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.