

**Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes**  
**1818 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Monday, June 1, 2009**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Rachel Aptekar, Eric Davis, Marc Hoshovsky, Greg House,  
Kemble Pope, Kevin Takei, Danny Yeung

Commissioners Absent: Helena Chung

Commission Liaisons: Nicole Slaton (Rec and Park), Rob Hoffman (Planning)

Assigned Staff: Mitch Sears

Council Liaison: Lamar Heystek

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**1. Agenda**

Approved unanimously with corrections.

**2. Minutes**

May 4, 2009 minutes approved unanimously with corrections.

**3. Public Communications**

None.

**4. Public Access to Open Space**

John McNerney, the City's Wildlife Resource Specialist, made a presentation to the Commission on the potential conflicts created by public access to sensitive wildlife areas in the City. The Commission discussed the benefits of access balanced against potential for disturbance of wildlife. Following discussion, there was general consensus among the Commission that public access was appropriate along the north shore of the West Davis Pond, but not along the south shore of the North Davis Pond. The latter conclusion was based in part on the current lack of connectivity this access trail would provide. The Commission recognized that future projects may increase the benefits of the North Davis Pond access trail.

Staff will contact key West Davis neighborhood groups and report back to the Commission on potential support for an access trail along the north shore of the West Pond.

**5. Commission Goals – 2008 – Working Group Reports/Recommendations**

Community Farms Working Group – Following Commission discussion on options to update the General Plan to include the concept of community farms, the Commission took the following actions related to community farms:

On a motion by Commissioner Pope, seconded by Commissioner Yeung, the Commission recommended the City Council adopt the following resolution to consider modification of the City's General Plan regarding Community Farms:

**Resolution Recommending Adoption of Amendments to the City General Plan regarding Community Farms and Consideration of Modification of the City's Farmland Preservation Ordinance**

WHEREAS, in December 2004 City Staff prepared a draft Covell Village Small Urban Farms Concept; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2007, the City Council and Open Space and Habitat Commission (OSHC) held a joint meeting where staff presented the Community Farms Concept and the City Council requested the OSHC to explore methods to implement the Community Farms Concept; and WHEREAS, on May 4, 2009, the OSHC adopted a "Community Farm Concept" paper dated May 4, 2009.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Davis City Council accepts the recommendations of the Open Space and Habitat Commission as follows:

1. Approval of the following four amendments to the City's General Plan:
  - a. Amendment of Principle 14 under "Principles Used In Creating Land Use Map" at page 59 of the General Plan as follows:

14. Create an open space buffer between urban and agricultural uses to maintain the integrity of the adjoining agricultural/natural areas, to serve as a transitional space between urban and rural lands, to provide a visual edge, to be the primary area for establishing community farms, and to be an aesthetic and recreational resource. [Addition underlined]
  - b. Amendment of the "Intent" section under part "N. Urban Agricultural Transition Area" of the "Land Use Categories" at page 86 of the General Plan to add the following fourth intent:

4] To encourage the establishment of community farms which would integrate compatible community scale agricultural uses as a transition between urban and non-urban uses and agricultural uses. These community farms would serve to: 1) educate the community about agricultural, food and nutrition issues, 2) provide volunteer opportunities, 3) train new farmers and gardeners, 4) provide a source of local agricultural products, and 5) provide alternative outdoor recreation opportunities for the community. [Addition underlined]

- c. Amendment of the section titled “Allowable Uses” following the “Intent” section at page 86 of the General Plan as follows:

Allowable Uses: Passive open space recreation such as trails and bikeways, wildlife and habitat preservation, drainage ways, community gardens, community farms, plant stock portions of nurseries, agriculture. [Addition underlined]

- d. Amendment of the “Policies” section following the “Allowable Uses” section at page 87 of the General Plan to add a new Policy LU N.9 as follows:

Policy LU N.9 Require development projects proposed on lands at the City's non-urbanized perimeter to include appropriately scaled community farms in an equal weight design alternative. [Addition underlined]

2. Direct the Open Space and Habitat Commission to consider and recommend revisions to the City’s Farmland Preservation Ordinance (City Code § 40A.03.0 et seq.) to encourage community farms and explore other avenues to create incentives for establishing community farms around the City.

The motion was approved 6-0

Adoption of Commission Goals for 2009/10

On a motion by Commissioner Pope, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission approved Goals for 2009/10 (June 2009 to June 2010) amended to include notation of continuing business for certain goals and identification of three priority goals for 2009/10:

1. Pursue implementation of Commission recommended actions to promote public use of the City’s open space system.
2. Promote and incentivise community based farms
3. Review Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan for possible updates, edits, and additions.

The motion was approved 6-0

Formation of Commission Working Groups for 2009/10 Goals

The Commission formed the following Working Groups for its 2009/10 Goals:

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Promote public use of the City’s open space system</b>	<b>Promote and incentivise community based farms</b>	<b>Review Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan</b>
<b>Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aptekar</li><li>• Pope</li><li>• Takei</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chung</li><li>• Davis</li><li>• House</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hoshovsky</li><li>• House</li><li>• Yeung</li></ul>

**6. Staff/Commission Communications**

- Commission Liaison reports – No reports were given.
- Next meeting: Monday, September 14, 2009.

**7. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

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