



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

This meeting is compliant with the Governors Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020 allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff, committee members, and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate via remote public comment options.

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:32 PM

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Salmon, Ebel, Fieldman, Rogers, Lam, Dykes (7:40)

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser, Sustainability Manager Etherton, Engineering Technician Sage

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt: Rogers, Second: Lam, Adopted unanimously by roll call vote

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

February 2020 – Motion to approve: Rogers; Second: Lam; Aye: Salmon, Rogers, Lam, Ebel; Nay: none; Abstain: Fieldman

March 2020 – Motion to approve: Ebel; Second: Rogers; Aye: unanimous by roll call vote

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

Salmon nominated Mary Rogers for Chair, Fieldman seconded, and the committee voted in favor unanimously by roll call.

Salmon nominated Carl Lam for Vice Chair, Fieldman seconded, and the committee voted in favor unanimously by roll call.

B. 2016 and 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories

Etherton presented an overview of the inventories recently compiled by San Mateo County Office of Sustainability Staff. From 2005 to 2017, emissions have been reduced by 20.3%, driven in large part by electricity sector reductions as a result of Peninsula Clean Energy, along with new data showing a lack of Direct Access energy in Brisbane. Fieldman expressed concern about the change in Direct Access and the group discussed; Etherton confirmed a footnote would be provided whenever this data is presented. Growing natural gas usage in the commercial/industrial sector is also a concern—committee members asked staff to check with Mitch Bull or Madison Davis to see if they have any insights into the drivers. Etherton noted the spike in landfill emissions in 2016 which returned to 2015 levels in 2017; this is point source data from BAAQMD for Sunquest Properties (Baylands landfill). She has already inquired for further information on that spike, and will follow up to confirm whether the site is flaring or not. Transportation emissions represent 61% of total emissions in 2017, primarily driven by passenger vehicles. Fieldman requested more information on the VMT methodology; Etherton will look into and the issue can be discussed with the CAP Subcommittee.

STAFF UPDATES

Kinser:

- Crocker Trail Master Plan – Council approved the consultant recommended by the subcommittee last month. They are hosting a kickoff meeting next week for staff.
 - Fieldman asked if the sign to Quarry Road could be replaced as part of the project, or otherwise the committee could consider a replacement. She does not believe the existing sign is repairable and recommends a metal sign, but was encouraged to submit a GoRequest so staff can investigate short-term fixes.
 - Rogers also noted a flatbed truck that has been parked for an extended time near the Quarry Road entrance just past the post office; Lam will submit GoRequest to report.
- The Safe Routes to School Green Infrastructure project is now underway, scheduled completion is in early August.
- Joining the County Weed Management Area is on the City Council agenda for 6/18.

Etherton:

- Beacon Award – we received the full Platinum Award last year which means we are “maxed out” on awards, and are the first city in the state to reach that feat! Nonetheless we received data from the program showing further reductions, to -36%, in the Agency Energy category due to a lighting upgrade in city hall financed with on-bill financing.
- We were able to move forward with the compost giveaway again this year, thanks to SSF Scavenger who was able to provide 20 yards of compost, double what we had last year.
 - Ebel noted that this was probably a good quantity, it lasted a little while but has all been depleted.
- County Climate Action Plan template is expected to be completed by the end of June; will forward to the CAP Subcommittee once received. The template includes updates to policies, new measures, an expanded adaptation appendix, and incorporates a consumption-based inventory for the first time.

- The Building Efficiency Program is continuing to make progress. City facilities have been benchmarked, we're coordinating with the EPA to get a reporting link for the voluntary compliance pilot ready by the end of the month and hopefully launch that pilot in July. We are discussing how to shift education and outreach activities that were planned for this summer to virtual or later. As part of our ordinance promotion efforts, participated in panel presentation on benchmarking on BayREN Regional Forum June 11. ACEEE conference in August is now virtual and has fewer presentation slots; TBD if we will receive a slot or may instead pre-record a presentation for posting.
- Community Development Department webpage listing tree removal/trimming permits/notifications. Removal of street trees/in public right of way are not included on this list, as they do not fall under CDD ordinance. Public works places a notification on the tree about a week in advance of removal. The link is: <https://www.brisbaneca.org/cd/page/log-7-day-notice-and-tree-removal-permits>
- Letters to nurseries about sale of invasive species sent in February; received a response from the Yerba Buena Nursery to coordinate efforts and encouraging promotion of nurseries that commit to not selling invasives. They will link to our OSEC website and share our Invasive Species brochures; we sent them additional brochures. Would like Invasive Species subcommittee to consider promotion of nurseries.

