

# Open Space and Habitat Commission Special Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, June 15, 2017

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

Commissioners Present: Rachel Aptekar, Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg (Alternate), Stephen Layton, Roberta Millstein

Vacant Positions: None

Commissioners Absent: Marc Hoshovsky, Lon Payne

Commission Liaisons: Maurice Pitesky, Recreation and Parks 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

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

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said staff attended a grant “kick off” meeting in San Jose on Wednesday, June 14, hosted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Habitat Conservation Fund Program (Trails). The City of Davis has been awarded a \$230,000 grant from this state agency to help fund some much-needed public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve, a 110-acre, publicly accessible nature preserve owned and maintained by the City outside the city limits along the South Fork of Putah Creek. She said state representatives were very enthusiastic and supportive of the City’s project, especially the component to add a path accessible to people with disabilities.

She said the total cost of this project is estimated to be about \$460,000, with the grant covering 50% of that cost. The other 50% of the cost will be covered with Measure O open space parcel tax funds and open space development impact fees. She said staff is currently working to secure the required permits for the project. Construction should begin during the fall of 2018, and the trails should be ready for use by the spring of 2019. She said she would keep the Commission apprised of progress related to this grant.

### 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 5. Consent Calendar

There were no items listed under the Consent Calendar.

### 6. Regular Items

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

The Commission discussed the remaining draft objectives for the Strategic Plan for the Open Space Program that were not discussed during the Commission’s May meeting. At this meeting, the Commission focused on draft objectives in the following subject areas: Public Access and Recreation, Financial and Program Accountability, and Public Engagement and Partnerships. The draft objectives for the other subject areas (Acquisitions, Land and Resource Management, and Habitat Restoration and Enhancement) were discussed at the May meeting. The Commission agreed on final draft language for the remaining objectives, but reserved the right to review them again during the final review of the entire Strategic Plan, which will include all goals, objectives and action items. That final review will likely occur during the

Commission's September/October meetings. The Strategic Plan builds on and will replace the Open Space Acquisitions and Management Plan approved by the Commission and the City Council in 2002.

On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 5-0-2-0 to approve the general direction and structure of the Strategic Plan, as discussed during the meeting (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Layton, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky, Payne; Abstentions – None).

## **7. Commission and Staff Communications**

### **Commission Work Plan**

The Commission has deferred approval of the work plan until the Strategic Plan for the Open Space Program is finalized.

### **Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items**

The Commission takes a summer recess during July and August. The Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting is September 11, 2017. Possible agenda items include a review of the City's updated Integrated Pest Management Policy, a discussion of the draft Strategic Plan for the Open Space Program, a discussion of the draft outline for future land management plans, and a discussion of the upcoming improvements to Yolo County's Grasslands Regional Park.

### **Upcoming Events**

There were no upcoming events to report.

### **Working Groups**

- *Acquisitions.* Commissioner Aptekar, a representative from this working group, asked staff to clarify the exact boundaries of the new open space property the City acquired in January. The property, which is located west of South Fork Preserve off County Road 104, is approximately 10 acres.
- *Habitat Restoration Project Funding Guidance.* Commissioner Millstein, a representative from this working group, reported that the working group met with Chris Gardner, the City's Open Space Lands Manager, to discuss the draft grant guidelines for restoration project using Measure O open space parcel tax funds. She said that progress was made, and that the working group agreed to meet again with Mr. Gardner in September.

### **Commission Liaison Reports**

- *Recreation and Parks.* The Commission's current rotating liaison from this commission, Maurice Pitesky, 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 8:25 p.m.