



## Paths, Open Space, and Creeks Commission

### Regular Meeting **AGENDA**

*Meeting held remotely via GoTo Meeting at the link below:*

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/847888013>

*or via phone: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412)  
Access Code: 847-888-013*

**November 5, 2020 - 3:00 PM**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4.a. Approve Minutes of the July 2, 2020 Meeting.

***Recommended Action:***

Attachments:

1. POSCCM\_07022020 -Proposed Revisions
2. 6c Letter 1

5. **COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

The City of Ukiah Paths, Open Space, and Creeks Commission welcomes input from the audience. In order for everyone to be heard, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes per person and not more than ten (10) minutes per subject. The Brown Act regulations do not allow action to be taken on audience comments related to non-agenda items.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.a. Presentation of Western Hills Open Space Project Update

***Recommended Action:***

Attachments: None

6.b. Presentation of Creek Setback Ordinance Report and Consideration of Next Steps

***Recommended Action:***

Attachments: None

7. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**
8. **MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION**
9. **MATTERS FROM STAFF**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Please be advised that the City needs to be notified 72 hours in advance of a meeting if any specific accommodations or interpreter services are needed in order for you to attend. The City complies with ADA requirements and will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities upon request.

**CITY OF UKIAH  
PATHS, OPEN SPACE, AND CREEKS COMMISSION MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/202540557>  
July 2, 2020  
3:00 p.m.**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Ginevra Chandler  
Megan Parker Prout  
Diane Knox  
Jeanne Wetzel Chinn  
Susan Knopf

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager  
Craig Schlatter, Community Development Director

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order virtually at or about 3:00 p.m. via the City's GoTo Meeting platform.

*Chair Chandler presiding*

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was called.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting.

**Motion/Second Parker Prout/Knox** to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting.

**5. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion with City Staff on Orr Street Bridge update.

**Presenter:** City Manager Sage Sangiacomo

No action was taken on this item, as the Commission had general discussion with Staff.

- b. Discussion and possible action on Letter from Commissioner Parker Prout

**Presenter:** Commissioner Parker Prout

Commission discussed the proposed letter and made some revisions to the letter.

Minutes of the Paths, Open Space, and Creeks Commission ~~July 2~~<sup>March 5</sup>, 2020 Continued:

**Motion/Second Knopf/Knox** to approve the revised letter entitled The Proposed Orr Creek Greenway Project. Commission voted unanimously to have the Chair sign the letter and send to the Community Development Director for a future City Council meeting as correspondence received.

- c. Discussion and possible action related to three reports from Commissioner Wetzel Chinnon Letters and Report related to Wagenseller Neighborhood Open Spaces.

**Presenter:** Commissioner Whetzel Chinn

Commission discussed the report and ~~two~~<sup>three</sup> proposed letters. Revisions were made to the letters.

Letter #1- Protection of Waterways and Riparian Corridors: **Motion/Second Knopf/Parker Prout** to approve the revised letter. Commission voted unanimously to have the Chair sign the letter and send to the Community Development Director ~~for a~~<sup>to present at a</sup> future City Council meeting as correspondence received.

Letter #2- Orr Creek Pathway: **Motion/Second Knopf/Parker Prout** to approve the revised letter. Commission voted unanimously to have the Chair sign the letter and send to the Community Development Director for a future City Council meeting as correspondence received.

Letter #3 – Support for Foot Bridge Path and Open Space for the Wagenseller Neighborhood: **Motion/Second Knopf/Parker Prout** to approve the revised letter. Commission voted unanimously to have the Chair sign the letter and send to the Community Development Director for a future City Council meeting as correspondence received.

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**7. MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Knopf requested Staff agendize an item at the next Commission meeting to provide a report on the Creek Setback Ordinance.

General discussion and a request for City Manager Sage Sangiacomo to provide an update on the open space project in the Western Hills.

**8. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

None

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Date: July 2, 2020

To: Ukiah City Council Members  
Craig Schlatter, Community Development Director; Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

From: Paths, Open Space, and Creeks Commission

Re: Protection of Waterways and Riparian Corridors

The Paths, Open Space and Creeks Commission (POSCC) is charged with making recommendations on procedures for effective stewardship of our paths, open spaces and creeks. It is in the spirit of advancing effective stewardship that we respectfully offer the following comments.

We strongly recommend that you provide direction to staff to enforce the prohibition of camping in floodways or any area within 50-feet of the top of the bank of any creek, stream, or river as provided for in the camping ordinance you adopted on August 7, 2019.

Our hearts go out to our community members who are without adequate shelter; however, that is not a reason to turn a blind eye to damages that commonly occur when anyone, homeless or not, is allowed to camp in the most sensitive areas of our environment.


Everyone lacking shelter will find someplace to sleep, whether it's in a park, a doorway or under a bridge. This is especially true in riparian corridors, thus adding to the already stressed conditions of our wildlife species from habitat fragmentation and climate change. These impacts include bed and bank disturbance, turbidity in the waterways, trash, needles, human waste, and a likelihood of starting a fire to name only a few. In preparation for last year's creeks cleanup, the Russian River Watershed Association, of which Ukiah is a member, sent out a flyer with guidance on how to collect hypodermic needles. Ukiah students from local schools participate in these cleanups. Our children should not be exposed to needles and human waste when they are volunteering to remove trash and litter from our creeks.

We fully support providing housing and services to all those in need, although we acknowledge that homelessness is likely to be an ongoing issue into the foreseeable future. For this reason we cannot afford to allow the continued use of our creeks and riparian zones for environmentally damaging activity, no matter who is committing it.

We are also concerned that allowing camping in the relative seclusion of our creeks will encourage harmful activity, including drug use, sexual assault and other violence. We are all aware of the opioid crisis responsible for overdose deaths in our own community. Thanks to the availability of Narcan, lives are being saved, but only if someone is in distress can be seen. The odds of life-saving help being available are increased if people are in visible locations and not hidden away in our creek beds.

For the above reasons and to promote effective stewardship, we recommend that direction be given to staff to make keeping our open spaces and creeks free of homeless encampments a high priority and standing order. Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Knopf, POSCC Commissioner Vice-Chair