

Natural Resources Commission
Minutes
January 26, 2009

Commissioners:

Present: Herman Boschken, Charles Ehrlich, Doug Fetterly,
Jennifer Holman (Vice-Chair), Adrienne Kandel, Dean Newberry

Absent: Brook Gale (excused), Mark Lubell (Alternate) (excused)

Staff: Sue Gedestad, Assistant Public Works Director
Bob Weir, Public Works Director
Eric Lee, Assistant Planner
Mike Webb, Principal Planner

Council Liaison: Stephen Souza (absent)

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2008

Minutes of **November 24, 2008** were approved by consensus with the following additions to the discussion list in item 8: allowing the use of open hearth on windy days and special permission for people with older ultra efficient wood heaters.

4. Commission and Staff Announcements

Jennifer Holman and Dean Newberry will recuse themselves from the discussion of item 10 - DEIR for New Harmony Apartment Project.

Sue Gedestad mentioned on behalf of Kelly Stachowicz, Assistant City Manager, the brochure for the upcoming "5th United Nations Association Film Festival – Traveling Film Festival Davis" that will be in Davis on Sunday, March 1, 2009 from 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM at the Varsity Theatre. The Festival will feature four documentary films dealing with environmental sustainability.

5. Council Liaison Comments

Not present

6. Public Communications: None

Consent Calendar

7. **A. Long Range Calendar**
Action: Herman Boschken wanted to add water resource projects to the calendar.
- B. U.S. Department of Energy / Office of Legacy Management
Program Update July – September 2008**
Action: Accepted
- C. DRAFT Water Resources Association Minutes from October 6, 2008 and
“The Year in Review”**
Action: Accepted

Regular Calendar

8. **Select Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009**
Dean Newberry and Adrienne Kandel nominated Jennifer Holman as Chair.
Adrienne Kandel and Doug Fetterly nominated Dean Newberry as Vice-Chair.
Nominations passed unanimously.
9. **Green Lighting Technologies**
Michael Siminovitch, UCD Professor and Director, California Lighting Technology Center gave a Powerpoint presentation on new green lighting technologies. Mr. Siminiovitch extended an invitation to the Commission/City of Davis to take advantage of the expertise of our close neighbor and friend, UCD, and allow him and his staff to work with the city to design better, more efficient lighting both inside and outside city facilities. Mr. Siminovitch believes that new lighting technology can not only reduce the City’s current cost of electricity but can also heighten security and dramatically affect our contribution to dark skies and aid in our sustainability issues. He also recommended applying for one-time grant monies that could help curb the initial cost of re-lighting the city.

Mr. Siminovitch suggested we consider: integrated office lighting systems, motion sensor lighting in parking garages, walkways, street lighting, and stairwells.
10. **DEIR for New Harmony Apartment Project**
Jennifer Holman and Dean Newberry left the meeting at the start of this item. Adrienne Kandel chaired the remainder of the meeting.

The proposed project is a 69-unit, affordable rental apartment community and a business park/office. Eric Lee, Assistant Planner, and Mike Webb, Principal Planner presented a short overview of the project; where we are at to date and how we got here.

Charles Ehrlich asked Kris Kordana, the Planning Commission (PC) liaison to the Commission, if he could bring the NRC up to date on the PC’s discussion and subsequent

denial of the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the New Harmony Apartments based on the inadequacy of the air quality data.

Kris Kordana expressed that the PC felt that the project is good, but the health impacts were understated. PC felt that the epidemiology data and mitigation measures needed to be looked at closer and that the conclusions relied on Sierra Research too much in concluding the health issues were not significant.

Discussion covered the following items:

- Clarification of burrowing owl habitat mitigation mentioned in Commissioner Lubell's email;
- There is no current standard for mobile emissions;
- Tom Cahill, UCD, feels project is less than significant in terms of air quality;
- Correctness of the way the developer is addressing health impacts and mitigation; DEIR says no significant health impacts, maybe DEIR should state the health effects as undetermined;
- Adequacy of mitigation measures;
- Maintenance of filters and reliability of equipment is necessary to be effective;
- Perhaps the seasonality of air quality should be considered and when people may be indoors or outdoors more;
- Possibly do a serious sampling plan before air quality determinations are made;
- EIR should address what the effect will be on the children before the proposed trees have grown and can provide filtration benefits;
- There is conflicting scientific evidence;
- Is the zoning change appropriate?

NRC took public comment. Matt Jones, from Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District, introduced himself to say he was available for any questions. Wendy Carter, SMHA project manager, spoke about the project background, intense analysis project has undergone about health issues, and measures that have been incorporated addressing air quality. Local resident, Sarah Taylor, raised her concerns about health issues and impact to children.

After much discussion, Adrienne Kandel motioned that the NRC support comments to be summarized by Planning Commissioner Kordana that the DEIR is insufficient in air quality in addressing the health research. Motion was seconded by Herman Boschken, motion passed 3 to 1 with Charles Ehrlich opposed.

Charles Ehrlich did not think that one health study rose to the level to make denial of a project and proposed that the developer look into attaching HEPA filters to the HVAC units for more effective filtration and use no-VOC paint in the mitigation. He also provided a comparison of energy efficiency for the project under different building scenarios. (Hard copy attached.)

Adjournment - Herman Boschken motioned for adjournment at 9:54 PM. Motion seconded by Adrienne Kandel and Charles Ehrlich.