

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes
Monday, June 1, 2015
Community Chambers Conference Room 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rachel Aptekar, Jason Bone, Marc Hoshovsky, Greg House, Colleen Rossier, Roberta Millstein

Commissioners Absent: Patrick Huber, Helena Chung

Commission Liaisons: Recreation and Parks (Dawn Einwalter), Planning (Rob Hofmann)

Assigned Staff: Tracie Reynolds

Council Liaison: Lucas Frerichs

1. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner House, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes

May 4, 2015 minutes. Jean Jackman, a member of the public, requested that the minutes include her comments at the May 4, 2015 meeting stating that she and other members of the public believed the City was going to use Measure O funds to purchase land close to the urbanized edge of the City ~~and that~~ but that (i.e., the purchase of land close to the urbanized edge of the City) hasn't happened. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner House, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve the May 4, 2015 minutes, as amended.

3. Public Communications

Matt Williams, a member of the public, commented that the City's budget doesn't provide much information about the Measure O fund (Fund 135). He said the City should make the reporting more transparent so the public can better understand revenues and expenses from this fund, without having to hunt for the numbers. He also mentioned that the Commission should investigate the property tax pass-through agreement between the City and Yolo County, and whether or not there might be some funds available for open space now that redevelopment had been dissolved. Commissioner Millstein suggested that this subject be placed on a future Commission agenda.

4. Measure O Budget

Tracie Reynolds, assigned staff to the Commission, presented a preliminary spreadsheet showing revenues and expenses from the Measure O fund over the last 15 years. The spreadsheet also included about \$2.3 million in agricultural mitigation/development impact fees the City has used to purchase agricultural/habitat easements around the City. The spreadsheet showed that the City has a balance of about \$4.1 million in the Measure O fund at the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. She said the numbers presented in the spreadsheet were preliminary and hadn't been verified by the City's finance staff. She said she would continue to work with the City's finance staff to verify the numbers and obtain more information about historical open space maintenance costs. Several Commissioners wanted more information about the value the citizens of Davis are getting for the money spent. Commissioner Millstein also wanted more information about the outside resources line item. Commissioners requested that staff continue to refine and expand on the spreadsheet and make Measure O revenues and expenses a regular agenda item for discussion.

5. Working Group Updates

- *Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Projects.* Commissioner Hoshovsky, head of the working group on this subject, presented to the Commission the working group's preliminary guidelines for evaluating restoration projects seeking Measure O funding. He said he would like to have the criteria finalized for the public forum in the fall, and he solicited the Commission's feedback on the preliminary guidelines. The Commission brainstormed on the overall purpose(s) of the restoration program, project eligibility criteria, the evaluation and selection process, the concept evaluation criteria, and the full proposal evaluation criteria. He said the

working group would come back to the Commission in September with revised/updated guidelines, based on Commission feedback.

- *Community Farms.* Commissioner House, head of the working group on this subject, presented to the Commission the working group's preliminary thoughts about the City's future lease with the Center for Land-based Learning ("CLBL") for the urban farm at The Cannery development. He discussed possible language for specific sections of the lease, including the preamble/recitals, the term, permitted uses, and public outreach/community involvement. Several Commissioners said that certain things should be required of the City and CLBL, including (1) that the property be farmed in a manner that maintains its long-term agricultural productivity, (2) that the farming methods used be ecologically sensitive and protective of wildlife habitat when possible, (3) that CLBL provide community outreach activities, and (4) that the City require CLBL to follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's organic rules and regulations. The Commission voted unanimously to support such language in the lease.

Commissioner Hoshovsky inquired as to whether the community farm working group was going to revise its concept paper to reflect a network of farm concepts as opposed to a single urban farm site. Commissioner House said the working group was going to work on updating its concept paper in the fall of this year.

- *Native Pollinators.* Commissioners Aptekar and Millstein, speaking on behalf of Commissioner Hubert, head of the working group on this subject, said there was nothing to report.
- *Public Forum.* Commissioner Hoshovsky, head of the working group on this subject, discussed the schedule for the public forum, which the Commission intends to hold in late October of this year. He said the working group hoped to have funding in early July and then spend the summer hiring the consultant/facilitator and planning the forum. He said the team would then spend November and December synthesizing comments received during the public forum. He said he hoped to bring a final revised Acquisition and Management Plan to the City Council by April 2016.
- *Open Space Website.* Commissioner Millstein, head of the working group on this subject, said the working group had met with the City's website consultant to discuss the open space pages but had not heard back from the consultant since the meeting. She said she intended to contact the City's website consultant for a status update.
- *Open Space Signage.* Tracie Reynolds, assigned staff to the Commission, said there was nothing to report.

6. Project/Program Updates

- *Yolo Natural Heritage Plan.* Staff reported that the City Council voted to approve the City's comments on the Second Administrative Draft of the Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan ("HCP/NCCP") on May 26 and staff submitted them to the Yolo Habitat Conservancy by the deadline for comments on May 29. Staff also reported the next steps in the HCP/NCCP's development, culminating in the release of the public review draft in July 2016. The final HCP/NCCP is expected to be approved by its member agencies in January 2017.
- *North Davis Riparian Greenbelt.* Staff reported that the irrigation system was installed and that volunteers were fine-tuning the water system and checking for leaks. Staff also reported that staff from the Yolo Resource Conservation District would be doing some broadleaf spot spraying in the coming months, and that volunteers were working to clear the channel of dead and unwanted vegetation.

7. Staff/Commission Communications

- *Commission Liaison Reports*
 - Recreation & Parks/Planning. No reports were given.

- City Council. No reports were given.
- *EIR for Innovation Centers.* Staff informed the Commission that the City would like to make a presentation to the Commission on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) for the two proposed Innovation Centers, so that Commissioner comments can be incorporated into the Draft EIR. Given the revisions to the schedule for the Draft EIR’s release, the Commission voted to move its special summer meeting to ~~cancel its July meeting and hold a meeting in~~ August ~~instead~~.
- *Next Meeting.* August 3, 2015.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.