

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes
Monday, February 4, 2019
Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Erin Gooch, Stephanie Holstege, Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg, Roberta Millstein, Carrie Shaw, Marc Vayssieres, Garrett Allen (Alternate)

Vacant Positions: None

Commissioners Absent: None

Assigned Staff: Tracie Reynolds, Manager, Open Space Program

Council Liaison: Will Arnold (Regular), Lucas Frerichs (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 Klineberg, seconded by Commissioner Vayssieres, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to approve the February 2019 agenda. (Ayes – Gooch, Holstege, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein, Shaw, Vayssieres; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

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

Commissioner Huber expressed his disappointment at the list of possible replacement trees for City hackberry trees that are being removed around town. He said there was only one native tree on the list: the blue oak. All the rest of the species were non-native trees, he said. He said it was a massively lost opportunity to not plant more native trees, and seems to run counter to other city goals. He said he would like to take this up as an issue at a future Commission meeting.

4. Public Comment

Marc Hoshovsky, a Putah Creek Council docent at South Fork Preserve and former Commissioner, invited the Commission on a tour of the City's newest open space: about 10 acres of riparian habitat west of the existing South Fork Preserve off County Road 104 about a half mile south of the city limits. The tour is tentatively scheduled for some time in March or April 2019. City Council liaisons to the Commission will also be invited.

5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the January 7, 2019 regular meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Vayssieres, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to accept the January 2019 meeting minutes (Ayes – Gooch, Holstege, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein, Shaw, Vayssieres; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

6. Regular Items

Action Item -- Establish 2019-2020 Working Groups

The Commission established its working groups for the year. The working groups mirror the subject areas in the Strategic Plan for the City's Open Space Program, approved by the City Council in March 2018: (1) Acquisitions, (2) Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, (3) Land and Resource Management, (4) Public Access and Recreation, (5) Financial and Program Accountability, and (6) Public Engagement and Partnerships. The established working groups are as follows:

1. Acquisitions: Huber (lead), Klineberg, Vayssieres
2. Habitat Restoration and Enhancement: Holstege (lead), Huber, Millstein
3. Land and Resource Management: Allen (lead), Gooch, Shaw
4. Public Access and Recreation: Allen, Shaw, Vayssieres (lead)
5. Financial and Program Accountability: Klineberg, Shaw (lead)
6. Public Engagement and Partnerships: Gooch (lead), Holstege, Millstein

Discussion Item – Review of Commission protocols

The Commission received a short primer on key Commission protocols, such as Commission communications outside of noticed public meetings and the three main ways to make a motion. The Commission was happy to learn that the City had set up a Commission-wide email address so that the public can now easily communicate directly with the Commission. The Commission indicated that it would like the Commission’s staff liaison or the Commission Chair to respond to each email received.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

Commission Work Plan

It was agreed that each newly established working group would try to get together over the next couple of weeks to discuss the work plan.

Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items

The Commission’s next meeting is March 4. The Commission is expected to discuss (1) draft designs for the habitat restoration project on three acres of City property at the corner of F Street and Anderson Road, and (2) the possible installation of hedgerows on City-owned agricultural land.

Upcoming Events

No upcoming events were discussed.

Working Groups

Ms. Reynolds gave the following working group updates:

- ***Habitat Restoration and Enhancement.***
 - **Draft Grant Guidelines.** Ms. Reynolds mentioned that she met with representatives from Parks and Recreation and Public Works to discuss the draft grant guidelines for habitat restoration projects using Measure O funds, and that the meeting went well. She said she had not had time to bring the draft grant guidelines to the City Council for approval. The Commission voted to recommend the draft grant guidelines to the City Council for approval in September 2018.
 - **F and Anderson Site.** Ms. Reynolds said that the tentative timeline for completing a habitat restoration project on three acres of City-owned land at the corner of F Street and Anderson Road was as follows: (1) Commission approves draft designs in March and final designs in April, (2) site grading occurs in the spring, (3) solarization (i.e., a non-toxic and effective way to kill invasive weeds) occurs in the summer, and (4) planting of native grasses/shrubs/trees occurs in winter 2019/2020.
- ***Public Access and Recreation.*** Ms. Reynolds mentioned that the Central Valley Flood Protection Board had completed its review of the City’s encroachment permit application and had sent it on to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) for its review. She said the USACE had requested additional information: (1) a biological assessment, (2) a cultural resources report, (3) a delineation of waters of the United States, and (4) a complete description of all proposed activities associated with the project (i.e., the type of work that will occur, the specific location of the activities, and whether any of the activities would involve the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters). She said she expected the City to apply for take coverage under the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.