

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes
Monday November 3, 2014
Community Chambers Conference Room 6:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent:

Commission Liaisons: Rec and Park, Planning

Assigned Staff: Mitch Sears

Council Liaison: Lucas Frerichs

1. Agenda

Approved

2. Minutes

October 6, 2014 minutes approved.

3. Public Communications

None.

4. Project Proposals – Consideration of guiding principles for community evaluation of proposed innovation centers.

Mike Webb, Sarah Worley, and City project consultant Heidi Tschudin provided an overview of the draft Guiding Principles and general process timeline for any projects that may be considered by the City. Council Member Davis provided background on the Council sub-committee and the development and intended use of the guidelines. The Commission provided input on the existing draft guidelines and suggested additional guideline language for consideration by the City Council. Commission comments recorded by City staff and the project consultant are attached to these minutes.

In addition to the notes captured by the project team, the Commission noted the following:

- Potential inclusion of the City's 25 acre site at the Mace site and its implications;
- Clarification on the inclusion of community farms as part of the open space site design;
- Use open space design criteria to inform site design.
- Inherent values of land as open space should be considered as an important factor in evaluating innovation center proposals. These values include Urban Fringe, Community Separator, Agriculture, Biological and Natural Resources, and Scenic Resources as identified in the City Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan (Adopted 2002).

5. Public Open Space Forum – Continued discussion of planning Open Space Forum meeting

The Commission postponed further discussion and planning until January.

6. 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. The Commission suggested that the City and its partners provide regular community updates/annual press release to promote the project.
- Yolo Natural Heritage Program – No update; staff to notify Commission when it is scheduled for the City Council.

7. Commission Goals 2013/14

Pollinators – Potential funding opportunity through a private foundation.

8. Staff/Commission Communications

- Commission Liaison reports – No reports were given.
- Easement acquisition update – No updates to report.
- Development project updates – Cannery Park community farm update requested for January.
- Next meeting: December 1, 2014.

9. Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

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ATTACHMENT B - COMPILED COMMISSION COMMENTS

| Group | Comment/Questions | New G. P. | Add to G.P. text | Covered by G.P. |
|--------------|--|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| OS&HC | | | | |
| | Net increase in habitat for species | | #2 X | |
| | Minimize edge effects; need more than linear strips | | #2 X | |
| | Natural and semi-natural landscapes – not parks; agriculture okay | | #2 X | |
| | Get habitat value from roofs – solar or “green” roof | | | #2 |
| | Don’t fence off Open Space; keep open for community use; maximize community engagement; educational signage | | | #2 |
| | Increase efficient use of Open Space; include pollinators; native species; drought tolerant plant species. | | #2 X | |
| | Incorporate native landscaping that creates habitat value | | #2 X | |
| | #7, Add environmental and social benefits (nonmonetary) | | #7 X | |
| | Increase native, increase pollinator, scenic values, environmental, social, recreation, engagement of community into OS, public access and use | | #2X #5X | |
| | Configuration of OS on site needs to be considered; less fragmentation | | #2 X | |
| | Impacts to air and water; low impact development strategies | | #2 X | #2 |
| | Storm drainage conjunctive uses – habitat ↔ wetland ↔ water quality | | #2 X | |
| OSH Chair | | | | |
| | Across the project site, maximize achievement of open-space goals and reduce use of turf and manicured lawn space, while still maintaining a financially-viable project. Make a clear distinction between open-space areas and manicured lawn space. Open-space categories relevant to these sites are: | | #2 X | |
| | Biological and Natural Resources - Protect and enhance wildlife habitat and populations of native species. This includes preferentially planting landscaping vegetation that is native to Yolo County, drought tolerant, and attracts native pollinators | | #2 X | |
| | Scenic Resources: Maintain views of significant local and regional landmarks | | #4 X | |
| | Reducing this edge exposure includes reducing: The length of edge overall for all on-site open-space areas, compared to their extent. These open-space areas should have high area to circumference ratios; that is, they should be more circular or square-shaped and less elongated or linear-shaped. | | #2 X | |
| | The length of edge for open-space areas that are adjacent to, or sandwiched between, buildings, parking areas, roadways, and infrastructure. This includes those developed features that are located either on-site and on adjacent lands. An example would be to avoid establishing open space in a narrow strip between buildings and a major roadway. | | #2 X | |
| | Maximize the extent of open-space areas on-site. This can be achieved by minimizing the land surface area used for | | | #1 |

ATTACHMENT B - COMPILED COMMISSION COMMENTS

OSHC (cont.)

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| parking and manicured lawns and by concentrating buildings close together (high floor area ratio) | | | | |
| Maximize the adjacency, connectivity and proximity of open-space areas on-site with each other and with open-space on adjacent lands | | | | X |
| Use on-site storm water drainage to support natural habitat on-site or on adjacent lands | | | #2 X | |
| Maximize groundwater recharge by providing surfaces that allow on-site ground percolation. This is valuable for off-site habitat and agriculture. | | | #2 X | |
| Minimize conversion of on-site natural habitat and prime agricultural soils to urban development | | | | X |

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|-------|--|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| BT&SS | | | | |
| #3 | Re: Alternative transit - make the priority focus walking, biking, etc. with less focus on vehicle traffic (make it friendly for people working there). Most critical are bike and ped. connections. Strike phrase "and balancing business needs for vehicular traffic." | | #3 X | |
| | Shuttle - is it just to the center destination? It should be integrated into the entire system | | | #3 |
| | <Shuttles can be part of integrated system, fixed route vs. point to point.> | | | |
| | Participate in citywide bike share program? | | #3 X | |
| | Make sure in Plan that shared bike parking is convenient, safe and dry. | | #3 X | |
| | Offer showers and lockers. | | #3 X | |