

# Open Space and Habitat Commission Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2018

Redwood Park Community Room, Redwood Park, 1001 Anderson Road, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Rachel Aptekar, Jason Bone (Vice Chair), Marc Hoshovsky, Patrick Huber (Chair), Joy Klineberg, Roberta Millstein, Lon Payne
Vacant Positions:	One (Alternate)
Commissioners Absent:	None
Assigned Staff:	Tracie Reynolds, Manager of Leases and Open Space
Council Liaison:	Lucas Frerichs (Regular), Will Arnold (Alternate)

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## 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Huber opened the meeting.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Hoshovsky, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to approve the agenda (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

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

Tracie Reynolds, staff to the Commission, updated the Commission on staff's efforts to clean-up a City-owned site (zoned for agriculture use) near the intersection of County Roads 105 and 32. She said staff intends to put bee hives on the cleaned-up site under a license agreement with a local honey company. She also updated the Commission on vandalism incidents at South Fork Preserve. Commissioner Hoshovsky mentioned that the artwork the Commission rejected for the Wildhorse Agricultural Buffer has been placed in front of Playfields Park. Commissioner Payne mentioned that there are numerous encampments along the Old Lincoln Highway and that debris is floating in the drainage channel.

## 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 5. Consent Calendar

There was only one item on the consent calendar: approval of the December 4, 2017 regular meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Bone, the Commission voted 5-0-0-2 to approve the meeting minutes, as amended (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Huber, Klineberg, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – Hoshovsky, Millstein).

## 6. Regular Items

### **Action Item – Approve comments on the open space and habitat elements of the proposed West Davis Active Adult Community development project**

The Commission heard a presentation about the open space and habitat elements of the proposed West Davis Active Adult Community (“WDAAC”) development from the project applicants. Commissioners primarily discussed using the project’s drainage basin and agricultural buffer for wildlife habitat, providing/enhancing wildlife linkages along the Covell Boulevard ditch, and planting native plants throughout the project. Commissioners discussed which of these features they would recommend to be in the project’s Baseline Features and which were appropriate to include in either the zoning controls and/or development agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Millstein, seconded by Commissioner Payne, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to approve the following motion (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None):

“The Open Space and Habitat Commission makes the following recommendations about the proposed West Davis Active Adult Community development project to the Planning Commission and the City Council:

Baseline Project Features

The Commission recommends that the following features be included in the Baseline Project Features:

1. **Detention basin as habitat.** Develop and manage the detention basin as a habitat area and community amenity similar to North and West Davis ponds;
2. **Agricultural buffer as habitat.** Develop and manage the agricultural buffer as a habitat area and community amenity, for example, as described in the Acorns-to-Oaks proposal; and
3. **Open space/habitat connectivity.** Improve the drainage ditch next to Covell Boulevard to enhance habitat and wildlife connectivity, including the provision of culverts that allow for wildlife movement.

Development Agreement/Zoning Controls

The Commission recommends that the following features be included in either the development agreement or the zoning controls, as applicable:

4. **Public access.** Encourage public access and recreational opportunities in the 50-foot-wide agricultural transition area (See Municipal Code Section 40A.01.050);
5. **Native plants.** Maximize the use of native plants and plants that benefit native animals, including pollinators and invertebrates, throughout the project including on internal greenbelts;
6. **Maintenance funding.** Ensure there is a funding mechanism for the initial planting and long-term maintenance of habitat areas throughout the project; and
7. **More open space.** Redesign the project to include more natural features and larger open spaces that provide views of the surrounding landscape (as opposed to pathways with buildings on both sides).”

The Commission also asked staff to provide a summary of which Commission comments were ultimately incorporated into the project and which ones were not and why. Staff said it would provide that when it was available.

Action Item – Election of new chair and vice chair

Commissioner Aptekar nominated Patrick Huber to be the chair of the Commission during 2018. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to approve Patrick Huber as the chair of the Commission during 2018 (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

Commissioner Aptekar nominated Jason Bone to be the vice chair of the Commission during 2018. On a motion by Commissioner Aptekar, seconded by Commissioner Millstein, the Commission voted 7-0-0-0 to approve Jason Bone as the vice chair of the Commission during 2018 (Ayes – Aptekar, Bone, Hoshovsky, Huber, Klineberg, Millstein, Payne; Noes – None; Absent – None; Abstentions – None).

**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 February 5, 2018. Possible agenda items discussed include (1) a proposed “no feeding” ordinance for wild turkeys within the city limits, (2) approval of the entire Strategic Plan for the City’s Open Space Program, and (3) a discussion of the draft outline for open space land management plans.

**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 9:20 p.m.