.

6. **Public Open Space Forum – Continued discussion of planning Open Space Forum meeting**

Following discussion of Commission priorities and ability for staff to support, the Commission postponed further discussion and planning until January.

7. **Project/Program Updates**

- North Davis Riparian Greenbelt – Staff provided a brief update on progress of the project related to planting in the channel and interpretive work.

8. **Commission Goals 2013/14**

Pollinators – A new tool has been developed and is being adapted to individual lots by Commissioner Huber.

9. **Staff/Commission Communications**

- Commission Liaison reports – No reports were given.
- Easement Acquisition Update – No updates to report.
- Next meeting: October 6, 2014.

10. **Adjournment** Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.