



**City of Davis  
Utilities Commission Minutes  
Remote Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Gerry Braun, Andrew Cullen (Acting Chair), Steve Gellen, Lorenzo Kristov, Elaine Roberts-Musser, Johannes Troost

Commissioner(s) Absent: Linda Deos (Chair)

Council Liaison(s) Present: None

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Director - Public Works Utilities & Operations  
Adrienne Heinig, Assistant to the Director

Also in Attendance: Doug Moore & Timothy Banyai, West Yost Associates  
Kelly McCrory  
Edward (last name not given)

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Acting Chairperson Cullen called meeting to order at 5:32pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

J Troost moved to approve the agenda, seconded by G Braun. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commission Members, and City Council Members**

- E Roberts-Musser provided five articles for Commission review:
  - Drought May Force California to Challenge Farmer's Historic Water Rights - NewsBreak
  - Should You Even Bother Throwing Plastic in the Recycling Bin - The Week
  - Inside America's Groundbreaking Solar-Powered Health Facility - The Guardian

- Pricing Groundwater will Help Solve California's Water Problems - Local News Matters
- Santa Barbara County Helping Cities, Towns Adapt to Extreme Weather
- A Heinig shared the following updates from the City Council meeting on
  - The solid waste rate adjustment for January 2023 of 1.5% approved.
  - An item on Council on Commission appointments resulted in the following updates:
    - Modify commissioner term end dates: Terms ending on December 2022 have been adjusted to June 2023; terms ending on December 2024 have been adjusted to June 2025.
    - Julie Diane Knudsen appointed as alternate for Utilities Commission.
    - Linda Deos appointed as alternate for Planning Commission and will begin her term in January.
    - The Council will be holding a commission workshop tentatively Jan 17, 2023 to discuss functions and structure, interaction with staff and Council, appointment process.
    - Next cycle for commission recruitment will begin March 2023.
- A Cullen stated that due to the extension of his term with the Commission by Council, he will remain on the Commission until March, and then be leaving.

#### **4. Public Comment**

One public comment was received:

- Kelly McCrory voiced concern that the options presented for the replacement or redesign of the Davis Little League field to accommodate repairs to a H St. pump station would destroy the Little League, as there is nowhere else for the organization to go. The location of the Little League field is a defining aspect of the organization. The second option would take up needed space and would displace existing amenities. If the determination is made not to move forward with the work on the pump station, it is important to share this information with the Little League so they no longer need to worry, and the City is encouraged to look at alternative options. Working with the City on the recent H Street and bike path improvements has been a positive, so the City is encouraged to work with Little League, and take into account its meaning for families and consider other options.

#### **5. Consent Calendar**

##### **A. Urban Forest Management Plan Comments**

##### **B. Solid Waste Legislative Update**

Prior to the approval of the Consent Calendar, Item 5A was pulled for discussion.

E Roberts Musser made a motion to move the Consent Calendar absent Item 5A, seconded by G Braun. Approved by following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

Item 5A (*Urban Forest Management Plan Comments*): Pulled for a discussion to review the comments prepared by E Roberts-Musser to submit on behalf of the Commission for the Urban Forest Management Plan effort underway. E Roberts-Musser is the commissioner assigned as liaison for the Urban Forest Management Plan discussions with the Tree Commission.

Brief commission discussion included the following:

- Recent Tree Commission discussion included shading levels of parking lots and the challenges with the City's 50% shade cover requirement.
- Clarification that enforcement is not a part of the Urban Forest Management Plan, rather the enforcement would be addressed with an update of the City's Tree Ordinance.
- Appreciation for the well-stated comments in the document.
- Clarification that the process to update the Urban Forest Management Plan is still underway, and a draft is not yet produced for review.
- Concerns about policies around utilities and tree planting, and the potential conflicts that can be very serious.
- Remarks to the Tree Commission that the tree removal process is arbitrary. Staff described the process to request a tree removal, and indicated that an assessment of what factors to consider in the tree removal process, and where the authority lies, will occur with the Urban Forest Management Plan.
- The recommendation that the education for the public around trees and the City's urban forestry program needs improvement. Clear criteria of what the Commission will consider with tree removal requests should be provided online.

At 6:15 p.m., there was a power outage that resulted in a loss of quorum (three members of the Commission lost power). The meeting was recessed until 6:18 p.m. when quorum was restored. L Kristov returned to the meeting at 6:16 p.m., S Gellen returned to the meeting at 6:21 p.m., and J Troost returned to the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

## 6. Regular Items

### A. Replacement or Redesign for H Street Pump Station Considerations.

The item was opened by S Gryczko, who introduced consultants from West Yost Associates, Doug Moore and Timothy Banyai, providing a presentation on the replacement or redesign considerations for the H Street Stormwater Pump

Station. Clarification was provided by staff that no recommendation was requested of the Commission at this meeting as it was too early in the process.

