

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2016

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

Commissioners Present:	Patrick Huber (Chair), Greg House (Vice Chair), Roberta Millstein, Rachel Aptekar, Marc Hoshovsky, Jason Bone
Vacant Positions:	Two (One Regular, One Alternate)
Commissioners Absent:	None
Commission Liaisons:	Liaison to the Recreation and Park Commission (Vacant)
Assigned Staff:	Tracie Reynolds
Council Liaison:	Lucas Frerichs

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting. Commissioner House arrived at the meeting during Consent Calendar.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 5-0-1-0 to approve the agenda (Ayes -- Huber, Aptekar, Millstein, Hoshovsky, Bone; Noes – None; Absent – House; Abstentions – None).

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and City Council Liaisons

There were no brief announcements.

4. Public Comment

Taryn Cadena of the Yolo Land Trust announced an upcoming fundraiser for the Yolo Land Trust on October 12.

5. Consent Calendar

The only item on the consent calendar was to approve the Commission's September 12, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Millstein requested an edit to the minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Hoshovsky, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 6-0-0-0 to approve the September 12, 2016 minutes, as amended (Ayes -- Huber, Millstein, Aptekar, Hoshovsky, House, Bone; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

6. Regular Items

Note: Regular Items were discussed in a different order than what appeared on the meeting agenda. The minutes reflect the order of Regular Items discussed during the meeting.

Discussion – Update on the grant application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to help fund public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said she submitted the City's grant application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to help fund public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve. She brought a copy of the submittal to the meeting for the Commission to review. She said the City would hear whether it was awarded the grant funds in June or July of 2017. In the meantime, she said staff would work on getting permits for the improvements so that the actual construction could start in September 2017. Commissioner Huber wanted to know more about the financial implications of using the California Conservation Corps to do the work.

Discussion – Update on the Commission's recommendation to the City Council to establish a 2x2x2 with the Natural Resources Commission and the Recreation and Park Commission to investigate the feasibility of banning insecticides containing neonicotinoids and the herbicide glyphosate on City property

The Commission briefly discussed City staff's decision to embark on a more holistic review and update of the City's Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") Policy, as opposed to asking the City Council to establish a 2x2x2 task force to

discuss the City's use of the two chemicals noted above. Dale Summersille, Parks and Community Services Director, recently sent all three involved commissions (i.e., the Open Space and Habitat Commission, the Natural Resources Commission, and the Recreation and Parks Commission) a memorandum that outlined the upcoming process, which includes an upcoming kickoff meeting with all three commissions. Commissioner Millstein expressed a desire to be sent the background information for this kickoff meeting as soon as possible so that Commissioners had time to read and digest the information before the kickoff meeting takes place.

Discussion – Current and future use of organic and non-organic pesticides/fertilizers at the Cannery Farm; update on Cannery Farm lease

The City and the Center for Land-Based Learning (“CLBL”) are currently negotiating a lease for the farm property at the Cannery. The Cannery developer will dedicate the farm property to the City in 2017 and the City will be leasing the farm property to CLBL who will in turn sublicense it to graduates of its California Farm Academy. One of the key sections of the lease is CLBL's use of pesticides to control invasive weeds on the farm property. Sridharan Sethuratnam, the Director of CLBL's California Farm Academy, and Marisa Alcorta, CLBL's Beginning Farmer Apprenticeship Coordinator, discussed how CLBL will follow organic farming practices at the Cannery farm property, per the National Organic Standards, but would like the option to use pesticides such as Roundup in certain limited circumstances. In particular, they discussed using Roundup during the first three years of orchard production and hedgerow maintenance, as necessary, to limit weed competition and ensure that the stand of tree crops/native plants is healthy and sustainable. They also said they would like the ability to use Roundup or other herbicides to control perennial Pepperweed and when an insect, fungal, or bacterial outbreak might cause crop damage. Commissioner House voiced his strong opposition to the use of any non-organic pesticides on the farm property. Commissioners discussed this issue with CLBL representatives for several minutes. Commissioner Bone recused himself from the discussion. The Commission asked staff to come back to the Commission in November with two versions of the organics section in the draft lease: one version would allow for limited use of pesticides and the other would not. The Commission said it would vote on its preferred version at its November meeting.

Discussion – Update on the possible acquisition of about 9.5 acres of open space west of South Fork Preserve about a half-mile south of the city limits on County Road 104

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, provided the Commission with a preliminary acquisition report for a 9.5-acre property just west of South Fork Preserve. The Commission's acquisitions subcommittee (Commissioners Aptekar and House) said they would review the report, conduct a site visit, and provide a recommendation to the full Commission in November. No Commissioners raised any objections to the preliminary acquisition report. Commissioner Aptekar made the following motion: “Based on the preliminary acquisition report, this property meets some of the City's high-priority acquisition criteria. We recommend the City pursue the purchase of this property pending results of the acquisitions subcommittee's inspection of the property.” On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 6-0-0-0 to approve the above motion (Ayes -- Huber, Millstein, Aptekar, Hoshovsky, House, Bone; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

7. Commission and Staff Communications

Commission Work Plan

There was nothing to report.

Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items

The next meeting is November 7, 2016. Possible agenda items discussed included a report by the acquisitions subcommittee on the property west of South Fork Preserve, organics language in the Cannery farm lease, an update on the proposed 2x2x2 on City use of glyphosate and neonicotinoids, and possibly an update on options for using reclaimed water from the City's new wastewater treatment plant when the facility is operational later next year.

Upcoming Events

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, mentioned three upcoming meetings this week on the Long-Range Development Plan being prepared by the University of California at Davis.

Working Groups

- *Grant Guidelines – Restoration Projects.* There was nothing to report.
- *Community Farms.* There was nothing to report. Commissioner House recommended that this working group be renamed the Agriculture Working Group. He said interest in community farms has waned on the [City Council Commission](#) given other competing interests.
- *Native Pollinators.* There was nothing to report.
- *Public Forum.* There was nothing to report.
- *Open Space Website.* There was nothing to report.
- *Open Space Signage.* Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, mentioned an upcoming public meeting sponsored by the City on wayfinding signs on October 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Davis Senior Center. She said this meeting was an opportunity for Commissioners to express their desire for better open space signage.

Commission Liaison Reports

- *Recreation and Parks.* Currently, the Commission does not have a liaison to this commission.
- *Finance and Budget.* Currently, the Commission does not have a liaison to this commission.
- *Sports Complex Task Force.* Commissioner Bone, the Commission's liaison to this task force, said he would provide the Commission with a more detailed update at the next meeting.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.