



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Monday, September 14, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Pasadena City Hall

Grand Conference Room SO38 (Basement of City Hall – southeast corner)

100 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Web page - www.cityofpasadena.net/OpenSpace

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Travis-Chin at 6:44 pm.

Present: Edwina Travis-Chin; Mike Coppess; Don Bremner; Anne Dove; Laura Garrett; Madhu Kumar; Stephen Acker (alternate)

Absent: Richard Janisch; Belinda Faustinos; Jane Beesley (alternate); Paul Edelman; Roger Gray (alternate); Cara McLane Meyer (alternate); Carolyn Naber (alternate); Tim Wendler (alternate); George Wilson (alternate)

City Staff: Laura Dahl; Robert Avila; Rusty Whisman (intern)

I. Public Comment on matters not on the Agenda

No comment.

II. Guest Presentation – Wildlife Management Officer Ashley Hermans and Animal Control Officer Jasser Cepeda of the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA

Encounters between humans and wildlife are becoming more and more common and vexing for residents. Many people don't know what to do during these encounters. The spectrum covers small animals all the way up to bears.

The benefit of native plants is often overlooked by the general public. Native plants are well-suited to withstand drought. Native plants are the most suitable habitat and food sources for wild animals. They are all part of the same ecosystem. Human/animal conflict is rooted in inappropriate landscape choices that offer animals food sources not naturally available in their natural habitat areas. The urban population of wild animals becomes inflated with the access to easy food; and they survive in higher numbers than they would if they ate only native food sources. They animals then move into areas in and around our homes.

Some plants bring deer down from the mountains, deer bring mountain lions. Bears come to eat berries and fruit. Smaller animals (opossums, raccoons, and skunks) in wildland edge areas bring other predators—coyotes. More usage of native plants would more accurately reflect the wilderness areas. Promotion of native plants would be beneficial to resolve this issue.

Wildlife corridors allow animals to freely access habitat and better for population maintenance. The corridors promote animals living in natural areas to prevent genetic bottlenecks and habitation in natural areas. Corridor dimensions depend on the local animal populations.

Wildland interface areas—neighborhoods adjacent to foothills have high potential for wild animal encounters. Residents need to manage their landscaping, trash, pets and pet food. Those issues will be taken advantage of by the wild animals. There is an increased need for public education. Rotting fruit on the ground attracts wild animals. Pets then have conflicts with wild animals. Residents must learn how these actions affect wild animals. Repeated encounters with animals getting used to unnatural food sources causes them to lose fear of humans and become more aggressive and dangerous. Public education is the key.

Trapping and killing coyotes does not control overpopulation. Coyote populations are only controlled by food resources. The coyotes' natural predators have been removed. Litter size is supported by the access to easy food sources. Reduction of food resources will diminish coyote litter size.

There are private animal collection firms that will collect animals. PHS will pick up traps with small mammals and relocate them locally.

Emerging situation is with bears. Fires make it worse. State ordinance dictates that it is illegal to feed bears. Bears will eat trash and left out pet food. Some cities prohibit leaving pet food out night because it attracts wild animals. Wild animals will continue to come into residential properties as long as food sources are easily accessible. Wild animals are also becoming conditioned to follow human routines; learning behaviors to access food. Educate the public to stop human activities that attract wild animals.

III. Approval of minutes – August 10, 2009

Committee Member Bremner moved to approve minutes. Committee Member Garrett moved to second the motion.

IV. Vision Statement and Principles

After discussion of the proposed changes submitted by Committee Member Faustino, no changes were made for vision statement as agreed to by committee.

V. Timeline for the Open Space & Conservation Element

Ms. Dahl presented a draft timeline of the Element and reported on how the Open Space & Conservation Element coordinates with the General Plan Update. An open space event is planned for early 2010 assuming the committee is cleared to work at own pace. The draft element should be ready by May of next year in time for the third community event. The Committee can plan to take the draft element to the commissions and City Council in the summer.

Staff has been working on a background document for distribution for next month's meeting that includes material that has been previously distributed.

Review of input received from five community workshops on General Plan as well as the stakeholder interviews. Relevant information will be drawn out for committee to review.

Community Open House for General Plan on 11/14 is an opportunity to present new activities of the committee. The Open House will be in the Steinmart retail space at the Shops on South Lake. Activities include an outdoor festival component, indoor displays and interactive exhibits. There will also be on-going panel discussions/guest speakers. The event is loosely structured to allow people to come throughout the afternoon.

The City Manager has requested that the committee update the Planning Commission on the status of the activities of the Committee in October/November.

The Speaker Series for the General Plan update will be held at the Community Education Center in East Pasadena. There will be five sessions. The 10/28 event is most relevant to OSC. All meetings are being recorded by KPAS and will be available on KPAS and on the city's website.

The committee is encouraged to take the MoveAbout Tours. The MoveAbouts have been extended to 10/11 due to hot and smoky weather the first few weeks of their availability. All tours are thematic with specific questions that can only be answered by taking tours. One tour focuses on open space, but committee members are encouraged to take other tours to see the City in a different way.

Commissioner Bremner asked for clarification about the committee role to make prioritizing recommendations on remaining open space parcels. Ms. Dahl reported that the background data would be prioritized after next community meeting. A potential activity for the next community event would be to discuss and prioritize the criteria that the Committee develops to October meeting the committee will develop list of prioritizing criteria.

VI. Revised Glossary

The glossary was revised per comments from the committee at the August 10th meeting. No additional changes were suggested.

VII. Update on Land Use and Mobility Element Update (LUME)

- Moveabout Tours—discussed above.
- Community Workshops—five meetings starting in September listed on back of Moveabouts booklet.
- Council District Workshops—the Council neighborhood workshops are listed as well on the booklets.
- Speaker Events—discussed above

VIII. Reports from other Commissions and Community Groups

Planning Commission reviewed part of Hahamongna annex plan; the routing of the bikeway, hiking and equestrian trails across the north end of the annex. The whole plan will be reviewed again. The next community meeting is on 10/29.

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) is shifting focus toward more sustainability practices. Vice-Chair Travis-Chin would like more formal presentation from the EAC. There is overlap with actions of committee. Committee Member Dove proposes a joint work session to brainstorm on common issues with the EAC.

IX. Agenda items for next meeting – October 12, 2009

X. Adjournment

Committee Member Bremner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Committee Member Garrett seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.



Robert Ávila, Recording Secretary