

OPEN SPACE & ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order:

Hayuk called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Committee members present:

Abney, Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk, Salmon and Vladimirova.

Committee members absent:

Keogh

Staff members present:

Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser
Management Analyst Escoffier

1. Adoption of the agenda

- Agenda adopted.

2. Oral Communications*

- Paul Bouscal, Brisbane resident. Bouscal has a concern about the preservation of the Brisbane Acres. Bouscal states that lands that have been acquired with USFWS funds and Coastal Conservancy funds have deed restrictions that can be altered by future City Council members that are pro-development.
- Bouscal read an article about conservation basics stating that there are no limitations on the type of land, it is often used to legally protect lands and how lands can be protected (trusts or conservation easement).
- Bouscal recommends transferring city owned acres to the ownership of the county land parks system.
- Vladimirova discussed a recent sale of Brisbane Acres, and it is an issue that should be addressed.
- Kinser clarified that priority preservation lands have to meet several criteria.
- Abney suggests the City Attorney is consulted on this matter. Kinser clarified that Fred Smith presented to City Council in late November, and City Council directed the City Attorney to look into conservation easements and deed restrictions. Kinser explained Smith is a former staff person of OSEC who is responsible for acquiring Brisbane Acres.
- Salmon recommends revising the Open Space Plan to include some of the acres into the priority preservation area that has not been previously designated. Hayuk agrees that due to the age of the plan and updates in current science, that the designations could be reconsidered.
- Bouscal discussed stewardship of local wetland habitat and creek habitat by San Bruno Mountain Watch (SBMW) and the city. Invasive trees will be removed, and a clean-up day will be scheduled. SBMW is also working on a proposal to submit to the city for funding.

3. Chair and committee member matters

- Ebel reported that she has noticed street trees being watered longer than in the past by Davey Tree.
- Ebel would like to clarify milk cartons go in the green bin, not in the recycling bin.
- Ebel stated that Zip Car is no longer a program in the city, which was a part of the Climate Action Plan.
- Ebel asked for an update on the lot coverage letter to City Council.

- Fieldman mentioned that there are more visible dead trees on Valley Drive. Escoffier said to compile a list so she can compare it with the list she currently has. Ebel and Vladimirova asked about tree replacement. Kinser answered that planning staff monitor tree replacement and it is required. Ebel would like an update in the future about when replacement trees will be planted.

- Salmon gave an update on the anaerobic digester tour and recycling center at South San Francisco Scavenger. Salmon would like to share that when a bag is tied the contents are not decomposed into compost in the digester. Second, plastic and paper recycling are separated in the truck that picks them up with the use of a diverter. Fieldman would like to have Scavenger staff come to a future OSEC meeting to discuss compost participation. Kinser offered Scavenger staff to help with education and outreach to the Brisbane community. Vladimirova posted some information about proper sorting of waste on the Residents of Brisbane Facebook page.

- Ebel asked if she could send information to staff on Facebook. Kinser added staff is discouraged from having personal Facebook pages for this purpose on the social media policy.

4. Subcommittee reports

a. Climate Action Plan

- Staff would like to set a next meeting to discuss implementation of the plan.

b. Education and Outreach

i. OSEC library shelf

- Ebel said the shelf is looking sparse. Abney suggested placing recycling information from SSF Scavenger on the shelf. Ebel said she will ask what type of signage library staff need.
- Bouscal was asked to assist with an after school extracurricular program, and is willing to work with OSEC on developing this.

ii. Expertise.com on the OSEC library shelf webpage

- Expertise.com staff emailed city staff asking to post information about do-it-yourself home upgrades from local experts on the OSEC library page. Escoffier sent out the links and information to the education and outreach subcommittee to solicit their opinion. Vladimirova looked at the links and suggests including the link on the website and monitor it. Fieldman asked if San Mateo County Energy Watch has a list of local contractors that they recommend.

5. Approval of the minutes

- Ebel would like to add she also went to the pop up event.
- Fieldman suggests revising the sentence under item three.
- Minutes approved with amendments.

