



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

Monday, October 12, 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](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/OpenSpace)

The meeting was called to order by Chair at 6:40 pm.

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Present: Richard Janisch; Edwina Travis-Chin; Don Bremner; Laura Garrett; Madhu Kumar; Belinda Faustinos

Absent: Mike Coppess; Anne Dove; Jane Beasley (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

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**I. Public Comment on matters not on the Agenda**

Charles McKinney—regarding Arlington Gardens; Mr. McKinney asked the Committee if it considered Arlington Gardens for designation as open space? The Green Space Master Plan cites the gardens as an example of urban open space. The gardens were part of the Moveabout Open Space Tour. The gardens are in the glossary of geographic locations. The maps presented in July did not depict the gardens. He also inquired about advocating for the gardens to have open space zoning, and how would that happen?

Ms. Dahl stated that there has been discussion to broaden the definition of open space in the Zoning Code to include a natural open space and a park open space category. The committee has talked about when the element is completed to rezone those properties to these designations. There are also the Annandale Canyon property in Linda Vista and the Eagle Rock trail property that are not zoned as Open Space. Arlington Gardens could definitely be considered for open space as the end of the Open Space Conservation Element process.

Vice Chair Travis-Chin noted that the property is recognized and identified as a potential open space. Committee Member Garrett added that when the property is up for the zone change, that that would be the proper time for advocacy.

Mr. McKinney asked to add Arlington Garden group to list of community foundations on the web page.

Linda Zinn noted that there is a movement afoot to use another Caltrans property on the west side of the freeway around Bellevue for use as a community vegetable garden. A community group will work to develop a property like one in Altadena.

**II. Approval of minutes – September 14, 2009**

Committee member Bremner corrected minutes on the date for item 8. Committee Member Bremner moved to approve minutes. Committee Member Garrett moved to second the motion.

**III. Land Use & Mobility Element Community-wide Open House—November 14<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday from 1-5 pm in the Steinmart Space at the Shops on South Lake.**

There will be outdoor activities with performers, as well as a series of speakers, displays, and children's activities. The committee is encouraged to have an exhibit on the open space and conservation element. The format will be an Open House.

Discussion ensued on reusing some or all of the display boards from the February Event. Vice-Chair Chin noted that the boards need to focus more on conservation/sustainability. Chair Janisch added that open space and conservation are hot topics in community forums. Conservation segment needs to be beefed up. He also added that the committee should continue to capture ideas for the inventory. If the vision statement and principles are presented, the committee should ask if we got it right. Make a link between conservation and open space.

Committee Member Garrett requested that the committee make a distinction that there is more to conservation than light bulbs and water. Chair Janisch suggested developing concepts of conservation through design. Present an interconnected web view of conservation and open space, including wildlife conservation.

Vice-Chair Chin recommended that the exhibit focus on four topics. Point people in a direction.

Staff will talk to Alice Sterling about how to coordinate open space and conservation. Kiosk could be repurposed.

Committee Member Garrett suggested Pasadena create a designation as an open space yard or habitat yard allowing gardens and yards to be designated as wildlife refuge through National Wildlife Federation. If the property provides shelter, water, food, and refuge, the NWF will send a plaque for the designation as a wildlife habitat. This could be similar to the Pasadena Beautiful awards.

Linda Zinn asked if the City recycles its own refuse. Other communities have separate receptacles that declare a recycling program. Recycling should be active in all parks. Do city parks recycle? Staff will inquire.

Staff will put some ideas together to beef up the conservation boards and bring them to next meeting. Vice-Chair Chin asked that staff make boards a little more conservation focus; current boards are too open space focused. Weave conservation into the open space uses. Add facts about conservation, such as display the Hahamongna water shed with its trees which put out X amount of oxygen and filter the air.

Station 1a will be updated with a current map. Station 2a and b will be combined for photos and a conservation factoid. Stations 3a and b will be combined. Station 4 will be updated with more sophisticated information. Also include an exhibit with the vision statement and principles to ask if the committee got it right.

Committee Member Kumar-added that the exhibit should ask people identify their bike paths to coordinate with the mobility element.

