

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2017

City Council Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, 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:	Vanessa Richter, Liaison to the Recreation and Park Commission
Assigned Staff:	Tracie Reynolds, Manager of Leases and Open Space
Council Liaison:	Lucas Frerichs

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting. Commissioners Aptekar and Bone came during Brief Announcements. Commissioner Klineberg came during the Consent Calendar.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Hoshovsky, the Commission voted 5-0-2-0 to approve the agenda (Ayes -- Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Bone; Abstentions – None).

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

Staff updated the Commission on (1) the approvals process for the West Davis Active Adult Community development proposal, (2) the acquisition of about 10 acres west of South Fork Preserve, (3) the new liaison from the Parks and Recreation Commission, and (4) the review and approvals process for the public review draft of the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan.

Commissioner Huber mentioned that the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society (“BOPS”) has filed a legal challenge against the City of Davis and the developers of the recently approved Marriott Residence Inn at 4647 Fermi Place. BOPS alleges in its legal challenge that the City violated the California Environmental Quality Act by not choosing adequate mitigation for a pair of burrowing owls nesting on the site.

Commissioner Huber also mentioned that the first of 34 public meetings to discuss a planning effort to restore habitat along Putah Creek will happen in July. This planning effort is partially funded by 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 thirty 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.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment to report.

5. Consent Calendar

Two items were on the consent calendar: approval of the November 17, 2016 special meeting minutes and approval of the January 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Aptekar, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to ask staff to revise the section discussing the Cannery farm organics issue in the January 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes and bring the draft minutes back to the Commission for approval at the March meeting. (Ayes -- Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

As for the November 17, 2016 special meeting minutes, staff informed the Commission that the City Clerk's Office had already forwarded these minutes to the City Council for approval. Commissioner Aptekar said she didn't understand why staff was asking the Commission to approve these minutes if they had already gone to the City Council. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to permanently remove the November 17, 2016 special meeting minutes from the consent calendar and not approve them (Ayes -- Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

6. Regular Items

Discussion – Presentation by the Farmer Veteran Coalition

The Commission heard an introductory presentation from the Farmer Veteran Coalition, a non-profit organization that works to provide meaningful agricultural careers to military veterans. The organization is interested in leasing agricultural land from the City of Davis for this purpose. The Commission asked staff to get back to them in March about what the process would be for issuing a Request for Proposals for a farmer to farm the City-owned 25 acres just north of Mace Boulevard near the Mace Curve.

Discussion and Action – Approval of Commission work plan/associated working groups for the upcoming year

The Commission updated its workplan and working groups for the coming year. The Commission asked staff to update the work plan and working groups and bring them back to the Commission for approval in March.

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

No Commissioners were interested in being the liaison to the Finance and Budget Commission. The Commission decided to leave this liaison role vacant for the time being.

Discussion – Review of final draft of a report on pesticide use in the City of Davis prepared by the Natural Resources Commission's Hazardous Materials Subcommittee

The Commission discussed the final draft of a report on the City's use of pesticides on City-owned property prepared by the Natural Resources Commission's Hazardous Materials Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee"). Commissioner Aptekar asked a representative from the Subcommittee to clarify that the report focused on the City's use of pesticides on City-owned property and not all pesticide use in the City of Davis. The Commission will give the Subcommittee more formal feedback on this report at its March meeting.

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 March 6, 2017. Possible agenda items include approving the Commission's work plan and working groups, hearing a presentation by the project applicant for the West Davis Active Adult Community, and hearing a presentation by Yolo County on improvements to Grasslands Regional Park.

Upcoming Events

The only upcoming event mentioned was the February 7, 2017 City Council meeting when the Cannery farm lease would be considered by the City Council for approval.

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.* The Commission's liaison from this commission, Vanessa Richter, informed staff that she was regrettably unable to attend the meeting.
- *Finance and Budget.* Currently, the Commission does not have a liaison to this commission.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:27 p.m.