

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, October 1, 2018

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

Commissioners Present:	Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Rachel Aptekar, Marc Hoshovsky, Joy Klineberg, Roberta Millstein
Vacant Positions:	Two (One Regular, One Alternate)
Commissioners Absent:	Patrick Huber (Chair)
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 Bone opened the meeting after a quorum was achieved. Commissioner Klineberg arrived at the meeting during Consent Calendar.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, mentioned that three Commissioners whose terms are up at the end of the year need to tell the City Manager's Office if they intend to continue serving on the Commission. Two of those Commissioners (Commissioners Aptekar and Hoshovsky) are termed out and would need a special waiver from the City Council to continue serving on the Commission. Both Commissioners indicated that they did not intend to ask for such a waiver, but they would be open to possibly still serving on the Commission if the City was having trouble filling the vacancies. Commissioner Bone indicated that he did not intend to continue serving on the Commission.

Ms. Reynolds also gave Commissioners a copy of the final work plan that was approved by the Commission at its September meeting. Commissioner Aptekar expressed an interest in revisiting the work plan at a future meeting to discuss the 25 acres the City owns along the Mace Boulevard curve. Ms. Reynolds agreed to put the work plan on the agenda for discussion at the Commission's November meeting.

Commissioner Hoshovsky also updated the Commission on his work on the advisory committee for a grant-funded project to rejuvenate sections of Putah Creek. The Proposition 1 grant was awarded to the Solano County Water Agency.

4. Public Comment

Larry Guenther, a member of the Davis Downtown Plan Advisory Committee, thanked the Commission and staff for their work on open space and habitat issues for the City of Davis.

5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the September 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Klineberg, the Commission voted 4-0-1-1 to approve the September 2018 meeting minutes (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Huber; Abstentions – Hoshovsky).

6. Regular Items

Action Item – Approve staff's recommendations for the purpose, function, composition and authority of the City's Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee

John McNerney, the City's Wildlife Biologist, gave the Commission a presentation and asked for feedback on staff's recommendations for the purpose, function, and make-up of the Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory

Committee (“IPM-TAC”). The City Council unanimously approved a resolution in November 2017 to adopt the revised IPM policy, which includes, among other improvements, the formation of a TAC to help guide the City’s IPM program, he said. The City Council also supported staff’s recommendation to work with various commissions to develop recommendations for the City Council to consider on the make-up, function and purpose of the IPM-TAC.

The primary purpose of the IPM-TAC is to draft and maintain a “reduced-risk pesticide list” and help guide land managers in various City departments to transition to least-toxic pest management, he said. The IPM policy recommends that people from various stakeholder groups (City staff, commissioners, academic representatives) sit on the IPM-TAC.

Mr. McNerney recommended a seven-member IPM-TAC. He recommended that seats be reserved for City land managers in Parks, Public Works, and Open Space (3 voting members) and commission liaisons (4 voting members). In addition, he recommended that others be included on the IPM-TAC as nonvoting members, including the City’s IPM Specialist (1 nonvoting member) and academic advisors (3 nonvoting members).

The Commission discussed various aspects of this proposal. The Commission recommended that the City add one “at large” community member to the IPM-TAC and make the IPM Specialist a voting member.

Action Item – Approve comments to Commission Chair’s report on the “2040 Vision for Downtown Davis” plan

The Commission reviewed a report by Commissioner Huber on the open space and habitat elements of the “2040 Vision for Downtown Davis” plan (Attachment 1). On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Aptekar, the Commission voted 5-0-1-0 to approve the following motion (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Klineberg, Millstein; Noes – None; Absent – Huber; Abstentions – None):

“We support incorporating habitat elements downtown and we strongly support the recommendations of Chair Huber (See Attachment 1) to include these habitat features in the 2040 Vision for Downtown Davis plan.”

7. Commission and Staff Communications

Commission Work Plan

The work plan will be discussed at the Commission’s November 2018 meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items

The next meeting is November 5. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) proposed conservation and mitigation measures for burrowing owls proposed by the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society, and (2) the Commission work plan.

Upcoming Events

Commissioner Hoshovsky noted a “Bucks for Ducks” fundraiser on November 2 to benefit the Yolo Basin Foundation.

Working Groups

Ms. Reynolds gave the following working group updates:

- ***Habitat Restoration.*** Ms. Reynolds said the City selected Melton Design Group (“MDG”) to develop landscape design drawings and cost estimates for the habitat restoration project on City-owned land at F Street and Anderson Road. MDG was selected after a competitive solicitation. A kick-off meeting will occur soon.
- ***Public Access and Recreation.*** Ms. Reynolds said she submitted a revised encroachment permit application to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (“Board”) related to public accessibility improvements at South Fork Preserve, which are being partially funded with a state grant. She said she hopes to hear from the Board soon.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:32 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space and Habitat Commissioners

From: Patrick Huber, Commission Chair

Date: September 13, 2018

Re: Report on “2040 Vision for Downtown Davis” (the “Plan”)

Overall, there is relatively little nexus between the Plan and the Open Space and Habitat Commission. Much of the discussion involves building up, addressing parking, and enhancing the sense of place in various regions of the downtown area. None of these touch on either open space or wildlife habitat per se.

That being said, an emerging theme is “Sustainability.” While the focus is on sustainable use of resources such as energy and water, I believe that urban habitat could fit in here as well. Existing urban habitat features in the downtown area include:

- The urban garden in Central Park
- The east end of the Arboretum and Putah Creek Parkway (eventually including portions of the future Nishi development open space)
- Arboretum Terrace Garden at Davis Commons
- Owl boxes – I know of 10 currently in the Plan area
- Large, old trees

The Plan should include goals to preserve and enhance these features. Some possible actions could be:

- Link the urban garden to the Arboretum using a “pollinator highway”, i.e. native patches of vegetation planted in regular intervals and closely spaced between these areas. Perhaps if B St. undergoes an upgrade these could be included.
- Extend the existing H St. plantings south along the railroad to link up to the Arboretum. This would also serve to link the Terrace Garden in to a larger network.
- Install more owl boxes. Some current gaps include Central Park and the southern end of downtown (towards the Arboretum).
- Inventory and map the trees of downtown, especially the large trees.
- Include bat box structures in some of the new construction. There are a number of native bat species that can use urban areas as habitat. These should be relatively inexpensive and easy to include in building designs. Ideally, these would be set up using some type of

Attachment 1

*Report from Commission Chair on "2040 Vision for Downtown Davis"
Open Space and Habitat Commission
Meeting of October 1, 2018
Page 2 of 2*

experimental design in order to expand our knowledge of bat use of these types of urban features. According to the scientific literature, urban bat use is correlated with large trees and water sources. These could be used to help identify the best sites.

- Explore the possibility of installation of green roofs using native plant species.
- Focus future downtown landscaping on locally native plant species, especially those that provide pollinator resources.

Staff Instructions to Commissioners:

Based on the comments above, please answer the following two questions:

1. Do you generally support the planning concepts being presented at this stage of the planning process?
2. Do you have concerns, see any fatal flaws, or feel that significant changes in course direction are needed?