

# Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, March 5, 2018

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

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

Vacant Positions: One (Alternate)

Commissioners Absent: Rachel Aptekar, Lon Payne

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

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

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## 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting after a quorum was achieved. Commissioner Bone arrived during Item #5.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

There were no brief announcements.

## 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the February 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Huber requested one edit to the draft minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Klineberg, the Commission voted 4-0-2-1 to approve the January 2018 meeting minutes, as amended (Ayes – Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Payne; Abstentions – Hoshovsky).

## 6. Regular Items

### **Discussion Item – Receive update from Yolo County on recent proposed improvements to Grasslands Regional Park off County Road 104**

Kevin Yarris, Director of Yolo County's General Services Department, and Jeff Anderson, Associate Parks Planner for Yolo County, gave the Commission a presentation about a \$107,000 grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Habitat Conservation Fund Program (Trails), to help fund some much-needed public accessibility improvements at Grasslands Regional Park, a 323-acre park owned by Yolo County off County Road 104. The park currently includes an archery range, a burrowing owl preserve (managed by the City of Davis), a solar field, vernal pools, and trails. Mr. Anderson said the grant will fund a concrete path from the park's parking lot to a new trail head, about 1.25 miles of standard (dirt) trail through the vernal pools, a 35-acre dog park, two shade structures, new picnic tables and benches, new interpretive signage, and improvements to the parking lot. The parking lot and concrete trail will be accessible to people with disabilities. He said the public accessibility improvements should be completed by April 2019.

### **Action Item – Recommend that the City Council approve the draft Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program**

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said that the Commission working group assigned to the Strategic Plan had reviewed the draft document over the last several weeks and provided its comments and suggested edits. She said staff had incorporated most of the working group's comments and edits into the new draft, which was included in the Commission packet for this meeting. The three members of the working group (Commissioners Bone, Hoshovsky and Huber) recommended that the Commission endorse the Strategic Plan and send it on to the City Council for approval. On

a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Klineberg, the Commission voted 5-0-2-0 to recommend that the City Council approve the draft Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program (Ayes – Bone, Huber, Hoshovsky, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Payne; Abstentions – None). Staff said it intended to bring the draft Strategic Plan to the City Council for consideration and approval later this month.

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

### **Commission Work Plan**

Staff said a discussion of the Commission's annual work plan will be on the agenda this spring.

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

The next meeting is April 2, 2018. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) a proposed "no feeding" ordinance for wild turkeys within the city limits, (2) the Commission's annual work plan, (3) recommended plantings for the habitat buffer at the proposed Nishi Housing Development Project, and (4) preferred uses for the recycled water from the City's new wastewater treatment plant.

### **Upcoming Events**

No upcoming events were discussed.

### **Working Groups**

Commissioner Hoshovsky, a member of the Signage Working Group, updated the Commission on a recent tour of open space areas that the working group went on with Chris Gardner, the City's Open Space Lands Manager. The purpose of the tour was to solicit the working group's feedback on the types of new signs that are needed at the City's open space areas, possible locations for the new signage, and ideas for new interpretive panels.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.