

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes
Monday, February 5, 2018
Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg, Roberta Millstein

Vacant Positions: One (Alternate)

Commissioners Absent: Rachel Aptekar, Marc Hoshovsky, 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 a quorum was achieved.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 4-0-3-0 to approve the February 2018 agenda (Ayes – Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Hoshovsky, Payne; Abstentions – None).

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, updated the Commission on staff's efforts to clean-up a City-owned site (zoned for agriculture use) near the intersection of County Roads 105 and 32 and lease it to a honey company for bee hives.

Commissioner Huber mentioned that the proposed Nishi Housing Development Project was approved by the Planning Commission and was before the City Council for consideration tomorrow night, February 6. He also said that he thought the Commission should start a discussion with City staff about establishing a citywide policy for maintaining the City's stormwater conveyance channels and detention basins as wildlife habitat. Staff mentioned that City land managers were meeting on a quarterly basis to discuss inter-departmental land management issues, including the possibility of managing some of the City's public works infrastructure for wildlife habitat. The intention is to document the agreement about these issues in a maintenance manual. Commissioner Huber said the manual was a good start but would like to revisit this issue when the maintenance manual is completed.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the January 8, 2018 regular meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Bone, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 4-0-3-0 to approve the January 2018 meeting minutes (Ayes – Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Hoshovsky, Payne; Abstentions – None).

6. Regular Items

Discussion Item – Provide comments on the revised draft outline to be used for all the land management plans for City-owned open space areas

Chris Gardner, the City's open space lands manager, presented the latest revised draft outline for a land management plan template that will be used for all land management plans for City-owned open space areas. Commissioners offered several suggestions for improving the draft outline, including linking it to specific action items mentioned in the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program. In general, Commissioners were pleased with the document. Staff said the next step would be to prepare an actual draft management plan for the Commission's review. Mr. Gardner said he would start with Wildhorse Agricultural Buffer. Staff will keep the Commission apprised of progress.

Discussion Item – Receive update on the process for determining the future use of the City’s wetlands and overflow ponds which are no longer needed for wastewater treatment

Staff updated the Commission on the process for determining the future use of the City’s wetlands and overflow ponds which are no longer needed for wastewater treatment. She said the first phase of this process focuses on determining the short- and long-term uses for the reclaimed water that will now be generated from the City’s new wastewater treatment plant. She said uses for the reclaimed water are being looked at as part of the City’s Recycled Water Master Planning effort. Staff will give the Commission a presentation about this effort in April and will be asking the Commission for input into preferred short- and long-term uses for the reclaimed water. This matter is scheduled to go before the City Council by the end of the summer. She said discussions about the future use of the City’s wetlands and overflow ponds won’t start until later this year or early next year.

Discussion Item – Receive update on public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve

Staff updated the Commission on upcoming public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve, which are being funded with Measure O, the City’s open space parcel tax, development impact fees, and state grant funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. She said staff is still working with the California Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to get an encroachment permit for the work. The agencies have requested more information. Staff said it hopes to get the permit in time to commence construction this fall.

Discussion Item – Receive update on draft Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program

Staff updated the Commission on the latest draft of the Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program. Staff said the final draft was sent to the working group for review and the working group provided staff with comments. Staff said the latest comments would be incorporated into the draft and sent back to the working group for final approval. Staff hopes to secure the approval of the full Commission in March.

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 March 5, 2018. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) a proposed “no feeding” ordinance for wild turkeys within the city limits, (2) approval of the draft Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program, and (3) a presentation from Yolo County about recent proposed improvements to Grasslands Regional Park.

Upcoming Events

Commissioner Millstein mentioned an upcoming “Davis Futures Forum” event on February 7th that will feature a talk by David Garcia, Policy Director with the UC Berkeley Terner Center for Housing Innovation.

Working Groups

There were no reports from the working groups.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.