



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:33 PM

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Calmes, Ebel, Fieldman, Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

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

Guest Presenter: Eun-Soo Lim, Office of Sustainability

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Salmon reminded viewers of Mission Blue Plant sales, and that dogs are not allowed in the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) area, though they are allowed on leash on Fish & Wildlife property.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ebel asked that under Etherton's staff updates regarding SB1383, that the minutes reflect a request to be kept informed.

Motion to adopt: Salmon, Second: Rogers, Calmes and Nunes abstained since they were not yet on the committee; all other members present voted in favor

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Disposable Food Ware Ordinance Presentation - Eun-Soo Lim, Office of Sustainability
 - a. Etherton noted that the goal of the presentation was to receive a recommendation from the committee that the Brisbane City Council adopt a follow-on ordinance to extend the County's ordinance within the city.
 - b. Lim discussed why the County adopted the ordinance, its goals and timeline. It applies to any food facility that provides prepared food for public consumption; those that are required to have a health permit from the County. The ordinance is only effective in unincorporated portions of the County, unless the same ordinance is adopted within an incorporated jurisdiction. The County will lead education and

enforcement if the adopted ordinance is the same; six other cities in the County have already adopted the ordinance and more are expected.

- c. Lim covered what items are impacted and noted that plastics, including both traditional and compostable plastics are not allowed. Items must be natural fiber-based and free of fluorinated chemicals; the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certifies products as compostable and free of fluorinated chemicals. The County is working to compile a list of approved sources and references that are compliant. Accessories are to be distributed only when needed; upon request, acceptance of an offer, or in distribution stations.
- d. The County ordinance was originally planned to go into effect on March 25, 2021, but is currently being considered to be pushed back a year. The County strongly encourages cities to align with the County's start date.
- e. Lim mentioned the Sustainability Ambassador Program, a short-term volunteer outreach program for 6 months starting early June to encourage food businesses to only provide accessories on request beginning right away.
- f. Lim also noted that the County ordinance repealed and replaced the prior polystyrene ban, meaning that the city's ban on polystyrene is now not currently being enforced. She also noted that any provisions a city adopts that go beyond the County's would require that the city to take on the education and enforcement.
- g. Fieldman asked and Etherton confirmed that Brisbane would also plan to repeal and replace the existing polystyrene ban. She also inquired whether the County had done outreach to the affected businesses since the pandemic began; Lim noted that they had done outreach and adopted their ordinance prior to the shutdown and suspended outreach for all of 2020, opting instead to push out the effective date. Etherton mentioned that city staff and a summer intern had talked with affected businesses in Brisbane, and most indicated they were already largely compliant and not concerned about an ordinance being adopted locally.
- h. Salmon asked about BPI fraud; Lim noted that BPI takes the certification and verification process very seriously. Salmon suggested a group purchasing program administered by the County to keep costs low and ensure easy access to approved products. Lim noted that this suggestion has come up before and the County is looking into it; presently it seems most likely to be in the form of discount codes negotiated with specific suppliers. The resource guide being developed by County consultants will provide an inventory of compliant items.
- i. Ebel pointed out that after the plastic bag ban, a few years later, plastic bags came back that are thicker and claim to be reusable, and wondered whether something similar may come about with this industry. Lim noted that the County will be on the lookout for these types of schemes and could amend the ordinance to address whatever may come about.
- j. Committee members expressed significant concerns about the impact on the local restaurant businesses as so many are already struggling, and were concerned about the optics of imposing new regulations now. Various methods of support were suggested; some noted that existing programs for small businesses were available, and also that not providing accessories unless requested would save money.

- k. After much discussion and debate, Lim noted that the city's implementation date could be later than the County's, and that either could be pushed back if needed. Ebel suggested moving forward but regularly revisiting the implementation date to determine if it should be changed; five of six committee members present agreed, with Nunan not in favor.
- l. Salmon moved that OSEC recommend the ordinance paired with a program to provide 6 months of compostable containers and education encouraging restaurants not to provide accessories unnecessarily. Nunan seconded. Kinser noted that staff would need committee support and/or additional resources to implement such a program; Etherton mentioned that the budgetary request will need to be understood and made to council. Nunan asked whether packages would be needed for schools, Lions Club and similar groups; Salmon clarified that she intended the program to be for restaurants serving the public. The committee voted unanimously by roll call vote in favor of the motion.
- m. Kinser noted that staff will recommend a Council subcommittee to hash out some of these details before bringing to the full City Council.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Etherton:

