

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, September 10, 2018

Redwood Community Room, Redwood Park, 1001 Anderson Road, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Patrick Huber (Chair), Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Rachel Aptekar, Joy Klineberg, Roberta Millstein
Vacant Positions:	Two (One Regular, One Alternate)
Commissioners Absent:	Marc Hoshovsky
Assigned Staff:	Tracie Reynolds, Manager of Leases and Open Space
Council Liaison:	Will Arnold (Regular), Lucas Frerichs (Alternate)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting after a quorum was achieved. Commissioner Aptekar arrived at the meeting during Regular Items.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Bone, seconded by Commissioner Klineberg, the Commission voted 4-0-2-0 to approve the September 2018 agenda (Ayes – Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Aptekar, Hoshovsky; Abstentions – None).

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

Chris Gardner, the City's Open Space Lands Manager, announced that he is filling in for Tracie Reynolds as staff for this meeting. Mr. Gardner also updated the Commission on the City's recruitment efforts for the vacant seats on the Commission and for the vacant Integrated Pest Management Specialist staff position. He said John McNerney, the City's Wildlife Biologist, will be bringing a related item before the Commission for its consideration in October. He will be asking the Commission to approve staff's recommendations for the purpose, function, composition and authority of the Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Gardner also provided the Commission with an update on the habitat restoration project at F Street and Anderson Road and on trail improvements at South Fork Preserve. He also mentioned that City Councilmember Will Arnold is now the Commission's regular liaison to the City Council.

Commissioner Klineberg announced that she is getting trained as a docent for the Yolo Basin Foundation so that she can give tours at the Yolo Bypass. She said she hopes to recruit other Commissioners to be docents. Commissioner Huber announced that he will be attending the "2040 Vision for Downtown Davis" plan update meeting on September 11. He said he will report back to the Commission at the October meeting.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Consent Calendar

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

6. Regular Items

Discussion Item – Discuss the Commission's annual work plan and five-year implementation plan

Commissioners discussed the annual work plan for 2018-19. The action items discussed came from the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program approved by the City Council in March 2018. The action items are organized by the Strategic Plan's six subject areas. After discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 4-0-1-1 to approve the following annual work plan (Ayes – Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky; Abstentions – Aptekar):

Acquisitions

Emphasis will be on fee title acquisitions that satisfy multiple priority acquisition areas, especially “biological and natural resources” (See Action ACQ-4A.a below).

- Action ACQ-1A.a: Contact key landowners who own strategic parcels on the city’s urban fringe to determine interest in selling land or conservation easements. If willing sellers are found, negotiate with them to complete an acquisition.
- Action ACQ-2A.a: Contact key landowners who own strategic parcels separating Davis from nearby cities to determine interest in selling land or conservation easements. If willing sellers are found, negotiate with them to complete an acquisition.
- Action ACQ-3A.a: Contact key landowners who own strategic parcels used for prime agriculture to determine interest in selling land or conservation easements. If willing sellers are found, negotiate with them to complete an acquisition.
- Action ACQ-4A.a: Contact key landowners who own land possessing unique biological and natural resources to determine interest in selling land or conservation easements. If willing sellers are found, negotiate with them to complete an acquisition.
- Action ACQ-5A.a: Contact key landowners who own land providing key bike and trail connections to determine interest in selling land or conservation easements. If willing sellers are found, negotiate with them to complete an acquisition.
- Action ACQ-6A.a: Contact key landowners who own land possessing unique scenic resources to determine interest in selling land or conservation easements. If willing sellers are found, negotiate with them to complete an acquisition.

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

- Action HRE-1A.b: Complete the habitat restoration plan for the vacant City-owned land at the intersection of F Street and Anderson Road.
- Action HRE-1B.c: Enhance the habitat value of the Wildhorse Agricultural Buffer and other City-owned open spaces for burrowing owls, if feasible, based on consultations with local resource experts.
- Action HRE-1D.a: Establish a pilot program that awards grants of Measure O open space parcel tax funds to qualified third parties for restoration/enhancement projects on City-owned open space land. If the pilot program is successful, continue the program, as long as staffing and financial resources are available.

Land and Resource Management

- Action LRM-1A.a: Develop land management plans for all City-owned open spaces that are grounded in data and address site-specific management needs, community feedback, and changing conditions over time.
- Action LRM-1B.c: Manage the Wildhorse Agricultural Buffer to protect and enhance the habitat value of this land for burrowing owls, in consultation with local resource experts.
- Action LRM-2C.d: Install signage, printed to U.S. National Park Service standards, that uses symbols to identify allowed passive recreation activities.

