

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, October 2, 2017

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

Commissioners Present: Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Marc Hoshovsky, Patrick Huber (Chair), Roberta Millstein

Vacant Positions: None

Commissioners Absent: Rachel Aptekar, Joy Klineberg (Alternate), Stephen Layton, Lon Payne

Assigned Staff: Tracie Reynolds, Manager of Leases and Open Space

Council Liaison: Lucas Frerichs (Regular), Will Arnold (Alternate)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting after the Commission achieved a quorum. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said that she expected the proposed habitat restoration project on three acres of City property at the intersection of F Street and Anderson Road to go before the City Council for discussion on October 17. She also updated the Commission on (1) the status of public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve, which are being partially funded with state grant funds, and (2) the possibility of a conservation easement on property near the intersection of West Covell Boulevard and County Road 99. She also asked the Commission if it had any objections to the City entering into a license agreement with a honey company to locate bee hives in City-owned open space areas. The Commission did not voice any objections.

Commissioner Millstein informed the Commission that the Natural Resources Commission had also voted to (1) reject staff's recommendation to forward the revised Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") Policy to the City Council for approval, and (2) ask the City Council to clarify its policy preferences on this topic. She said she hoped that the IPM Policy would go before the City Council for discussion in November.

4. Public Comment

Matt Williams, a member of the public, said he hoped that the City Council on October 17 would designate the three acres of City property at the intersection of F Street and Anderson Road as open space and direct staff to begin the proposed habitat restoration project on this property.

5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the September 11, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

Commissioner Millstein requested several edits to the draft minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Hoshovsky, the Commission voted 4-0-3-0 to approve the meeting minutes, as revised. (Ayes – Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Layton, Payne; Abstentions – None).

6. Regular Items

Action Item – Approve draft goals, objectives, and action items for the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said that she didn't feel comfortable asking the Commission for approval of the draft action items for the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program with three Commissioners absent. She said she would prefer to approve the draft action items at the next meeting. Commissioner Huber concurred with this proposal and added that he hoped the Commission could also approve the entire Strategic Plan at the next meeting.

To ensure an efficient discussion of the draft action items at the next meeting, the Commission assigned each Commissioner a section of the Strategic Plan to review, and either approve it as is or make suggestions for improvements. The Commission made the following assignments: Commissioner Huber (Acquisitions); Commissioner Hoshovsky (Habitat Restoration & Enhancement); Commissioner Layton (Land & Resource Management); Commissioner Millstein (Public Access & Recreation); Commissioner Payne (Financial & Program Accountability); Commissioner Aptekar (Public Engagement & Partnerships), and; Commissioner Bone (All Sections). Each Commissioner will be asked to give a brief presentation (five minutes) on his/her section at the next meeting. Commissioner Bone will focus on the flow of all the sections, and note action items that are missing or in conflict with other action items.

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 next meeting is November 6, 2017. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) approval of the draft action items for the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program, (2) approval of the entire Strategic Plan, (3) a presentation by the Yolo Land Trust on the City's conservation easements, and (4) a discussion of the open space and habitat elements of the proposed Nishi Gateway development project.

Upcoming Events

There were no upcoming events to report

Working Groups

Commission Millstein, a member of the Habitat Restoration Project Funding Guidance working group, updated the Commission on the status of the draft grant guidelines for restoration projects using Measure O funds. Commissioner Huber, the head of the Native Pollinators working group, said he was working with others to put together a class at U.C. Davis for the spring that would focus on mapping all the native plants in a selected neighborhood in Davis. He said this student project could serve as a prototype for a citywide effort to get the community engaged in creating better pollinator habitat throughout the city.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.