

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karen Kinser, Deputy Director of Public Works

VIA: Randy Breault, Director of Public Works/City Engineer via Clay Holstine, City Manager

DATE: Meeting of January 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

CITY COUNCIL GOALS: To develop plans and pursue opportunities to preserve open space (7) and natural resources (8).

PURPOSE: To keep the City Council informed about the activities of the Open Space and Ecology Committee.


RECOMMENDATION: Accept the attached report.

BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:

In 2006, the Open Space and Ecology Committee prepared its first Report of Accomplishments to highlight the Committee's achievements. Its purpose is to encapsulate and document activities in order to track the Committee's progress and convey its work to the City Council and the public. This report covers initiatives and accomplishments that have taken place in 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES

None.


Deputy Director of Public Works


Director of Public Works/City Engineer


City Manager

ATTACHMENTS: Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1998, the City Council established the Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) as an advisory body to recommend policies and programs related to preservation of open space, resource conservation, and sustainability. In the ensuing decade, the Committee has worked on a wide array of ecological issues following a work plan. Below is a summary of the work the Committee has undertaken during calendar year 2015.

Vegetation Management Plan for city-owned property in the Brisbane Acres

At the Open Space and Ecology Meeting on January 13, Fred Smith presented the proposed management plan to the committee. Smith, former city OSEC staff person, works on a consulting basis on the vegetation management plan. Smith contacted Shelterbelt Builders Inc., an Open Land Management and Restoration Company that has performed vegetation management for Brisbane in prior years, to develop a work plan and cost estimate. After reviewing the plan with Smith, OSEC approved the Vegetation Management Plan. When the work was complete for the season, Mark Heath from Shelterbelt Builders presented his work and findings to OSEC at the August 26 meeting.

Lipman Science Fair

At the Lipman Middle School Science Fair in February, Barbara Ebel, representing OSEC, judged entries and awarded one student's project a first place certificate for environmental innovation. The winning project was a study of grey water and plant germination. Three runner ups were also recognized.

San Bruno Mountain Priority Conservation Area (PCA) status

The Open Space Ecology Committee designated members Kima Hayuk and Michele Salmon to work on an application for PCA status from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for properties near and having the similar habitat value to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Staff, the OSEC subcommittee and Mountain Watch representatives collaborated on Brisbane's portion of the application. OSEC approved the proposed map area for recommendation to Council at their March 11 meeting. The San Bruno Mountain PCA application was a joint effort between San Mateo County, South San Francisco and Brisbane. Brisbane's portion of the application narrative and map was submitted to San Mateo County for compilation and submission to ABAG after approval by Council later in March. The San Bruno Mountain application was granted PCA status in September.

Title 24 Training

On January 28, OSEC hosted training in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall on the Title 24 energy codes related to residential buildings for local contractors. This training was performed by Bay Area Regional Energy Network. Staff coordinated the training and conducted outreach to local contractors on the city business license list, and via Golden State Lumber, Brisbane Hardware, and South San Francisco and Daly City's Building Departments.

Staff coordinated a second training in 2015 in partnership with the City of Daly City on August 28. This training focused on improving energy code compliance of nonresidential envelopes. Brisbane staff created a flyer for the event and conducted outreach in Brisbane, and Daly City hosted the training.

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Staff met numerous times in 2015 with OSEC's Energy Subcommittee of Glenn Fieldman and Barbara Ebel to select and craft measures to recommend for inclusion in the proposed plan, with consideration of GHG reductions for each measure, and a Plan was drafted by staff, with an introduction written by Fieldman. OSEC discussed the measures and the draft plan at their July, August and September meetings, and at their September 8 meeting, OSEC recommended the CAP for City Council to consider for adoption. At the September 17, 2015 City Council meeting, the CAP was adopted.

Bike to Work day

April 14 was the 21st Annual Bike to Work Day event. OSEC members Barbara Ebel and Kameliya Vladimirova volunteered at the event. OSEC provided a map upon which commuters were asked to delineate their routes to work, and Vladimirova brought extra treats for the commuters.

Habitat Restoration Days

Earth Day, April 25

The canyon at the intersection of San Mateo Lane and Kings Rd. was the site for the first restoration event of 2015. Staff advertised the workday and notified neighboring residents. To decrease the parking impacts, a shuttle was provided to bring volunteers from City Hall to the restoration site. Approximately sixty people volunteered, and the dumpster on site was overflowing with ivy and other invasive species removed from the canyon.

