

**CITY OF UKIAH
PATHS, OPEN SPACE, AND CREEKS COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Held via Teleconference
February 4, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Megan Parker Prout
Jeanne Wetzel Chinn
Diane Knox

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Susan Knopf

STAFF PRESENT

Neil Davis, Community Services Program Administrator
Mireya G. Turner, Planning Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order virtually at 3:05 p.m. via the City's GoTo Meeting platform.

Commissioner Prout presiding

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was called.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approve the December 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Motion/Second Chinn/Knox to approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting.

5. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Presentation of Creek Setback Ordinance Report and Consideration of Next Steps

The Commission discussed the cover letter submitted by Commissioner Prout. Commissioner Prout agreed to amend the letter to include signatures of all four Commissioners, prior to sending it to Planning Staff.

b. Discussion of 1995 General Plan Implementation Measure Status

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

c. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion regarding Possible Merger of Paths, Open Space and Creeks Commission and Parks, Recreation and Golf Commission

Neil Davis presenting.

There was consensus to schedule a joint meeting with the Parks, Recreation and Golf Commission to discuss the possible merger of the two commissions.

d. MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Chinn expressed concern with possible fragmentation of the Western Hills project area by trails and damage by e-bicycles. She recommends seasonal restrictions for fawning season and wet trail conditions.

e. MATTERS FROM STAFF

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

DRAFT

CITY OF UKIAH
PATHS, OPEN SPACE, AND CREEKS COMMISSION

Ginevra Chandler, Chair

Dianne Knox, Commissioner

Susan Knopf, Vice Chair

Megan Parker Prout, Commissioner

Jeanne Wetzel Chinn, Commissioner

February 5, 2021

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Ukiah
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Proposed City of Ukiah Creek Setback Ordinance

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

As members of the City of Ukiah's Paths, Open Space, and Creeks Commission (POSCC), we are tasked with recommending and advising with regard to the implementation of the following measures of the Ukiah General Plan:

- A. Efficient implementation of the Open Space and Conservation Element of the Ukiah General Plan
- B. Efficient implementation of the pathway sections of the Transportation Element of the Ukiah General Plan
- C. Procedure and funding mechanisms for acquisition, preservation, and effective stewardship of City paths, open space, and creeks.

The ordinance that created the POSCC decreed that this advisory body shall report to the City Council.

In accordance with our directive to provide stewardship of the City's creeks and at the behest of the City Planning Department, on May 5, 2019, the members of POSCC drafted a creek setback ordinance which was to be brought before City Council. We are hereby bringing this ordinance to the members of City Council now, and we encourage swift adoption of this ordinance.

Most other municipalities in our great State of California have creek setback ordinances already in place. The purposes of a creek setback ordinance are manifold:

1. Protect scenic resources, water quality, and natural creekside habitat, including opportunities for wildlife habitation, rest, and movement.

2. Further the restoration of damaged or degraded habitat, especially where a continuous riparian habitat corridor can be established.
3. Allow for natural changes that may occur within the creek corridor.
4. Help avoid damage to development from erosion and flooding.

Our proposed creek setback ordinance measures (see attached) are in keeping with other creek setback requirements in other municipalities around the state.

We are incredibly lucky, here in Ukiah, to have fish-bearing creeks flow through our beautiful town. As we all reckon, in big ways and small, with the ways in which practices from the past adversely impact our natural world today, it is incumbent upon us, as City leaders, to do what we can to ensure a healthy and vibrant environment for generations to come. A creek setback ordinance will not only help keep fish swimming in our creeks; it will furthermore help restore our creeks to the spectacular riparian ecosystems that they once were.

Please pass this creek setback ordinance and thereby protect one of Ukiah's most beautiful aspects: its creeks.

Respectfully,

Ginevra Chandler, Chair
Susan Knopf, Vice Chair
Jeanne Wetzel Chinn, Commissioner
Dianne Knox, Commissioner
Megan Parker Prout, Commissioner

Paths, Open Space, and Creeks Commission