



Winters Putah Creek Committee Meeting
City Council Chambers
318 First Street
Monday, May 18, 2020 6:00 pm
MINUTES

Present were:

Committee members: Kurt Balasek, Eric Jepsen, Dennis Kilkenny, Kate Laddish, Eric Larsen,
Liaison members: Bill Biasi, Paul Myer (PC), Carrie Shaw (PCC), Chris Rose (RCD/PC),
Kristine DeGuerre and Carol Scianna

Others: Jeff TenPass

Absent: Denise Colombano and Amaya Jimenez

Meeting via Zoom called to order at 6:32pm, due to technical difficulties

Motion to approve Agenda by Kate seconded Eric I.- Approved

Motion to approve January 13, 2020 Minutes by Dennis seconded Eric I. –Approved

Public Comments

Eric L. shared his experience of an extended visit to Japan enjoying the many parks and open space areas. These visits helped to reinforce his appreciation for the space we have created with Nature Park, that will continue to be a wonderful legacy for many years to come.

Kate informed us that she has been serving as the WPCC liaison to the Climate Action Board

Carol explained that Pat Riley has left Planning Commission (PC) and Chris Rose newly appointed to the PC has agreed to serve as liaison to WPCC for both RCD and PC. This will be approved at next PC meeting.

Jeff voiced concerns regarding groundwater recharge, suggested that it should be added to next meeting agenda. This could include monitoring results that have been done recently by Vic Clausen.

Discussion Items

1. City Council Feedback- Kurt/Bill

Council voiced ongoing support for WPCC at Council meeting earlier this year. One of the specific suggestions was perhaps expanding the WPCC focus to include Dry Creek area and perhaps change name to Natural Resource Committee. It was decided that we should go back to Council for further direction.

2. Nature Park Extension Project Update- Carrie

Ongoing management, broad leaf weed control done by Yolo RCD and irrigation repairs as needed. Pollinator garden weeding has been done by stewardship team and Putah Creek Club students which also included wildlife monitoring. Public Works installed a wooden bench in



garden too. There has been 90% survivability of trees and shrubs and 53 volunteer hours.
Restoration Project Updates- No Update.

3. Putah Creek Council Update – Carrie

Carrie has been volunteering as interim director to reorganize and follow up on many task since Kent Anderson left in December. The Covid-19 quarantine has resulted in staff furlough's, reduction of staff hours and cancelation of programs. Some staff have been working remotely. New director has been hired, Kenny Liner to begin work June 1st. Carrie will stay on through July to get Kenny up to speed. Brian and Hannah have been working with Carol and Kristine to survey Dry Creek for restoration and bank stabilization opportunities. There are City Assessment District funds available for these projects. It was suggested that we reach out to Valerie Whitworth to she has been very involved in previous Dry Creek efforts.

4. Solano RCD Update- Chris

Chris stated that the community has been making good use of the Nature Park/Creek during the pandemic shut down. The regional arrundo eradication project continues to move forward. Mapping is near completion and staff will be reaching out to landowner to secure agreements. Contract for 2 years of eradication efforts to be followed up by local groups for 2-3 more years. Work is expected to begin Aug/Sept. 2020.

5. North Bank Improvement /Nature Trail Update – Carol

Ongoing efforts to place mulch around elderberry and other plants. Challenges with getting new ID tags placed on bushes, Carol will be working with monitoring consultant to complete this task in the next few weeks.

6. Goals Short and Long Term- All

No new discussion see previous meeting notes

Many topics were discussed highlights include:

- More PW staff time dedicated to Park and better coordination between PW and other groups doing projects- especially weed management
- Ongoing funding LPCCC/SCWA projects are done – what's next?
- Informative presentations would be nice to include at our meetings
- What is our purpose?
- Ongoing monitoring plan for creek flows, wildlife etc
- Direction from Council needed- Bill and Kurt to draft request to Council

Action Items

1. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Chair- Kurt Balasek

Vice Chair- Dennis Kilkenny

Both positions were unanimously approved via roll call vote



Chair adjourned meeting at 7:23 pm

Kurt Balasek, Chairman

Carol Scianna, Env. Services Mgr.

Next meeting March 16. 2020- 6pm