

Commission on Conservation & Agriculture
MINUTES

Special Meeting of January 21, 2020

Present	Absent	Public	Staff
Elisabeth Holder	Larry Owens	David Brown	Marek Kozikowski
Bob Daniels	David Bauer		
Brian Gartner	Katherine Owens		
Michael Thomas			
Kate Miller			
Judy Konopka			
Ellen Lukens			
Barbara Schukoske			
Jane Brawerman			
James Miller			

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. Accept the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Konopka to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gartner. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Forum

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner K. Miller made a motion to table approval of the meeting minutes of the January 7th special meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniels. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Brawerman).

E. Request for Comment

1. 2020 POCD

The Commission discussed elements that should be included in an open space map and other criteria that should be considered in identifying priority areas for conservation. The criteria include existing protected open space, City owned and other private property, wetlands, prime agricultural soil, endangered species, flood plains, steep slopes, farmlands, unprotected open space and State owned property. The existing ranking system should be used to help determine priority acquisitions.

F. Officer and Committee Reports

1. Chairman's Report

i. POCD Update

Chairwoman Holder reported that another POCD Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23. She is preparing comments on the latest draft.

ii. Acquisition Committee to review and rank incoming property purchase offers

Chairwoman Holder stated that many offers for land purchase or donation have been received to date. David Brown offered to help evaluate sites.

iii. CFPA visitor and collaboration

No new information to discuss.

iv. Certified Wildlife Habitats Program

No new information to discuss.

v. Annual Report and proposal to revamp committees

Chairwoman Holder outlined highlights of the Commission in the previous year. She also discussed the goals of the Commission for the next year and will update the list based suggestions made by Commissioner K. Miller including adding the development of a compressive open space plan.. Chairwoman Holder also suggested revamping and reorganizing some of the committees. The Commission agreed to keep all the committees as they are all included in the Commission by-laws. The Commissioners chose which subcommittee they each want to sit on which is as follows:

Acquisitions: Ellen, Liz, Brian, Judy

Agriculture: Barb, Bob, Jane, Jim, Judy

Management: Kate, Jane, Kat

Outreach: Brian, Judy

Trails: Jim, Mike, Liz

2. Trails Committee

i. Trail Work for Winter

No new information to discuss.

3. Agriculture Committee

i. Farm Market and Stand Ordinance Update

Commissioner Daniels stated that the agricultural survey was updated and available for review. He also presented that the draft ordinance was drafted and passed along to the Department of Planning, Conservation and Development. Kozikowski stated that this ordinance should wait until after the 2020 POCD is adopted.

4. Outreach Committee

i. Future Events

Commission Gartner presented that Trail Day will be held in mid-March. Commissioner Gartner presented that an event for Earth Day is being planned by the City and there may be opportunities for the Commission to get involved. He also suggested holding an urban core walk that would be coordinated with downtown events.

5. Open Space Management Committee

The committee is seeking to clarify the mechanism for appropriating and managing the funding for any open space management.

6. Open Space Acquisition Committee

The Commission will hold off on any further investigation until the open space map is updated to show priority areas for open space acquisition. Meanwhile a meeting will need to be scheduled to finalize the process for acquisition reviews.

G. Old Business

1. Kleen Energy Property

No new information to discuss.

2. Landfill Trail

No new information to discuss.

3. Open Space Regulations

Kozikowski stated that prior to proposing new open space regulation in the subdivision and zoning codes, the open space issues should be studied under a comprehensive open space plan.

4. Red Maple Swamp

No new information to discuss.

5. Livingston Updates

No new information to discuss.

6. Timber Management and Southern Border Safety

No new information to discuss.

7. Country Club Road

No new information to discuss.

8. Chiaravalle Development Rights Update

No new information to discuss.

9. NEAT Urban Farm Update

Kozikowski stated that the lease has not been signed for use of land on Miller Street as a community garden.

H. New Business

No new business.

I. Member Forum

Commissioner K. Miller discussed adding comments to the POCD requiring a comprehensive open space plan to be done to inventory existing open spaces and identify opportunities for open space conservation. With this plan, the City can prioritize implementation of open space management, including management for natural resources, safety and access.

J. Adjournment

Commissioner Schukoske made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gartner and passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 9:15pm.