- Shared a number of updates on the Brisbane Building Efficiency Program: the website (brisbaneca.org/bbep) is substantially complete include a robust resources section; notification letters were mailed out the prior week on February 11th and we are already getting a number of calls and emails in response; a webinar is scheduled for Thursday February 25th; and staff talked this morning with school district officials in order to help schools with compliance and provide experience for Cousar.
- March STAR will include a Dark Skies article written by Salmon along with a survey link for community feedback, as well as an article on French broom by Fieldman in our continuing series on invasive species.
- Staff is looking into applying for a County 4R's grant to install a water refilling station for the Police Department.

B. Kinser:

- Work on striping edgelines on the narrow, private portion of Tunnel Avenue was completed today and should make it a little safer for bicyclists. The city will add signs indicating bicyclists are allowed full use of the lane.
- Trash on Quarry Road: PW staff investigating whether it is small trash accumulating or large illegal dumps. Will determine next steps, whether it is more cans or more frequent pick-ups. PW maintenance staff will review Quarry Rd monthly for trash issues. Fieldman noted that she thought the cans near Lipman needed more frequent pick-ups. Fieldman also noted that she's heard that the Marina was also a trash hot-spot; Rogers entered a service request. Salmon asked about the trash shoved off the side of South Hill Road; Rogers said Councilmember Lentz had planned to follow up. Fieldman noted that the trash on Bayshore she had previously reported was actually in South San Francisco.

- Kinser reported that the replacement Festival Tree was removed. She and Salmon agreed that there should be a subcommittee to discuss how to proceed.
- C. Sage:
- Quarry Road informational signs were installed. Rogers shared a few new signs related to litter she had noticed around town.

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

- Open Space (Rogers, **Salmon**) – Kinser noted that she and Sage were planning to meet to prepare for a subcommittee meeting. Rogers asked about the Brisbane Acres property sale that is on the City Council agenda; Salmon explained that it is owned by the Housing Authority but not suitable for affordable housing or high-value habitat.
- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – Ebel reported that the committee met and discussed the Climate Emergency Declaration, which she will begin drafting.
- Events (Rogers, Salmon) – nothing to report
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, **Rogers**) – the subcommittee met regarding outreach on the litter issue and different ways we can get the message out, signage, local boundaries to ensure the right jurisdictions are notified and integrating our Go Request system with the See Click Fix program used in South San Francisco and the County. OSEC members discussed outreach to consumers and businesses on refusing take-out accessories; Etherton encouraged participation in the County's Sustainability Ambassadors program to utilize their resources and messaging.
- Invasive Species Ordinance (Ebel, Salmon, Fieldman) – Kinser and Sage to coordinate a meeting.
- Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Ebel reported that she had provided questions for the survey and suggested we wait to receive feedback before returning to work on the draft ordinance. The group agreed the survey should be closed on April 1st.
- Sierra Point Park Planning* (Ebel) – no activity yet
- Crocker Trail Master Plan* (Rogers) – the final design will be presented by the consultants in the next week or so. Most of the survey responses indicated a preference for natural aesthetics.
- Tree Issues* (**Ebel**, Rogers, Salmon) – Rogers reported that she is waiting for addresses from Ebel on trees removed that have not been replaced; she will email the subcommittee on next steps.
- Festival Tree* (Salmon, Rogers) – subcommittee will meet to discuss whether the tree should be replaced. Kinser asked for feedback from the new OSEC members and the group discussed why we had planned to replace the tree in the first place. Rogers will send out some suggested dates for a meeting.
- Benchmarking Ordinance* (Dykes) – covered under staff updates
- Lipman Science Fair Judging* (Ebel, **Rogers**) – Rogers has not heard back from Bob Dettmer but will follow up.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Etherton noted that we will discuss subcommittee assignments next month, and Kinser added that approval of the Vegetation Management Plan would be on the agenda.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

Fieldman asked about staff sharing an article on Rewilding, and recommended a book called “Ministry for the Future” by Kim Stanley Robinson. Fieldman previously shared another article on trees with Salmon, who will forward to Etherton for sharing with the full committee.

Rogers thanked Kinser for the street cleaning happening later in the mornings; Kinser noted that a new company was filling in that was providing better service and had been more responsive to community feedback.

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2021

ADJOURNMENT – 8:48 PM