Suggestions for speakers list at the Open House:

- Army Corps of Engineers to talk about restoration of Arroyo Seco
- Tim Brick, Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Sid Tyler to discuss water policies and open space
- Speaker on farming in Pasadena for profit

Ms. Dahl recommended that the surveys be distributed again to reach new constituencies. Ask similar questions to last February meeting.

#### **IV. Open Space & Conservation Element Community Outreach Event**

Ms. Dahl reported on contract with MIG and their availability for future events. They envisioned for the second community meeting 1) a panel of speakers that had brought out some new ideas in conservation and open space, best practices, new research or lessons learned; 2) confirm vision statement and guiding principles; 3) Identify priorities for the goals and policies of the elements; 4) when a draft element is completed, having an open house for the presentation. Committee had previously planned having four repeats of the same meeting format. Any speakers or panel at the meeting would be recorded and presented at subsequent meetings or available on the web. Also, an exercise where a list of criteria is presented for public review and prioritization for ranking of open space. Criteria to determine which parcels to buy first.

Vice-Chair Chin recommended summary of the speaker from the OSC Committee, discussing the issues that speakers talked about with committee. Committee Garrett suggested having facilitators lead work groups to discuss issues that have come up. Ms. Dahl suggested getting feed back on vision and principles through the 11/14 event and materials through e-mail list to see if we are in right direction, and have this data be subject of next community workshop.

Vice-Chair Chin recommended creating point system that would qualify people for special prize at the final OSC event. Engage people to participate in events. Timeline for workshops, establish format for conversations. Perhaps hold event that coincides with the Earth Day for final presentation.

Next meeting, we'll rework on fleshed out timeline of activities.

#### **V. Draft Data Collection Report**

Basic outline to guide decision making on element. Needs more conservation materials. Post data to web for committee to access. Background data to be posted on web. Demographic data about Pasadena should include:

- Demographic population, and projected population;
- How many cars?
- How many households? How many single-family households vs. multifamily households?
- How many LEED certified buildings in city?
- How many people use green energy?
- How many businesses/households use solar power?
- Percentage of water and power that is self generated vs. from other sources, and projections for the next 10-20-30 years;
- Add San Gabriel Valley COG Water Plan
- Add Upper Rio Hondo & San Gabriel Watershed Plan
- Add US Forest Service
- Add Army Corps of Engineers
- Add LA County Flood Control
- Move Arroyo Foothills Conservancy to Conservancies heading.
- Add map of city wells/watershed maps

**VI. General Plan Workshop for Commissioners – Thursday, October 29 @ 6:30 pm in the Grand Conference Room, City Hall Fair Oaks Renaissance Plaza Community Room**

The purpose is to learn from the special expertise of the commissioners about what should be included in the elements. All commissioners are encouraged to attend.

**VII. Update on Land Use & Mobility Element Update (LUME)**

Some Council workshops still left; District 6 meeting 10/14; District 3 on 10/15; District 5 on 10/20; District 2 on 10/21.

10/14 Series Speaker on design. 10/28 Series Speaker on water and energy. 11/4 Series Speaker on economics. Speaker meetings are being video taped by KPAS and are available on line.

**VIII. Reports from other Commissions and Community Groups**

- Nature and Water Event at Metropolitan Water District, this Saturday, 10/17, from 9 am – 2 pm.
- 10/17 @ 9 am - Sierra Club is conducting a tour of Annandale Canyon. Discussion of history of acquisition and what is plan for trail connections. Group is investigating opportunities for expanding park to the north.
- Tim Brick speaking on 11/4 @ 7:30 pm, Eaton Canyon Nature Center. He'll talk about Arroyo Seco watershed.

**IX. Agenda items for next meeting – November 2, 2009**

- Review materials for 11/14 open house.
- Timeline of events between now and commission review of draft document.
- Discussion of joint meeting with EAC. What sustainability policies and goals should be included in General Plan?
- Have Stephanie DeWolfe come to a future meeting to talk about feedback from GP meetings.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Janisch motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Hearing no opposition, meeting adjourned.



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Robert Ávila, Recording Secretary