



# CITY of BRISBANE

## Open Space and Ecology Committee Minutes

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Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

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### **MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION**

#### **CALL TO ORDER – 6:36 PM**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Salmon reminded everyone that though they are not having large plant sales, Mission Blue Nursery has plants for sale by appointment and now is the perfect time to plant. The plant list is available on the Mountain Watch website.

Ebel noted that Green Broadway is having a greening costume webinar at 1pm on December 10.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Ebel requested item A under Chair and Committee Member Matters be restated to "Ebel requests emails updates on projects"

Motion to adopt as amended: Salmon, Second: Dykes, Adopted unanimously by roll call vote

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Annual Waste Diversion Report – Teresa Montgomery, South San Francisco Scavenger
  - a. Continued diversion rate of about 76% - the community is doing great and we should be proud of this high diversion rate
  - b. Covid changes – staff using PPE, an area of Blue Line with a lot of customer interaction with CRV and e-waste was closed for a short time but is reopened again and generally business as usual. Had to cancel the Earth Day celebration, considering how next Earth Day can be celebrated safely and encourages anyone with suggestions to send them to her. Trying to communicate safety: bag any

materials that could be contaminated and place in black waste container, not in recycling which is handled by staff.

- c. Still saw a lot of coastal cleanup activity in September, 20 yards of compost giveaway in May, annual yard waste cleanup just happened and 20 yards were collected. Recycled Art Contest had 26 entries.
    - i. Ebel asked whether confirmation emails were sent for recycled art contest submissions, she did not receive one. Staff recommended resending ASAP, copy Etherton.
  - d. The sorting line at Blue Line is nearly 20 years old and is in the process of being updated with optical sorting machines and robotic technology. These upgrades will help especially with sorting different types of plastic and mixed waste. The project should be finished by the end of the year, with “training” of the artificial intelligence finished around spring. She hopes to be able to have public tours.
  - e. Starting to see domestic recycling markets opening up, this is a bounceback as a result of China’s National Sword; improvements especially for #5 plastics, milk and other fiber cartons, and aseptic containers.
  - f. Fieldman noted an article on a program in New Zealand whereby residents’ recycling bins were audited and those performing well received a gold star; it had strong results.
  - g. AB 1826 requires that any business generating 2 cubic yards or more of waste per week implement an organics recycling program. Staff had started to reach out to businesses about this and put it on hold due to covid but are beginning to revisit. A lot of cities are holding off because AB1383 will require essentially everyone to have organics; cities have the ability to provide exemptions and the hauler can sort co-mingled waste. This bill has a lot of enforcement behind it and thus will be a bigger focus; currently there are no penalties for non-compliance besides being nagged by the city. So far most of the messaging has been lighter touch but will ramp up next year.
  - h. Ebel asked about the history of the diversion rate. Montgomery reported that it was holding pretty steady; the National Sword caused a slight dip a couple years ago as did a construction boom. She also shared anecdotally that covid has led to an increase in household waste and maybe less commercial; it will be interesting to see the numbers from this year. She believes we can get back to 80%+ with the new sort line enhancements and regulations.
  - i. Ebel asked about spray paint; Montgomery recommended checking [recyclestuff.org](http://recyclestuff.org).
  - j. Fieldman asked about more recycling cans in public. Kinser noted that we are looking at recycling cans in downtown areas.
  - k. Dykes asked whether bins with locks, which can currently be requested, would become a standard feature; many in his area do not have them and regularly have bins dumped over by critters. Montgomery will work on outreach for this.
- B. Discuss a possible winter (December or January) planting day
- a. Salmon encouraged consideration of how we could accommodate a socially-distanced planting day in January. Mountain Watch has been working on how to

safely bring volunteers back on the mountain, as has the County. Bob will reach out to Ariel about his protocols and what plants are available.

## STAFF UPDATES

### A. Etherton:

- Reported on rebates for electric vehicles available through the end of the year from Peninsula Clean Energy; the program will be promoted in the STAR. There is also a PCE program to support EV Charging installations that we are looking into and passed along to Altamar board members.
- The Building Efficiency Program pilot has had two buildings submitted with another two nearing submission; eight city buildings were also submitted. The program is moving forward with staff training on the Maalka platform scheduled for Nov 30, and a Climate Corps fellow expected to start in mid-January to support the program through the first compliance cycle and reporting to the CEC by August.
- The Recycled Art Contest received many great submissions! There were no applicants for judging so will have internal judging of anonymized submissions by Scavenger (Montgomery) and city (Etherton, Kinser and Nahass from Parks & Rec) staff. Planning for three prizes and will create a webpage to recognize all submissions including commentary on materials used and recyclability. We aim to notify winners by the end of November & promote in mid-December and the January STAR.

