

**Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes**  
**Monday, January 4, 2021**  
**Remote Audio and Video Meeting Participation, 6:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Ramiro Cabanillas-Ledesma, Lindsay Correa, Patrick Huber (Vice Chair), Sherman McFarland, Carrie Shaw, Emma Torbert, Marc Vayssieres, and Patricia Price (Alternate)

Vacant Positions: None

Commissioners Absent: None

Assigned Staff: Tracie Reynolds, Manager, Open Space Program (Present)

Council Liaison: Vacant (Regular), Vacant (Alternate)

---

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting after a quorum was achieved and called roll call. He said he would be chairing the meeting temporarily as Vice Chair until a new Chair was elected later in the meeting.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

On a motion by Commissioner Vayssieres, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to approve the January 2021 regular meeting agenda (Ayes – Cabanillas-Ledesma, Correa, Huber, McFarland, Shaw, Torbert, Vayssieres; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said that bids are due on January 15 in response to the City-issued “Request for Proposals” for a landscape architecture firm to design and manufacture interpretive panels at South Fork Preserve. She also confirmed that on December 17 the City and the Yolo Land Trust were awarded a \$701,000 state grant from the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, or SALC, to purchase the Gill Orchard easement, an agricultural conservation easement on 124 acres of farmland east of Wildhorse, about a half mile from the city limits. She also confirmed that on December 11 the City and the Yolo Land Trust completed the purchase of a 135-acre agricultural conservation easement west of the city limits related to the ag mitigation for the Bretton Woods residential development.

Ms. Reynolds also updated the Commission on upcoming Commissioner training sessions that will cover (1) the Brown Act and due process, (2) the Political Reform Act and conflicts of interest, and (3) land use and the California Environmental Quality Act. Finally, she notified the Commission that the City Council will likely approve new liaisons to the City Council on January 5. She said Councilmember Will Arnold will likely be the new regular liaison and Councilmember Lucas Frerichs will likely be the new alternate. She also mentioned that Councilmember Josh Chapman will likely be the new regular liaison to the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (“LPCCC”) and Councilmember Will Arnold will likely be the new alternate liaison to the LPCCC. She noted that the City Council will likely ask Commissioner Huber to continue to serve as proxy at LPCCC board meetings for Councilmembers Chapman and Arnold.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**5. Consent Calendar**

There was one item on the consent calendar: approval of the December 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Vayssieres, the Commission voted 6-0-0-1 to approve the December 2020 meeting minutes (Ayes – Cabanillas-Ledesma, Huber, McFarland, Shaw, Torbert, Vayssieres; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – Correa).

**6. Regular Items**

**Discussion Item – Oaths of office and introduction of new Commission members**

Each Commissioner took the oath of office and then took a few minutes to introduce him/herself and describe his/her professional background, interests, and reasons for joining the Commission. Ms. Reynolds, along with Commissioners Huber, Shaw and Vayssieres, thanked all the new Commissioners for their willingness to share their time and expertise with the citizens of Davis. There was no public comment on this item.

**Discussion Item -- Receive an overview presentation from City staff about the City's Open Space Program and Commission annual work plan**

The Commission heard an overview presentation by Ms. Reynolds about the City's Open Space Program and the Commission's annual work plan. There was no public comment on this item. Ms. Reynolds said she would send the Commission the current annual work plan and matrix of working groups. Commissioners expressed an interest in revisiting the topic of community outreach about the Open Space Program in 2021.

**Action Item – Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2021**

Commissioner Huber nominated Commissioner Shaw to serve as Chair. Commissioner Vayssieres said he was willing to serve as Vice Chair. Commissioner Huber then made a motion to elect Commissioner Shaw as Chair for 2021 and Commissioner Vayssieres as Vice Chair for 2021.

On a motion by Commissioner Huber, seconded by Commissioner Cabanillas-Ledesma, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to elect Commissioner Shaw as Chair and Commissioner Vayssieres as Vice Chair for 2021 (Ayes – Cabanillas-Ledesma, Correa, Huber, McFarland, Shaw, Torbert, Vayssieres; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

Commissioner Shaw chaired the remainder of the meeting.

**7. Commission and Staff Communications**

**Commission Work Plan**

The Commission work plan was not discussed.

**Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, February 1. Possible topics discussed included (1) a discussion of the Commission work plan and working group assignments, (2) an update on the Cannery Farm, and (3) a discussion of Commission protocols.

**Upcoming Events**

No upcoming events were discussed.

**Working Groups**

1. *Acquisitions*. No updates were reported.
2. *Habitat Restoration and Enhancement*. No updates were reported.
3. *Land and Resource Management*. No updates were reported.
4. *Public Access and Recreation*. No updates were reported.
5. *Financial and Program Accountability*. No updates were reported.
6. *Public Engagement and Partnerships*. No updates were reported.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.