

Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2017

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

Commissioners Present:	Rachel Aptekar, Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg, Lon Payne
Vacant Positions:	Alternate
Commissioners Absent:	Marc Hoshovsky, Roberta Millstein
Assigned Staff:	Tracie Reynolds, Manager of Leases and Open Space
Council Liaison:	Lucas Frerichs (Regular), Will Arnold (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 Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Payne, the Commission voted 5-0-2-0 to approve the agenda (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky, Millstein; Abstentions – None).

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said that unfortunately Commissioner Stephen Layton had resigned from the Commission effective immediately. She said Commissioner Joy Klineberg, as the alternate, automatically assumes his seat on the Commission. The City Manager's Office will be conducting a recruitment to fill the alternate position.

4. Public Comment

Alan Hirsch, a member of the public, informed the Commission that Jeff Tumlin will be the next featured speaker for the Davis Futures Forum. He will be speaking Wednesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Davis City Council Chambers about how demographic changes and technological innovations are impacting transportation planning.

5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the November 6, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Commissioners Huber and Aptekar requested two edits. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Payne, the Commission voted 5-0-2-0 to approve the meeting minutes, as amended (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky, Millstein; Abstentions – None).

6. Regular Items

Action Item – Approve comments on the open space and habitat elements of the proposed Nishi Gateway development project

The Commission heard a presentation about the open space and habitat elements of the proposed Nishi Housing Development from the project applicants. Commissioners primarily discussed possible land uses on the undeveloped southern portion of the site and a possible bus crossing over the Putah Creek Parkway. Alan Hirsch, a member of the public, urged the Commission to support the project and the bus crossing over the Putah Creek Parkway. Several Commissioners however voiced their concern about how the bus crossing would impact this important open space area. On a motion by Commissioner Payne, seconded by Commissioner Aptekar, the Commission voted 5-0-2-0 to approve the following motion (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – Hoshovsky, Millstein; Abstentions – None):

“The Nishi Housing Development proposal would better meet the City's open space and habitat goals if it included the following:

1. **Open space/habitat connectivity.** The Commission recommended linking the existing Putah Creek Parkway with the stormwater drainage basin on site. To achieve this connectivity, the Commission recommended shrinking the 5.5 acres reserved for “satellite parking” and reconfiguring the 1.8 acres reserved for “community space” to create a continuous open space/habitat area on the southern portion of the site between the parkway and the drainage basin.
2. **Valley oak woodland habitat.** The Commission preferred using the 4.5 acres reserved for “parks and greenways” on the site map for valley oak woodland habitat. The second preferred use for this area was an urban farm, and the third preferred use was playfields.
3. **A grade-separated crossing.** The Commission was concerned that an at-grade crossing for buses over the Putah Creek Parkway would negatively impact the open space/habitat quality of the parkway. The Commission preferred a grade-separated overcrossing for bus traffic.
4. **More compact development.** The Commission recommended shrinking the building footprint, and adding one or more floors to the buildings instead, as a way to provide more open space on site.”

Action Item – Approve draft goals, objectives and action items for the Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program

The Commission reviewed and discussed the latest draft of the goals, objectives and action items for the Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program. Commissioners requested several edits to the draft document. Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, said she would make most of the requested edits and explained which edits she was not going to make and why. On a motion by Commissioner Huber, seconded by Commissioner Klineberg, the Commission voted 4-1-2-0 to approve the draft goals, objectives and action items, as edited, for the Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg; Noes – Payne; Absent – Hoshovsky, Millstein; Abstentions – None). The Commission will be asked to approve the entire Strategic Plan in early 2018.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

Commission Work Plan

The Commission has deferred approval of the work plan until the Strategic Plan for the Open Space Program is finalized.

Upcoming Meeting Date, Time, Items

The next meeting is January 8, 2018, which is the second Monday of the month because the first Monday of the month (January 1) is a holiday. The January meeting will be held at a different location. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) a proposed “no feeding” ordinance for wild turkeys within the city limits, (2) the open space and habitat elements of the proposed West Davis Active Adult Community development proposal, and (3) approval of the entire Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program.

Upcoming Events

There were no upcoming events to report.

Working Groups

There were no reports from the working groups.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.