

# Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2017

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

Commissioners Present:	Rachel Aptekar, Jason Bone, Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg (Alternate), Stephen Layton, Roberta Millstein, Lon Payne
Vacant Positions:	None
Commissioners Absent:	Marc Hoshovsky
Commission Liaisons:	Vanessa Richter, Liaison <del>from</del> the Recreation and Park Commission
Assigned Staff:	Tracie Reynolds, Manager of Leases and Open Space
Council Liaison:	Lucas Frerichs

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## 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting. Commissioners Klineberg, Bone and Payne came during Public Comment.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 4-0-3-0 to approve the agenda (Ayes – Aptekar, Millstein, Huber, Layton; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky, Bone, Payne; Abstentions – None).

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

Staff mentioned its intention to invite the Commission and the City Council for a tour in late spring/early summer of the City's latest open space acquisition: 10 acres just west of South Fork Preserve. Staff also updated the Commission on the upcoming approval schedule for the proposed West Davis Active Adult Community.

## 4. Public Comment

Alan Pryor, Chair of the Sierra Club's Yolano Group, submitted a copy of a letter the group sent to the City Council urging it to adopt burrowing owl protection and conservation measures proposed by the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society, or BOPS. Also, as a member of the Hazardous Materials Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") of the Natural Resources Commission, Mr. Pryor submitted a copy of the Subcommittee's response to the Commission's feedback on the final report dated January 23, 2017 prepared by the Subcommittee on the City's use of pesticides on City-owned land.

Catherine Portman, the president of BOPS, also submitted a letter to the Commission that asked the Commission to recommend these burrowing owl protections and conservation measures to the City Council for adoption. She also discussed possibly creating burrowing owl habitat on the City's 25 acres off Mace Boulevard, and efforts to keep the farmer leasing that land out of the burrows located there.

## 5. Consent Calendar

Only one item was on the consent calendar: approval of the March 2017 meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Layton, seconded by Commissioner Aptekar, the Commission voted 5-0-1-1 to approve the March meeting minutes. (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Layton, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky; Abstentions – Millstein).

## 6. Regular Items

### Discussion – Introductory overview of City open space areas and current management practices

The Commission heard a presentation by Chris Gardner, the City's Open Space Lands Manager, about the open space areas he maintains and what land management practices the City is currently using on these lands to increase the habitat and recreational potential of these lands. He said he hopes to present more detailed land management plans to the Commission at an upcoming meeting soon.

**Discussion – Introductory overview of Open Space Program budget and funding sources**

The Commission heard a presentation by Tracie Reynolds, the manager of the City's Open Space Program, about the program budget and its various revenue and expense categories. She said she intends to present more detailed budget numbers to the Commission in May or June.

**Discussion – Draft work plan and project list for the upcoming year**

Commissioners decided to meet with their various work groups over the coming weeks and discuss the draft work plan and project list and send any changes/comments to staff to incorporate into a revised draft, to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Discussion – Draft goals for the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program, an update to the 2002**

**Acquisition and Management Plan**

Commissioners decided to meet with their various work groups over the coming weeks and discuss the goals and objectives relevant to the working group's subject area and send any changes/comments to staff to incorporate into a revised draft, to be discussed at the next 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 May 1, 2017. Possible agenda items include discussing the Commission's work plan, the goals and objectives for the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program, the Open Space Program budget, and draft land management plans for the Wildhorse agricultural buffer and South Fork Preserve.

**Upcoming Events**

Staff mentioned an upcoming workshop on April 6 hosted by the City to discuss proposed changes to the City's Integrated Pest Management policy. Staff also mentioned that the City may be hosting a community meeting May 3 to give the public an opportunity to comment on the public review draft of the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report.

**Working Groups**

Commissioners Layton and Huber gave the Commission a brief update on recent actions taken by the native pollinator working group. Commissioner Huber also updated the Commission on recent actions taken to collaborate with the University of California on an open space restoration project (i.e., create a bike path along the levee between Old Davis Road and Brooks Road). The Commission also asked staff to clarify whether it was appropriate for the Commission to discuss the burrowing owl protection and conservation measures proposed by BOPS due to pending litigation involving the City.

**Commission Liaison Reports**

- *Recreation and Parks.* The Commission's liaison from this commission, Vanessa Richter, was absent and was unable to give the Commission a report.
- *Finance and Budget.* Currently, the Commission does not have a liaison to this commission.

**8. Adjourn**

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