



Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2023 6:00_pm

MINUTES

Meeting Called to Order 6:03

Present were:

Commission Members: Kurt Balasek, Eric Jepsen, Dennis Kilkenny and Kate Laddish
Liaison members: Kristine DeGuerre (City), Max Stevenson (StreamKeeper) and Phil Stevens (PCC-Putah Creek Council),

Others: Kathleen Tropa (City Manager)

Absent: Melanie Ellison, Rich Marovich, Chris Rose (Solano RCD- Resource Conservation District & Planning Commission) and Carol Scianna (City Council)

Motion to approve Agenda by Kate, seconded Phil – Unanimously Approved.

Motion to approve July 17th minutes by Eric, seconded by Dennis – Unanimously Approved

Public Comments

None

Discussion Items

1. Putah Creek Vegetation Management Plan & Weed Abatement Work Plan-Nature Park
Max reported that the Ad Hoc committee met on August 17th, those in attendance were Rich, Miles and Max. Topics discussed:
 - Communication Needs Improvement
 - Central Clearing House-Kristine was appointed:
 - o Community issues on homelessness
 - o Active work in Nature Park, tree cutting, mowing...
 - o Establish City calendar of work performed in Nature Park. Speak with Eric Lucero to identify appropriate staff
2. Biennial Election of Officers (Chair & Vice-Chair)- Kurt
Kurt nominated Kate as Chair and Eric as Vice-Chair. Dennis seconded and was unanimously approved.
3. Workplan Update and Biannual Presentation to Council - Kurt & Kate
The presentation is scheduled for the October 3rdth City Council meeting.
4. Master Tree List- Melanie
The approved list needs a short staff report identifying changes. Kristine to write the staff report and call Melanie to confirm her availability to present at the Planning Commission and City Council meetings and will probably be a consent item.



5. IRWM Oak Planting Grant Update- Kristine (for Rich)
Trees and sedge have been ordered from Putah Creek Council by Rich.
6. YSGA_DWR Grants- Kurt & Kristine
Kurt reported that there is no funding update from Dept. of Water Resources (DWR), but Kristine stated that grants are retroactive so municipalities can begin feasibility studies.
7. Light Pollution- Kate & Eric
Lighting issues must go through engineering to make changes to the City's Construction Standards and Specifications. Rural lighting standards should be consistent with dark sky policy. NOTE: There are differences between public vs. private lighting. LED is brighter than high sodium. Shielding of existing lights may be available for purchase. Bob Schultz (Rotary presentation).
8. Safe Harbor Agreement- Kristine (for Rich)
No update. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staffer we were hoping to work with is leaving the department. Kristine did not see this as a missed opportunity.
9. LPCCC -Stream Keeper Update -
Max noted that the LPCCC minutes are not currently on the City's website. Developing the Putah Creek Water Management Plan (PCWM) is ongoing. It includes background information about the 2000 Putah Creek Accord. Max signed a \$155,000 agreement with AG Innovations who are assisting with PCWM. Lower Putah Creek has flashboards and canal structures issues. There is a meeting scheduled for Oct. 5th to discuss lower Putah Creek issues. Max requested time at the Sept. NRC meeting to do a presentation about PCWM.
10. Putah Creek Updates- Phil
No significant update between summer and fall programs.
11. Solano RCD- Kristine (for Chris)
Arundo work continues with Solano / Yolo RCD's and SCWA. Planning grant is being implemented at Solano Park.
12. Climate Action Commission –
August meeting was cancelled.
13. Salmon Festival- Volunteers Please
The festival is November 4th and more volunteers to help the day of event are needed. Working on getting the message out that the festival is NOT a food event but rather a her weekly updates.
14. Future Meeting Topics-
Ad Hoc Reports
Max's PCWM presentation
Fire Safe Council- Kate introduced grant discussion for senator Todd funds available



Yolo/Solano found \$15million to retrofit the Stevenson Bridge
Oct 4th "Unhoused Round Table" meeting on homeless issues within Putah Creek Park
Salmon Festival participation
Tree of Heaven in School District Corp Yard

Chair adjourned meeting at 7:36

Next Meeting is September 18th

Kurt Balasek, Chairman

Carol Scianna, Member