6. Discuss concerns with the 2001 Open Space Plan

- Salmon feels the plan should be updated, including increasing the number of lots to priority areas. The plans revisions should be completed in a step wise fashion to save time.
- Fieldman asked about available funds to purchase the acres since funds were no longer being set aside. Salmon answered City Council agreed to purchase priority areas that came up for sale.

- Kinser stated that council direction is required to update this plan. The previous plan was developed by a consultant, which will require resources.
- Hayuk proposes to form a subcommittee to draft concerns about the Brisbane Acres to submit to council. Salmon volunteers to be on the subcommittee.
- Fieldman asked if SBMW has any ecologists or experts that could help review the plan or write the letter to council. Bouscal mentioned Joe Cannon is a member of the TAC and an Ecology professor. Cannon could access the parcel of the mountain. Salmon mentioned SBMW volunteers are members of the California Native Plant Society.
- Ebel would like to know if there is a reason why the city would like to keep the acquired acres as opposed to turning them over to the state.
- The subcommittee will articulate concerns with weaknesses in the plan and a plan for revision. Salmon and Vladimirova will form the subcommittee. Bouscal suggests asking Ray Miller to be involved in revising the plan.

7. Review Report of Accomplishments

- Salmon would like to add watering of street trees.
- Ebel would like to add letters submitted to City council.
- Fieldman drafted the Introduction of the CAP.
- The committee requests updates on all the letters submitted.
- Kinser gave the update that council was going to direct staff to look at zoning issues in the acres, but was placed on hold until the end of the year.
- Ebel would like to add Lipman Science Fair.

8. Review of the 2016 Work Plan

- The plan has been modified since the meeting with City Council liaisons.
- Vladimirova asked about a timeline for work plan items. Escoffier answered there is an OSEC calendar that outlines when planning and events occur, also staff and the chair place items on the agenda for planning.

9. Staff updates

a. Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE)

- The county is coming to speak to Council on January 26 about PCE. A resolution and ordinance will have to be adopted by city council to join a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).
- Fieldman mentioned PG&E increased costs for grid maintenance; Kinser said this is a good question for the study session in January.

b. OSEC role in the Baylands planning process (next steps)

- Planning commission will be in deliberations and make recommendation for land use. If council approves a plan OSEC will review wetland and trail layouts, if and when the land use is determined.
- Salmon asked about DEIR planning comments, Ebel followed up on this with Escoffier. Escoffier forwarded those comments to the planning department and they will give to the planning commission.
- Ebel would like the committee to work on the FEIR. Kinser said last meeting no members stepped forward to be on the subcommittee. The subcommittee would draft an executive summary of the committee's view of the FIER and land use considerations for the Baylands.
- Ebel feels this letter should refer to the sustainability framework.
- Fieldman and Ebel will draft this letter.
- Bouscal added his concerns about percentage allotted to open space and who will determine feasibility of mitigation in the FEIR.

- Ebel wants clarification on “land use recommendations” and how it differs from a plan. Kinser answered the general plan does not allow the land use that is proposed, a specific plan is approved that would allow approved development. The specific plan would amend the general plan. Staff will provide more information next meeting.

c. Websites for community exchange of items

- Escoffier gave the update that Craigslist and Freecycle links cannot be posted on the city website, and are better located on online community boards such as Facebook or Nextdoor.

d. Community garden space

- Kinser gave the update that the Parks and Recreation commission would take a recommendation to expand the community garden. The map displays the available space to expand the garden. This will be placed on next month agenda.

e. Climate related facts

- Staff discussed these facts can be placed in the weekly blast, and possibly in place of the drought alert on the city website.
- Fieldman drafted a few facts to start with.

f. Environmentally preferred purchasing policy (subcommittee?)

- Escoffier developed a list of what the city currently purchases. Hayuk would like to add this to the next meeting for discussion.

g. Brisbane acres open space preservation concern

- This has been discussed under previous items.

Miscellaneous

- Ebel asked if staff circulated the announcement for a community volunteer for sea level rise vulnerability assessment. Escoffier answered that it was added to a Friday email blast. Staff will email the announcement to OSEC.
- Ebel requested an update about SMCEW small business outreach.

h. Future meeting dates

- There are a few schedule conflicts amongst OSEC members; January 19 will be the next OSEC meeting.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.