



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, July 15, 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 – 6:31 PM

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Salmon, Ebel, Fieldman, Rogers, Lam, Dykes

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt: Salmon, Second: Fieldman, Adopted unanimously by roll call vote

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Fieldman submitted a GoRequest asking Public Works to mow scabiosa; the job was completed and Fieldman thanked them for a fantastic job.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

June 2020 – Motion to approve: Salmon; Second: Fieldman; Aye: unanimous by roll call vote

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposal for City Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Trees – Rogers reported that the subcommittee met and Rogers drafted a recommendation. Kinser asked whether the proposed committee’s purview should include private trees, and members agreed it should be. Fieldman inquired about whether the committee would be required to be consulted on all tree issues—requiring so may delay the process, but making it voluntary may not change the status quo. Subcommittee indicated that final decisionmaking should ultimately still remain with the city, and exceptions for urgent liability concerns would be required, but the consensus was that consultation should generally be required. Salmon also suggested an adjunct volunteer group be available to help homeowners maintain trees, such as removing ivy. Such a group would need to be

independent of this TAC to avoid liability concerns for the City regarding volunteers on private property, but the TAC could recommend they be contacted. Fieldman suggested instead of an adjunct volunteer committee with limited scope, perhaps they should reach out to Brisbane Helping Hands to ask them to include tree care & ivy removal as one of the services that could be requested. Salmon suggested an Adopt a Tree program wherein residents would be encouraged to water the street trees in front of their properties and receive water bill credit. Ebel reviewed additional suggestions for items recommended under the TAC's purview. The committee discussed the value of having a TAC versus changing the city's tree ordinance, and how the committee's decisions would be weighed against planning staff's; planning staff should probably be on the committee. Ross encouraged inclusion of the maintenance of private trees, and Salmon suggested a fund for zero interest loans to remove dead trees. Rogers noted a state of Hawaii tax credit for property owners with protected trees. Kinser noted that the subcommittee should take these comments back to revise their initial draft; send comments to Rogers for incorporation into an updated draft.

- B. Transportation Emissions – Following last month's presentation on the City's Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventories and questions surrounding transportation emissions calculations, Etherton gave a presentation explaining the calculations with slides borrowed from the June staff countywide working group (aka RICAPS) presentations from County Office of Sustainability and MTC staff. Fieldman inquired as to the accuracy of the data and modeling; Etherton noted that it was generally accepted by the industry as the best available data and reasonably reliable, though as with any model there is a level of uncertainty and potential error. Ebel asked about allocating emissions from delivery of food; this would be a commercial vehicle and attributed entirely to transportation, we do not track food emissions or any consumption emissions currently. Etherton will send the full RICAPS slides to OSEC.
- C. City Staff Commute Pilot Proposal – Etherton reported on a pilot proposal drafted pre-COVID with fellow staff members Kinser and Justin Yuen, Assistant Engineer. The pilot would provide an incentive for city staff to walk, bike, take transit or carpool to work over a 4-6 month period, utilizing the Star tracking platform available through Commute.org and incorporating a survey to determine the pilot's success and make recommendations toward a long-term program. Due to COVID and corresponding budget and work-from-home arrangements, the pilot proposal did not move forward, though staff hopes it may be considered when conditions allow. Lam asked about rolling a variation of this program to the broader community after the pilot; Etherton noted that our proposal was modeled on Commute.org incentive programs that are available from time to time to the broader community, but we could consider whether the City wanted to create our own local program at a later time. Rogers asked about the budget and how many staff were expected to participate; Kinser noted we had not made a specific request but considered \$5-10,000 and were uncertain how many staff would participate.

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Brisbane Building Efficiency Program voluntary compliance pilot launched last week; three stakeholders expressed interest to date; some may represent multiple buildings, and we plan to also report our city buildings which were recently benchmarked. BBEP contract amendments with the Air District and our consultants are in process to extend grant timeline out to April 2021, which will better facilitate education & outreach elements. We are also moving forward with a Climate Corps Fellow position for Jan-Aug 2021 to support the first year of mandatory compliance.
- CalRecycle Annual Report in process; data for the second half of 2019 won't be available until mid-August, for the first half of the year our diversion rate was 76%.
- Brisbane Village EV Charging Station had problems beginning in late June. Parts were replaced this week and coordination is happening with PG&E to get power back on-- hopefully that will take place very early Friday and the station will be able to resume normal functions.