Commission discussion included the following:

- Clarification from staff on the following:
  - o That the cost of service study accounted for the anticipated capital improvement projects. However once a design was approved by Council, staff would look for grant funding.
  - o That the detention basin at the site in the first alternative would be designed primarily for climate change impacts, not to increase the pump station capacity.
  - o That there is not enough information on the project available at the current stage to determine if a detention basin could be constructed in a way that would not impact the ballfields.
  - o The new pumps to be installed at the station would be electric, to replace the existing diesel pumps. When asked about backup power, staff indicated that the space is constrained, but the comment to look at more resilient and sustainable designs was noted. The consultant indicated that diesel generators are most commonly used, but all alternatives would be reviewed.
  - o The modeling undertaken to develop the alternatives was for less frequent but larger storms. When asked if modeling more frequent storms would change station design, staff and the consultant indicated it would not result in major design changes.
  - o When modeling for the flood impacts, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) criteria of a 100-year flood was used.
  - o That a significant contributor to the need to upgrade the H Street Pump station is the risk of catastrophic failure.
  - o That the detention basin in alternative one would not have issues in the same way that the West Area Pond does with habitat.
- When asked about the design for the generator, staff indicated that the backup power would be designed to cover the full station.
- Staff were encouraged to align the climate change model assumptions with the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.
- When asked if there were rational scenarios where the City could store and reuse the stormwater, staff responded that while an interesting question, stormwater capture and reuse was not a part of the current discussion. The detention basins are not for groundwater recharge as designed, as there would be a lot more land necessary to reuse the stormwater to recharge the aquifer. When asked if it could be an option to consider, staff responded that the footprint of the station and location would not be a good candidate for reuse.

- When asked if behavior change and stormwater capture at residential properties could impact the size of the design, staff indicated not within the timeframe of the needed modifications to the station.
- Reaffirming that the full cost of the replacement of the ballfields (if the first alternative was considered) would need to include the cost to relocate and replace the facility.
- The suggestion to do work to address the baseline needs of the station now, and address the climate change adaptation for the station later. Staff indicated that the work could address backup power to make it more reliable now, address structural issues, and later in the project could evaluate the flows and look at a phased project. Staff indicated that the design could ensure allowance for modifications if needed in the future.
- The possibility of measuring residential stormwater runoff and mandating reuse systems to lessen impacts on stormwater pump stations. Staff indicated that a delay with making the station secure as possible with current flows would be problematic.
- The need to focus on source reduction by lowering the amount of stormwater entering the City's system in general.
- Staff indicated that the City is looking at the outreach with the community as the project moves forward, as the meeting is the beginning of the public engagement process with a long way to go. Staff reiterated that no particular design is suggested at this stage, as direction is necessary from Council, with the consideration of community impact as a significant factor. There is a need to address the capital needs of the station, the fiscal impact, and the impact to individuals and families that use the field and the value of the field. Ultimately, Council would determine the preferred path forward, but more information would need to be obtained to get to that point.
- It was suggested that if the Little League fields would need to be relocated, a partnership with the school district should be explored.

For the regular public comment period, no public comment was received. The item was opened for a second public comment period by a motion from A Cullen seconded by S Gellen. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

One public comment was received:

- Edward: Stated he was listening as an interested observer and parent/coach with Davis Little League. Stated strong objection to the

destruction of the crown jewel of the City, and would be interested in the discussion of the community impact. Asked what plans the City has to evaluate the economic and environmental costs of the removal of the fields.

*No formal action was taken on this item.*

## **B. Community Resilience Subcommittee Update.**

The item was opened by S Gellen who provided a brief update of the work of the Community Resilience Subcommittee, and to request recommendations on how to move forward with the resilience hub project. In May, the subcommittee provided information on the value of a resilience hub and the potential grant funding that may be available. City Council had directed staff to look into options for grant funding, however staff has been unable to address the issue to this point, and there is some frustration as other communities are developing resilience hubs, and there are sources of grant funding that could be available to the City. He stated that the subcommittee is looking to get Council re-engaged to determine if resilience hubs should indeed be a priority focus. E Roberts-Musser added that having a staff person assigned to the project is necessary to have a plan in place and ensure the City could take advantage of available grant funding.

Commission discussion included the following:

- Agreement with wanting to move forward with the resilience hub discussion, and the suggestion to connect discussions of the resilience hub with the CAAP effort.
- The suggestion that the resilience hub could be integrated into the sustainability program changes coming up. It was suggested that with the focus on the CAAP, and it would be likely many of the staff working on the CAAP would also be included in the resiliency hub discussions.
- Concern about the timelines for funding opportunities, including ARPA funds.
- The suggestion that Commissioners could reach out to the City staff taking lead on the CAAP, and asking them to include the discussion of the resilience hub in the Council review of the CAAP on December 6.
- A report of a meeting in July with the Superintendent of the Davis Joint Unified School District (DJUSD) and Facilities Director, where their staff were enthusiastic about the idea.
- Recommendation to ask the Council to assign staff to the discovery phase of the resilience hub project, to track funding and connect all interested stakeholders to ensure public engagement. L Kristov will draft letter from

Utilities Commission to City Council describing the school interest in setting up a resilience hub.

- Appreciation for the work of the subcommittee was expressed.

*No public comment was received on this item, and no formal action was taken.*

### **C. Annual Review of Climate Action and Adaptation Planning and Implementation Process Subcommittee.**

The item was introduced by A Cullen. Annual reviews of the work of subcommittees are required by the City's Commission Handbook. A Heinig indicated to the Commission that the role of commission liaison to the Natural Resources Commission meetings on the CAAP would end with the approval of the CAAP by City Council.

Commission discussion included concluding the work of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) subcommittee until the CAAP implementation plan is on the table, and the Commission can refocus the subcommittee work on the implementation once it's finalized. Additionally, new members of the Commission may want to be involved.

**MOTION:** to disband the Climate Action and Adaptation Planning and Implementation Process Subcommittee once there is approval of the CAAP by City Council.

Moved by E Roberts-Musser, seconded by J Troost. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

*No public comment was received on this item.*

## **7. Commission and Staff Communication**

### **A. Long Range Calendar**

The item was introduced by S Gryczko. Upcoming items for discussion included near-term water infrastructure projects and resiliency needs. It was suggested that the Commission cancel the December 21, 2022 meeting due to the proximity to the upcoming winter holidays. The Commission agreed to cancel the meeting by consensus.

*No public comment was received on this item, and no formal action was taken.*

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:22 p.m.