

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, October 19, 2015

**** SPECIAL MEETING ****

Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard, 6:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: Jason Bone (Alternate), Rachel Aptekar, Colleen Rossier

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

Assigned Staff: Tracie Reynolds

Council Liaison: Lucas Frerichs

1. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hoshovsky said this meeting is a special meeting of the Commission to discuss only one topic: the draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Nishi Gateway Project Innovation Center. On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Huber, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

2. Public Communications

Matt Williams, a member of the public, commented that he hoped City staff and the Commission would finalize the 2013 “Progress in Protecting Open Space” report, which is still in draft form, and update it with the more recent Measure O budget numbers that have been discussed at the Commission at recent meetings.

3. Discussion and Approval -- Consolidated Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) for the Proposed Nishi Gateway Project Innovation Center (“Nishi”)

The Commission reviewed its consolidated comments on the draft Nishi EIR, which was part of the meeting materials for the October 19 meeting. Each comment was summarized by the commenter and reviewed for clarity. Those comments that were deemed to be outside the Commission’s purview or unnecessary were deleted. Others were edited for clarity. Tim Ruff, owner of the Nishi property, was present at the meeting and answered some of the Commissioners’ questions about the proposed development. A member of the public said he had heard that the City was going to own a large part of the Nishi project, and asked staff to confirm.

On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner House, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the consolidated comments, as amended at the meeting. Comments are due to the City on October 26.

Staff said that at the next regular Commission meeting on November 2, the Commission will hear a presentation from staff about the open space and habitat elements of the Nishi project and will be asked to vote on the project’s consistency with the Guiding Principles for Davis Innovation Center(s) approved by the City Council on December 16, 2014. The Commission decided that they also would like to vote on the merits of the open space and habitat elements of the project at its November 2 meeting.

4. Staff/Commission Communications

- *Commission Liaison Reports*
 - Recreation & Parks/Planning. No reports were given.
 - City Council. No reports were given.
- *Staff Report*. No report was given.
- *Next Meeting*. November 2, 2015.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.