Kinser:

- Has been assisting Park and Rec staff with installation of a new modular building at BES intended for after school programs
- Safe Routes to School and Green Infrastructure project is underway. Some community members are unhappy about it being less convenient for cars; please advocate in support of the project and its environmental benefits for bike/ped and stormwater.
- Dykes asked whether the Complete Streets Safety Committee was responsible for sidewalks and requested Kinser share a concern he emailed with them.

Sage:

- Coastal Cleanup Day – signed up as a site captain; need to mirror what the County is doing due to the health order. No official cleanup event/gathering, but everyone is being encouraged to clean up independently in their own area each Saturday in September; some supplies will be made available, details TBD. Sage will participate in County meetings and promotions, and send the recent CCD email to OSEC.
- Callippe Hill – does not have an update on the land transfer but the County is starting a study of how to use the land, so he is encouraged things are moving forward

Salmon asked Kinser about the status of the drainage channel project and suggested community outreach. Kinser noted that it has stalled because permitting has been challenging.

Salmon inquired about follow-up efforts related to business natural gas increases discussed last month; Etherton reported that she had reached out and not received any new insights.

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

- Open Space (Lam, Rogers, **Salmon**) – haven't scheduled a meeting yet. Rogers noted that there is a piece of land that Frito Lay wants to purchase that it is adjacent to the mountain. Salmon noted her opposition to the purchase because there are public access social trails beginning in that area. Committee members requested the topic be agendaized at the next meeting. Staff will look into this.

- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – have not met. Fieldman will send Etherton ACEEE paper on success of benchmarking programs to forward to the subcommittee for review; Etherton will also send around the CAP template when final version is received from the County. Subcommittee members will review these documents during Etherton’s leave and coordinate with Kinser if a meeting is needed.
- Events (Lam, Rogers, Salmon) – Salmon reported on the Recycled Arts and Crafts Contest; plans are well underway in partnership with Parks & Rec staff to launch the contest soon with a submission deadline of October 15. Etherton confirmed the flyer Sage is completing will be in the August Star; other outreach and administrative details are being finalized. Etherton asked about including a judging form in the Star and the group agreed an online form was sufficient.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, **Rogers**) – have not met, awaiting library completion.
- Invasive Species Ordinance (Ebel, Salmon) – met and discussed a focus on six plants of concern initially (English and cape ivy, jubata grass, broom, gorse, fennel) and will have an article on each in the Star, Salmon is working on the first, and committee has also considered draft ordinance contents. Fieldman asked that cotoneaster, scabiosa and acacia be considered for inclusion; she will join the committee as well.
- Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Lam) – Ebel will send draft out to the subcommittee
- Lipman Science Fair Judging* (Ebel, Lam, **Rogers**) – nothing required until later in fall
- 280 South Hill Funds* (Lam, Rogers) – staff will be meeting with consultants on the Crocker Trail Master Plan – Salmon requested it be called Guadalupe Trail
- Tree Issues* (**Ebel**, Rogers, Salmon) – covered extensively previously
- Benchmarking Ordinance* (Dykes, Lam) – covered under staff updates
- Beautification* (Salmon, w/ Council, Parks & Rec) – has not met

CALENDAR ITEMS

Committee agreed to cancel the October meeting; the September meeting will include South San Francisco Scavengers’ annual presentation.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

Fieldman sent a GoRequest for the Quarry Park sign as discussed last meeting; no report back yet.

Salmon noted that High Speed Rail issued their environmental impact report on July 10 with comments due back August 24. There are two proposals for the light maintenance facility in Brisbane that would have varying effects on the Baylands development, Ice House Hill and other areas. Salmon will forward an email to staff to share with the rest of the committee, and staff will check about getting the information included in the city e-news.

Ebel inquired about committee member selection; Kinser has not heard anything but will follow up. She also asked about last month’s suggestion to get a wood chip drop; Kinser had connected with Joe Friars about working with Davey Tree and will follow up.

NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2020 – confirm Brisbane Acres Hike logistics

Kinser suggested meeting at 5:30. Bob will confirm availability of parking at Firth Park parking lot and confirm the meeting spot. Those that live close by should walk to the start. Be prepared for

the hike—comfortable shoes, long pants, water and snacks if needed; bring Tecnu and possibly gloves.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:26 PM