



Winters Putah Creek Committee Meeting
City Council Chambers
318 First Street
Monday, January 8, 2018 6:00 pm
MINUTES

Present were:

Committee members: Balasek, Colombano, Cox, Kilkenny and Valadez
Liaison members: Biasi, Rose, Williams and Scianna

Others: Alan Pryor, Rich Marovich, Jeff Tenpas, Jesse Loren, Kate Laddish, and Alejandro Garcia-Rojas

Absent: Larsen, Myers and Riley

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Motion to approve Agenda Kilkenny, seconded Cox- Approved

Motion to approve November Minutes with one minor correction by Kilkenny, seconded Cox- Approved

Public Comments

Alan Pryor –Mr. Pryor made several points about what he felt was a lack of true science with regard to Phase I and Phase II of the River Parkway project. Mr. Pryor also made comments suggesting that proper permits were not yet in place on Phase III of the project.

Jeff TenPas- Mr. Tenpas made several comments about what he perceived to be the poor implementation of Phases I and II and specifically stated that the soil compaction during construction had inhibited plant growth and groundwater recharge. At the end of his comments, Mr. Tenpas requested each of the committee members engage in a round table disclosure exercise since there are new members on the committee; his comments were received with a polite “thank you.” Mr. Tenpas challenged the dismissal by asking “So, you’re not going to have a disclosure conversation Chair responded by saying “no” and then moving the meeting on to discussion items.

Discussion Items

1. PG&E Training Center Update- Carol

Sub-committee members, Scianna, Kent and Amy (from PCC) met on site to discuss possibilities for planning improvements to the planting area. Ideas were shared, work in this area would be a good opportunity for restoration education and outreach. Scianna will get estimates on irrigation extension costs from Public Works staff, so that PCC can begin to work up a budget plan for the project site. The goal is for fall planting.

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

Harold Anderson
Jesse Loren
Pierre Neu

MAYOR

Wade Cowan

MAYOR PRO TEM

Bill Biasi

CITY CLERK

Nanci Mills

TREASURER

Michael Sebastian

CITY MANAGER

John W. Donlevy, Jr.

2. Restoration Project Update –

Marovich reviewed historical creek flows and channel conditions. He explained the proposed modification of Phase 3 with the creation of a back-channel of approximately 600ft in the eastern section of the project. Creation of an accessible ramp would still be possible; The back-channel would provide higher aquatic habitat value than developing this section of flood plain, according to Melanie Truan, UCD biologist who has been studying the creek for decades. This modification would preclude the contiguous toe of bank trail in the back channel section of the creek at this time. This change would be a compromise regarding concerns of loss of habitat from some community members.

Alan Pryor and Jeff Tenpas both presented multiple questions and comments regarding the proposed modification including, that they believed public process was not being properly followed and that no public scientific review was being conducted on the projects. They disputed the value of the modifications as outlined by Marovich. Mr. Tenpas also accused SCWA of working in the Phase III area and around the 505 bridges without a permit.

Another comment received from Tenpas regarding compaction claims, he stated that while standing in one of the SCWA excavations sites he saw no evidence of groundwater. Based on this observation, he concluded that the project had impacted local groundwater flow and the area was no longer receiving recharge from the creek.

Scianna, responded that the city had observed no change in groundwater conditions in their well located closest to the project, there was a drop in water level during the drought but the well has recovered with last year's rains. The presentation and discussion continued until the chair asked for further comment and there were none.

3. Putah Creek Council Update – Kent

There have been 5 stewardship events involving 33 volunteers and 9 interns. Cages continue to be installed to protect trees from beavers.

4. Solano RCD Update- Chris

Working on Tree of Heaven control along Pleasants Valley

5. North Bank Improvement /Nature Trail Update – Carol

No update.

6. Feral Cat Catch/ Release Program- no report

7. Native Weavers Garden Update- Valerie (absent)

Carol shared that the group has developed a draft Feasibility Report. for the Garden Project. The group will be meeting Jan 21, and all are welcome.

Action Items

A) Election for Vice-Chair

Chair called for vote for Dennis Kilkenny as nominated for vice chair -approved unanimously

B) Phase 3 Design Modification

Following Mr. Marovich's presentation on modifications to Phase 3 (Agenda Item 2 above), Chair reminded the committee that it had previously voted to recommend that City Council



support Phase 3. Chair reminded committee that the vote was simply a recommendation to Council and that the committee had no police powers to approve or disapprove the project.

Kilkenney moved to recommend Phase 3 with the design modification, to City Council for support, seconded by Colombano- Chair called for any further committee discussion then, seeing no indication that any committee member wanted to continue the discussion, called the vote.

Mr.TenPas challenged that he wanted to comment, and that the Chair must allow the opportunity for public comment. Chair indicated that ample opportunity had been provided for public input during discussion item 2 and that only committee members would be invited to final discussion prior to the vote. Chair then called the vote and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Mr. Tenpas continued to claim a public right to comment and Chair reaffirmed that the public (in this case both Mr. Tenpas and Pryor) had been given as much time as they wanted during the discussion item. Chair then challenged the accuracy of Mr. Tenpas and Pryor's previous comments regarding public process and public scientific review by indicating that the committee was originally empaneled to receive public comment on a revision to the park master plan and once that was completed, to conduct regular public meetings to receive periodic updates on the various park projects and provide technical and social feedback. The WPCC have been meeting regularly and publicly since 2007 and that SCWA had regularly sought input and technical assistance from qualified academic staff at UC Davis as well as the technical experts on the committee to help guide the restoration work.

Chair adjourned meeting at 6:42 pm
Next Meeting March 19, 2018

Kurt Balasek, Chairman

Carol Scianna, Env. Services Mgr.

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