

**OPEN SPACE & ECOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 28, 2018 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Called to order at 6:34 PM.

Committee members present: Fieldman, Salmon, Ebel, Ankenbruck, Treyz (7:21)

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser
Engineering Technician Sage
Sustainability Management Analyst Etherton

1. **Introductions** (done between items 6 & 7 when Treyz arrived)
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
Agenda adopted.
3. **Oral Communications (public comment) ***
None.
4. **Approval of the minutes**
Discussed seating of the new members and resignations of prior members. Minutes approved.
5. **Invasive Plants Letter to Nurseries**
 - The committee agreed with the letter and suggested edits presented, with the modification to end the last sentence of first paragraph with: "the enclosed brochure suggests attractive native alternatives we encourage you to stock."
 - We will enclose two brochures, one with sticky note that says "please post for your customers".
 - Letters will be sent out to nurseries suggested. For Bay Natives, we will include a personal note explaining that we were sending it to other nurseries and thought they might enjoy the brochures.
6. **Habitat Restoration Days**
 - Sage reported on the joint subcommittee meeting with Parks and Rec Commissioners regarding plans for the 2018 volunteer events.
 - We'll have a combo of tees and gloves as giveaways; more medium and large gloves are needed as compared to the planting day. Salmon inquired about imprinting gloves; Sage offered to look into it.
 - Kinser requested additional discussion on recommendation of the Crocker Trail site. Salmon suggested the area from South Hill Drive back to the end of the valley, which has

a lot of invasive plants, and the vee-ditch. Consider requesting to use Expeditors parking lot for staging, and set out signage for late-comers to find the group.

- Fieldman suggested addressing the ridge above Buckeye Canyon next year—a State of California Fish & Wildlife property that was previously restored but becoming re-infested with broom—preferably in the spring so the ground was soft. Would need to get County approval plus consider event timing/ spacing. Sage will inquire with the County and report back.
- Salmon noted dogs are allowed in Fish & Wildlife area but not in County lands; signage may be confusing or inadequate. Sage will bring this up with Ramona separately.
- Salmon reported that vegetation in a vee-ditch with chorus frog population was recently mowed down by new property owners; Salmon would like to make another report with more detail. She also noted that maintenance was needed at the City Hall rain garden.
- The committee discussed issues of wildlife being poisoned by rat poison. Members requested that the City communicate to businesses in the industrial park and inquired about the feasibility of a local ban. Fieldman will talk with the group “Raptors are the Solution to Rats” and report back. Discuss this issue with council liaisons.

7. Trash removal / “Adopt an Area”

- The group discussed creation of a program to have volunteers remove trash from areas around town, similar to the nationwide Adopt-A-Highway program or the County’s Adopt-A-Block program. We will include education and messaging about litter prevention as well as cleanup.
- A map of trash hotspots was requested; Kinser believes we already have one for stormwater permitting. Inquired about volunteer waivers; Etherton will reach out to the County to find out how they set their program up and legal considerations. Pickers, bags, vests would be provided and Service Request system could be used to report the location of filled trash bags that are ready for pickup.
- Discussed ways to incentivize participation, including offering businesses free trees and models where local coffee shops provided free cups of coffee; outreach to businesses, including through enforcement of existing litter laws or communicating via the Chamber of Commerce; and general outreach through posters around town. The group did not feel signage identifying the adopter would be appropriate in all areas but were open to small signs in certain areas for businesses, particularly if they sponsored the spot for advertising reasons. Other recognition should be provided.
- The group agreed on naming the program “Adopt a Spot”. Ebel will work on a graphic. Staff will invite Keegan Black, city staff for stormwater pollution prevention, to speak at a future meeting.

8. Subcommittee reports/ Calendar items/ Chair and committee member matters

- Etherton noted that we will try to reorganize subcommittees at the next meeting when we hopefully have a full committee; members should consider which they wish to continue on. Kinser provided background on what each subcommittee is working on.
- Staff will find out when Day in the Park is and update the committee.
- Noted items for discussion with council liaisons next month: work plan; energy ordinance focused on commercial; rat poison, invasive species & lighting ordinances;

Adopt a Spot / anti-littering campaign. Kinser reported on Council liaisons response to recent letters: tree ordinance directed to planning staff; landscape/hardscape coverage recommended to bring to full council (and noted they really liked the comparison on the back); lot coverage prefer to look at Brisbane Acres zoning as a whole; re-craft and re-submit letter regarding purchase of Levinson and Peking Handicraft properties with consideration of other open space funding priorities. Staff will review old minutes to check for other items to discuss with them.

- Bike to Work Day on May 10th, 2 “energizer” stations in town in the morning organized by Parks & Rec. Ebel and Ankenbruck (provisionally) will volunteer.
- Salmon requested removing ivy from upper Sierra Point canyon; steep area are completely covered by ivy and there is a risk of losing native trees. Would require a contractor and thus budget; another item to discuss with liaisons next month.

9. Staff updates

- Kinser: Sunshares conference call – will focus on EVs next year & start earlier in the year. Met with County Green Biz Program staff and later met with Mitch Bull of Chamber to discuss outreach to local businesses; will be looking into certifying City Hall.
- Sage: Shelterbelt recently completed pulling ivy in Firth and Costaños Canyons. Also noted that 400 natives were planted in Costaños Canyon by about 40 volunteers in early February.
- Etherton: Noted the city’s “lights out” messaging for Earth Hour on March 24th and that she was interviewed about the EV charging station for a Pen Voice show to air on PenTV in the next week or so. The contract for the San Mateo County Energy Watch grant funding award will be on the Council’s consent agenda on April 5th. Consultants have completed the 2014 & 2015 Community GHG inventories; Etherton and Kinser had a call to discuss a few concerns and are awaiting clarification. Submitted a report to C/CAG about local climate plans and achievements as well as businesses; they are compiling information from the County to share with the Governor’s Office in advance of the Global Climate Action Summit he is hosting in San Francisco in September. She shared updated statistics on the EV charging station, noting that usage appears to be accelerating. Also noted a number of events, including the City’s BAWSCA landscape class from 6-8 pm on April 18 and the Earth Day event 9:30 – 12:30 on April 21, as well as several workshops and conferences she’ll be attending in the coming weeks.

10. Next meeting date: April 25, 2018 6:30 PM

11. Adjourned at 8:45 PM.

*Public comment on the agenda items is welcome at the discretion of the Chair