June 27

OSEC met its goal to host at least two habitat restoration days per year. Firth Canyon was the site for the second event. Approximately twenty five volunteers filled over half of a dumpster with weeds and trash removed from the canyon.

OSEC shelf at the Public Library

The Education and Outreach subcommittee created a display at the Brisbane Public Library for books and videos relevant to their charter, in the following categories: energy, waste, water, climate change and food, as well as providing input regarding a "virtual" shelf on the OSEC page of the City's website. The shelf/display was launched in the library in June, and OSEC plans to select different titles and update the shelf periodically.

Beacon Award

Staff was encouraged by the City/County Association of Governments via the monthly Climate Action Planning working group meetings to participate in the Beacon award program for the networking value, the technical assistance and recognition for sustainability initiatives

implemented. Staff collected background data for municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculations that were performed by C/CAG consultants. Staff also compiled a list of best practices in the following categories: energy efficiency and conservation activity, water and waste water systems activity, green building activity, waste reduction and recycling activity, climate friendly purchasing activity, renewable energy and low carbon fuels activity, efficient transportation activity, land use and community design activity, open space and offsetting carbon emissions activity, and promoting community and individual action activity. With collected data meeting marks and the City's adoption of its Climate Action Plan, Brisbane received the full Gold Beacon at the League of California Cities conference on October 1. Brisbane also received Beacon Spotlight awards in all five categories: Agency GHG reductions, Community GHG reductions, Agency energy savings, Natural gas savings, and Sustainability best practices.

Monterey Pine removal

Staff has written two letters to businesses, one set in October of last year and the second set in April, about trees that appear to be dead or dying, asking property owners to remove the trees to prevent further spread of disease and potential public safety concerns. Along with these letters, a tree removal permit application and a list of local arborists was included. Staff consulted with Davey Tree for certified arborist assessment of trees on the list generated by OSEC. Between November 2014 and October 2015, thirty dead and dying trees have been permitted to be removed, many of them being on Valley Drive.

Day in the Park – Community Festival

OSEC manned an educational booth at the 29th Annual Day in the Park festival on October 3rd. The designated subcommittee for this event was Megan Keogh and Kima Hayuk. At the booth information was available such as: a Peninsula Clean Energy pamphlet, rebates for water and energy savings installations, water wise gardening tips, a pamphlet about lowering your carbon footprint, invasive species specimens and pamphlets, discounted water buckets to catch shower water and information regarding reducing solid waste. A videographer was hired to interview community members about their environmental concerns and individual actions. The film will be used to create awareness of sustainability practices and call attention to the Climate Action Plan. The film was first debuted at the OSEC –City Council liaison meeting on November 10, followed by a presentation on Climate Action Plan highlights.

Baylands Sustainability Framework

Committee member Glenn Fieldman was assigned to be a representative from OSEC to review the framework. The subcommittee was formed in 2009 and consisted of staff, City Council members, and representatives from the committees and commissions. The framework is based on 10 One Planet Living Principles developed by Bioregional. The framework will inform City Council considerations regarding the Baylands, and any future development. OSEC reviewed the document and discussed comments at their May meeting. In June, a workshop was held with City Council to review the framework. City Council accepted the framework in their November 5th meeting.

Sustainability webpage

The Education and Outreach subcommittee, consisting of Barbara Ebel, Kameliya Vladimirova and Megan Keogh worked with staff to update the Sustainability webpage on the city website. The webpage contains current initiatives that the city is involved in for reaching sustainability goals.

Letters to City Council

OSEC sent four letters to the City Council regarding the following topics: first, landscaping and impervious surfaces (asking the City Council to consider revising lot coverage in areas zoned for residential use to require half of each property, after the building footprint and parking requirements are met, to be devoted to landscaping); second, preservation through acquisition of the Levinson and Peking Handicraft properties (per the 2001 Open Space Plan, these areas contain potential endangered butterfly habitat and also have potential for public education and recreation); third, modification of the Brisbane Acres Zoning Ordinance to consider interior courtyards of homes as part of the calculated lot coverage (due to the limited accessibility to the flora and fauna of San Bruno Mountain); and fourth, a request to symbolically oppose hydraulic fracturing (fracking), due to its environmental impacts.