Minutes November 29, 2018

Present: Tex Haeuser, Richard Rottkov, Barbara Dee, Jane Eberle, Sharon Newman, Dan Hogan, Kathi Perkins, Andrew Gagnon, Max Wibby, Patti Smith, Susan Chase, Fred Dillon and Jessica Kimball, consultant

Absent: Tom Blake, Kate Lewis, Kevin Adams

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Kate Gatti has resigned from the OSC. The three subcommittee leaders presented brief overviews of any new discussions or developments. The Acquisition subcommittee is using a smart growth model to develop the policy. The subcommittee is also developing a glossary to aid in understanding the policy.

The Land Bank subcommittee will be proposing major changes to the ordinance. These changes will need to be implemented through ordinance change at the City Council separately from the open Space Plan process but the broad recommendations will be part of the new Open Space Plan. The changes include a recommended name change to Open Space Fund; removing the $1 million cap; review every seven years; consideration of ways to increase deposits into this fund; and inclusion of climate change initiatives.

The Protection subcommittee reviewed the three proposed tiers and proposed a moratorium on building on city owned properties until the new open Space Plan is approved and added to the Comprehensive Plan. No consensus was reached. The OSC discussed the differences between using easements to protect open space and the creation of Open Space or Recreation zoning. Both will be part of the recommendations.

Jessica Kimball displayed a PowerPoint presentation of the most recent draft of recommendations for the Open Space Report. The group discussed each of the 11
recommendations and informally voted on each. The following draft recommendations were accepted or rejected by the OSC:

1. Tiered protection of private property was accepted.
2. Classification of tiered properties will be completed by the Open Space Implementation Committee.
3. Open Space Zoning will be included in addition to the use of easements.
4. The recommendation that the city will conduct site-specific evaluation of public lands was moved to the Open Space Implementation Committee.
5. The OSC decided not to recommend the establishment of an Open Space Committee after the ordinance establishing the Conservation Commission was reviewed. The responsibility for Open Space remains under the Conservation Commission ordinance. It was suggested that a Conservation Commission subcommittee be formed including members outside of the Conservation Committee and that this subcommittee meets quarterly.
6. An evaluation system for private property will be addressed by the Open Space Implementation Committee. The Open Space Plan will include a recommended Private Lands Acquisition Form and recommended method for evaluating lands for potential acquisition.
7. Any list of private open space will be discussed and developed by the Open Space Implementation Committee.
8. A land Bank ordinance amendment process will occur outside of the Open Space Planning process.
9. Recommended amendments to the Land Bank Ordinance language will be included in the Open Space Plan. These recommendations will serve as a reference to the ordinance amendment process described above.
10. The plan will recommend the appointment of city staff to help the Conservation Commission oversee the Open Space plan implementation and ongoing management of open space protection and acquisition in the City.
11. The recommendation regarding CIP funds allocation towards a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was removed. Instead the plan will encourage partnerships with other city committees and community groups to encourage continued Open Space engagement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.