- Action LRM-2C.e: Install and maintain trails, signage, and protective fencing/barriers to make sure the public does not enter sensitive areas and uses the open space site in accordance with the rules and regulations established for that site.

Public Access and Recreation

- Action PAR-1A.a: Complete hiking trail improvements at South Fork Preserve to enhance the walking experience and allow visitors (including people with disabilities) to experience all of the preserve's natural habitats, including the riparian corridor.
- Action PAR-1A.c: Complete hiking trail improvements on the three acres located at the intersection of F Street and Anderson Road to create a new publicly accessible open space with a hiking trail.
- Action PAR-1B.a: Install new and improved interpretive panels to educate the public about the open space's unique natural attributes (i.e., historical and biological) and its contribution to the regional ecosystem.
- Action PAR-1B.c: Install new and improved site signage to better educate visitors about the site itself and proper site usage (i.e., site map, self-guided tour information, site environmental information, and site rules and regulations).
- Action PAR-1C.a: Make sure the selection criteria for habitat restoration grants using City funds includes a proposed project's ability to improve and/or provide public access and recreational opportunities.

Financial and Program Accountability

- Action FPA-1A.b: Prepare implementation plans that will focus the City's efforts on implementing the strategic plan in five-year increments.
- Action FPA-1A.c: Prepare grant guidelines for third parties seeking City funding for habitat restoration projects on City-owned open space sites.
- Action FPA-1A.d: Prepare land management plans for all the City's open space sites.
- Action FPA 1B.a: Post on the City's website the written documents that guide and clarify program activities (i.e., the strategic plan, implementation plans, grant guidelines, land management plans, budget spreadsheet, Measure O spreadsheet, and open space inventory/interactive map).
- Action FPA-1C.c: Research and implement, if feasible, relevant "best practices" used at local open space districts.

Public Engagement and Partnerships

- Action PEP-2B.a: Revamp and update the interactive open space map on the City's website to provide the public with better information about the City's open space sites.
- Action PEP-3A.a: Partner with the City's Parks and Recreation Department to create better habitat in the City's parks and greenbelts.
- Action PEP-3A.b: Partner with the City's Public Works department to create better habitat and public access along the City's stormwater detention channels and in its stormwater detention basins.

- Action PEP-3A.c: Establish a working group with other City land managers (i.e., in the Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments) to share effective land management techniques, resolve conflicts and inefficiencies, and improve inter-departmental communication and cooperation.
- Action PEP-3B.a: Partner with U.C. Davis to implement priority open space projects of common interest.
- Action PEP-3B.d: Partner with key entities (i.e., governmental agencies, conservation organizations, and volunteers) who can help the City maintain its open spaces. Integrate successful partnerships into land management plans, as appropriate.

Discussion Item – Discuss staff’s final draft of grant guidelines for habitat restoration projects using Measure O funds

Commissioners reviewed the final draft of the grant guidelines for habitat restoration projects using Measure O funds and said they were generally pleased with the final draft. They requested some additional small changes to the document. On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 5-0-1-0 to approve the grant guidelines, as amended (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky; Abstentions – None).

Discussion Item – Discuss staff’s draft Request for Proposals for a sign design/manufacturing firm to design, manufacture and install a suite of new open space signage in the City’s open space areas

Commissioners also reviewed a summary of a draft Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for a sign design/manufacturing firm to design, manufacture and install a suite of new open space signage in the City’s open space areas. Commissioner Huber said he wanted to make sure the City owned all the files and graphics the consultant produced so that the City could order re-prints in the future. Commissioner Klineberg noted the need for the graphics to be compatible with multiple mediums, including signs, small print, large screens, and mobile devices. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 5-0-1-0 to move forward with the signage RFP as described by staff (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky; Abstentions – None).

7. Commission and Staff Communications

Commission Work Plan

The work plan was discussed above during Regular Items.

Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items

The next meeting is October 1. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) staff’s recommendations for the purpose, function, composition and authority of the City’s Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee, (2) comments to Commission Chair’s report on the “2040 Vision for Downtown Davis” plan, and (3) burrowing owl conservation and mitigation measures.

Upcoming Events

No upcoming events were announced.

Working Groups

No working group updates were discussed.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:46 p.m.