

# Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2017

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

Commissioners Present:	Rachel Aptekar, Marc Hoshovsky, Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg (Alternate), Stephen Layton, Roberta Millstein, Lon Payne
Vacant Positions:	None
Commissioners Absent:	Jason Bone
Commission Liaisons:	Vanessa Richter, Liaison from 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.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Alan Pryor, Chair of the Sierra Club's Yolano Group and member of the Natural Resources Commission's Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, requested that Item 6C be the first item to be discussed under "Regular Items." On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Aptekar, the Commission voted 6-0-1-0 to approve the agenda with the change requested by Mr. Pryor (Ayes – Aptekar, Hoshovsky, Huber, Layton, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Bone; Abstentions – None).

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

Commissioner Hoshovsky mentioned his visits to several volunteer sites, including the Wildhorse ag buffer, during the April 29 "Community Day of Service." Staff informed the Commission of the work volunteers did at the ag buffer. Staff also mentioned two recent meetings: one with the Yolo Resource Conservation District about City open space staff taking over the maintenance of the recently restored section of Putah Creek Parkway near the U.C. Davis Arboretum, and another with community members about a possible restoration project at F Street and Anderson Road.

## 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 5. Consent Calendar

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

## 6. Regular Items

### **Discussion – Review of Subcommittee's response to Commission feedback on the final report dated January 23, 2017 prepared by the Natural Resources Commission's Hazardous Materials Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") on the City's use of pesticides on City-owned land**

Alan Pryor, Chair of the Sierra Club's Yolano Group and member of the Natural Resources Commission's Hazardous Materials Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee"), asked if the Commission had any comments or questions about the Subcommittee's responses 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. He also gave the Commission a brief update on the process for updating the City's Integrated Pest Management policy. The Commission said it did not have any additional comments or questions. Mr. Pryor asked staff to forward any comments the Commission may have in the future to him.

**Discussion – Draft work plan for the upcoming year**

The Commission tabled this item until the Strategic Plan for the Open Space Program is completed in coming weeks.

**Discussion – Draft goals and objectives for the Strategic Plan for the Open Space Program, an update to the 2002 Acquisition and Management Plan**

The Commission discussed the goals and objectives in the following subject areas: Acquisitions, Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Land and Resource Management, Public Access and Recreation, Financial and Program Accountability, and Public Engagement and Partnerships. After much discussion, the Commission agreed on the goals in these six subject areas, but more discussion is needed on the objectives. Staff said it would schedule a special meeting in June or July to finish the discussion about the objectives. Staff also said it would present the approved goals to the City Council in May.

**Discussion – Consideration of proposal from the Mace 25 Working Group**

The Commission considered the following proposal from the Mace 25 working group: “*The City purchased the Mace 25 property using Measure O funds; therefore, we suggest that OSHC create a public process to request for proposals for the property. In order to achieve this in a timely manner, we suggest an RFP that directs applicants to submit proposals that establish sustainable and/or organic agriculture and/or habitat-related enhancement of the current land use, thereby meeting our strategic goals. We will use the goals as criteria to critique and rank the submissions. We would like to know what is the current RFP process is for leasing lands, and who decides the outcome? Is there a City of Davis RFP template that should be used?*” After some discussion, the Commission agreed that it would be helpful for future discussions if the working group developed a list of recommended options for the property. Staff said the City was conducting an assessment of all City ag wells, including the defunct ag well on this property. Staff recommended that the working group wait to develop the list of recommended options until the ag well assessment was completed. Commission Aptekar asked staff to inform the working group when this ag well assessment would be completed.

**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 June 5, 2017. Possible agenda items include the Open Space Program budget, draft land management plans for the Wildhorse agricultural buffer and South Fork Preserve, upcoming improvements to Yolo County’s Grasslands Regional Park, and a possible conceptual restoration plan for three acres at F Street and Anderson Road.

**Upcoming Events**

Commissioner Huber mentioned an upcoming three-day summit hosted by U.C. Davis ~~in October~~~~this summer~~ on riparian ecosystems, including Putah Creek. Staff mentioned that the City will be hosting a community meeting in June or July 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**

There were no updates from working groups.

**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 9:50 p.m.