### B. Kinser:

- Provided info for a Brisbane Case Study for SEEC (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative) Report
- A 15 mph speed limit in school zones is proposed as part of the Safe Pedestrian Routes to Schools and will be on the City Council agenda November 19.
- Upon request of the Complete Streets Safety Committee, fire egress routes were included in city email blast
- Sharrows and signage for bicycles will be added on Old County Road
- A Countywide Facilities Staff working group is starting up, a spin-off of the RICAPS group to focus on energy efficiency and other green practices in public facilities.

### C. Sage:

- Reported on an email from two residents that picked up loads of trash on two separate occasions for Coastal Cleanup
- San Mateo County Parks gave a presentation on gorse removed from San Bruno Mountain; fire burned five acres which was mostly gorse and an additional seven acres were separately addressed
  - Fieldman noted that it is creeping into restored areas, a lot along the Bog Trail
  - Sage noted work in Montara on Jubata / Pampas Grass; he knows the County is aware of it and believes work is coming. Salmon noted that the ravine near the northeast ridge is McKesson property.
  - Salmon also noted that Preservation Parcel and Calippe Hill are slated to have grazing cattle; Sage added they are also looking into the possibility of goat grazing in areas with minimal habitat value

- The committee discussed the severe state of littering in areas like the off-ramp from 101 to Sierra Point and Lagoon, which is UPC territory, and Harney Way and Bayshore. Kinser noted that litter falls under NPDES and some is captured by trash capture devices on storm drains; she will try to follow up with staff responsible.

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

- Review Assignments – will wait until after new appointments are seated and acclimated
  - Kinser reported on call for new committee members. Fieldman inquired whether she needed to re-reapply; Kinser will confirm.
- Open Space (Lam, Rogers, **Salmon**) – no meeting, requested to be scheduled
  - Kinser noted she is working on five year reports for grants for open space preservation. The City Manager wants to bring that to Council and educate them on the history of the Open Space Plan and the Brisbane Acres. Salmon offered to assist and Rogers requested the committee have an opportunity to review.
- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton will work to schedule a meeting for January 2021
- Events (Lam, Rogers, Salmon) – Covid thwarted plans, will look into January planting day
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, **Rogers**)
  - Awaiting opening of new library for determination of OSEC display
  - Etherton noted Ivy article from the previous STAR was posted to the city website
- Invasive Species Ordinance (Ebel, Salmon)
  - Fieldman to write an article on French broom; Etherton will add her to the committee list (had not updated from previous assignment)
- Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Lam)
  - Ebel reported that the committee has a draft ready; she will send it to staff for distribution to the committee and discussion at the following meeting
- Crocker Trail Master Plan\* (Lam, Rogers)
  - Rogers noted a public meeting was held with approximately 40 participants providing input and a survey was put out; priorities included Quarry Road, getting rid of invasive plants, daylighting the creek. The Technical Advisory Committee’s next meeting is being scheduled, and there will be another (virtual) public meeting.
  - This name is being used for the Master Plan, but the recommendation of the plan is likely to rename to Guadalupe Trail
- Tree Issues\* (**Ebel**, Rogers, Salmon)
  - Kinser had circulated a draft with compiled comments a few months back
  - Salmon noted Council is looking at changes to the grading ordinance and who oversees it. Since it relates to tree issues, she recommends the committee pay close attention to this issue which is expected to come back up after Mackin is seated on the City Council.
  - Salmon also expressed sadness over the new festival tree, which is not looking like it will survive. Kinser reported that Davey had given it a 25% chance to come back and wanted to give it until the spring, and that staff was also very disappointed in the situation.

- Benchmarking Ordinance\* (Dykes, Lam) – reported under staff updates. Etherton will consider how the liaisons or committee at large can be involved as we move towards the first mandatory compliance deadline in the spring.
- Beautification\* (Salmon, w/ Council, Parks & Rec) – has not been active.

**CALENDAR ITEMS**

- Etherton to update calendar for 2021 & add Recycled Art Contest for earlier in the year, so if Day in the Park is able to go on submissions can be shown there
- December OSEC meeting will focus on Dark Skies ordinance and possibly also the Building Efficiency Program; the Disposable Food Ware Ordinance will likely be in January.

**CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS** – none.

**NEXT MEETING:** December 16, 2020 at 6:30 via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:49 PM**