Sage:

- In response to our letter, Thomas R. Pollicita school removed the large pampas grass on their property just west of San Bruno Mountain.
- Senior Planner Johnson has communicated with the County regarding the Callippe Hill property; the County is considering a remediation plan or cost for accepting the property. Both Toll Brothers and the County have had a change in staff, but Sage believes things are progressing and will stay on top of it.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (*Subcommittee leads in **bold**; *ad hoc*)

- **Open Space** (Lam, Rogers, **Salmon**) – Salmon requested a meeting; Kinser will coordinate a zoom meeting.
- **Climate Action Plan** (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – Fieldman noted that a partial committee met, focused on the GHG Inventories and Building Efficiency Program. Etherton will circulate the new CAP template when it is released, expected at the end of June, and see if the group wants to meet in July.
- **Events** (Lam, Rogers, Salmon) – Salmon noted that she and Laurie Graham had their own habitat day and pulled a bunch of broom above Trinity Road. Salmon asked about Day in the Park; staff noted that no determination had been made yet. Salmon suggested a recycled art contest where at least 50% of the materials are reused and wondered if there was an opportunity to still put something on and have a socially-distanced art show. Fieldman and Ebel supported the idea and encouraged getting promotions out for something many months in the future. Kinser suggested checking in with the Park and Rec department. Etherton will reach out to P&R staff and try to set up a subcommittee meeting with their involvement; she also noted the P&R Pinterest board created with environmental projects during the Earth Month campaign.

- **Education and Outreach** (Fieldman, **Rogers**) – Rogers asked if staff knew any update on the completion of the library; not at this time.
- **Invasive Species Ordinance** (Ebel, Salmon) – Salmon noted she appreciated the suggestions from Yerba Buena Nursery and would like to meet with Sage to discuss; Sage will follow up.
- **Dark Skies Ordinance** (Dykes, **Ebel**, Lam) – Ebel, Salmon and Rogers made a visit to the Google bus parking lot to view lights and talked with them; they agreed to address them. Other offenders include Recology, Golden State Lumber, Crocker Industrial Park buildings, new buildings at Sierra Point. The group has a good start on a draft ordinance; Ebel will circulate and suggested July 2 for a meeting. Portola Valley was recommended as a good sample.
- **Lipman Science Fair Judging*** (Ebel, Lam, **Rogers**) – happens in January
- **280 South Hill Funds*** (Lam, Rogers) – Salmon noted that \$96,000 dedicated for Crocker Trail Master Plan, will await that plan before further consideration.
- **Tree Issues*** (Ebel, Rogers, Salmon) – Salmon would like to suggest a city Technical Advisory Committee for trees. Kinser suggested that the subcommittee make a recommendation and agenda for the next meeting. Fieldman asked what the TAC would be asked to do and suggested the subcommittee consider that; Salmon asked that any OSEC members who would like to provide input on the TAC's scope or members send feedback to Kinser in the next week. Kinser will follow up to schedule.
- **Benchmarking Ordinance*** (Dykes, Lam) – Etherton noted that she would be in touch with the liaisons if there was content to review or input needed.
- **Beautification*** (Ankenbruck, w/ Council, Parks & Rec) – As Ankenbruck is no longer on OSEC, a new representative was needed. Salmon will step in; Etherton will advise city staff coordinating that committee. Ankenbruck will send Salmon previous materials.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Etherton noted the revised schedule for the remainder of the year, and provided an update on the Disposable Food Ware Ordinance.

Kinser suggested a socially-distanced hike option for the Vegetation Management Plan Report; we will move this to the August meeting to have more daylight and cancel the September meeting instead.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

Ebel requested staff follow up about the tree inventory; staff noted we had requested budget funds for it and will check on the status. The City budget is facing significant revenue shortfalls and many projects may be postponed. Ebel noted CalFire supports this work; she will try to follow up.

Ebel noted that, as an individual, she is appealing a tree removal decision. She also asked if the city may be able to coordinate a chip drop; Davey Tree is preferable and Kinser will reach out.

NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:50 PM