

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, January 9, 2017

Redwood Park Community Building, Redwood Park, 1001 Anderson Road, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Rachel Aptekar, Jason Bone, Marc Hoshovsky, Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg (Alternate), Stephen Layton, Roberta Millstein, Lon Payne
Vacant Positions:	None
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 and attendees introduced themselves. Commissioner Bone came during Brief Announcements.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Hoshovsky, the Commission voted 6-0-1-0 to approve the agenda (Ayes -- Aptekar, Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Bone; Abstentions – None).

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

Staff updated the Commission on the approvals process for the West Davis Active Adult Community development proposal and City Councilmember Frerichs updated the Commission on upcoming development proposals and on the long-range development plan proposed by the University of California.

Commissioners Hoshovsky and Huber updated the Commission on recent meetings associated with a California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant that has been awarded to the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee on behalf of the Solano County Water Agency. The grant aims to develop conceptual habitat restoration plans and baseline habitat assessments for 30 miles of Lower Putah Creek from Monticello Dam to the Yolo Bypass. Commissioner Hoshovsky sits on the advisory committee for this grant and Commissioner Huber sits on the scientific committee for this grant. A series of public meetings will be held on this planning effort over the coming months.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment to report.

5. Consent Calendar

The only item on the consent calendar was to approve the Commission's December 5, 2016 minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 4-0-0-3 to approve the December 5, 2017 minutes (Ayes -- Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – Hoshovsky, Layton, Payne).

6. Regular Items

Discussion – Welcome, swearing in, and introductions of new members

Three new members joined the Commission: Stephen Layton (Regular), Lon Payne (Regular), and Joy Klineberg (Alternate). New members took the oath of office and introduced themselves.

Discussion and Action– Election of new chair and vice chair

On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Hoshovsky, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to elect Commissioner Huber as chair (Ayes -- Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to elect Commissioner Bone as vice chair (Ayes -- Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

Discussion and Action – Election of new liaison to the Finance and Budget Commission

The Commission decided to defer action on this item until after the Commission determines its work plan and working groups later this year.

Discussion – Commission work plan and associated working groups for the upcoming year

Commissioners reviewed the work plan from the previous two fiscal years, 2015-16 and 2016-17, and discussed possible issues for working groups to focus on in the future. The Commission decided to form working groups and develop its work plan at the February meeting.

Discussion – Update on the process for updating the City’s Integrated Pest Management Policy, which includes an investigation into the feasibility of banning the use of insecticides containing neonicotinoids and the herbicide glyphosate on City property

Staff updated the Commission on the schedule for updating the City’s Integrated Pest Management Policy, and when draft changes to the policy might come before the Commission for review.

Discussion -- Update on lease negotiations with the Center for Land-Based Learning for the farm property at The Cannery

Staff updated the Commission on the status of lease negotiations with the Center for Land-Based Learning (“CLBL”) for the farm property at the Cannery. The Cannery development agreement did not include any requirements or mandates that the urban farm be certified organic. CLBL has repeatedly stated that a small farm such as the Cannery farm cannot afford the cost of certification. In November 2016, as requested, staff prepared two versions of the organics section for the Commission’s review: (1) one version that would allow non-organic pesticides to be used under very limited circumstances (Version 1), and (2) the other version that would not allow non-organic pesticides to be used under any circumstances (Version 2). At its November meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to register its preference for Version 2 and to recommend that the Cannery farm be required to be a certified organic operation.

During the next three months, staff unsuccessfully attempted to reach a compromise between the Commission and CLBL over this issue. Staff discussed the Commission’s action with CLBL shortly after the Commission’s November meeting. Staff discussed CLBL’s position and the Commission’s position with City Councilmember Frerichs on November 16, 2016. Staff and City Councilmember Frerichs met with CLBL on November 22, 2016 and reached a possible compromise. Staff discussed this possible compromise with the full City Council in closed session on December 20, 2016.

At the direction of the City Council, staff informed the Commission at its January meeting that the draft lease going before the City Council on the consent agenda on January 24, 2017 did not contain the language in Version 2, the version preferred by the Commission. Instead, the draft lease going before the City Council on the consent agenda on January 24, 2017 contained the language in Version 1, the version the Commission rejected, and that staff would be recommending the draft lease containing Version 1 to the City Council for approval on that date, as directed by the City Council. Staff also informed the Commission that the full lease would not be coming back to the Commission for approval.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

Commission Work Plan

This item was discussed as a regular agenda item.

Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items

The next meeting is February 6, 2017. Possible agenda items include finalizing the Commission's work plan and working groups, hearing a presentation by Yolo County on improvements to Grasslands Regional Park, and hearing a presentation by the Farmer Veteran Coalition.

Upcoming Events

There were no upcoming events to report.

Working Groups

- *Grant Guidelines – Restoration Projects.* There was nothing to report.
- *Community Farms.* There was nothing to report.
- *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.* There was nothing to report.

Commission Liaison Reports

- *Recreation and Parks.* Currently, the Commission does not have a liaison from this commission.
- *Finance and Budget.* Currently, the Commission does not have a liaison to this commission.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.