



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members present: Dykes (until 7), 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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Salmon made a motion to move elections to the first item in new business since Dykes noted he needed to drop off early. Ebel second, and it was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Salmon reminded that Mountain Watch's Pancake Breakfast and Plant Sale is on September 12.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Salmon noted that the name of the guest at the June 16th meeting was incorrect, it is Jad Bernardo; Etherton will correct. Salmon moved to adopt the minutes of May 19th and June 16th and Rogers seconded. Ebel abstained and all others adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - a. Salmon nominated Ebel as Chair, Fieldman suggested Dykes, who indicated he did not have time for a chair role but was interested in Vice Chair. Salmon discussed his availability and nominated Calmes as Vice Chair, Nunan seconded. The committee discussed traditions and protocols, and discussed that only Ebel and Calmes had received "seconds" to their nominations, before voting unanimously by roll call vote in favor of the panel.
- B. Discussion on proposed Outdoor Lighting Standards
 - a. Etherton provided a presentation on the draft ordinance, acknowledging the Dark Skies subcommittee and Ebel in particular for their significant work to date.

- b. Fieldman asked about existing lights being required to comply; Etherton and Ebel noted that retroactive requirements are difficult and we would want to hear a desire for such a policy from Council. Discussed replacement bulbs being required to be replaced with compliant lumens or wattages, as well as opportunities to educate those with existing offending lighting and possibility of bulb giveaways.
- c. Nunan expressed concern, shared by others, that motion lighting not be exempt as an alarm under emergency lighting; the subcommittee will review this language to be sure that is clear.
- d. Calmes asked about holiday lighting for Halloween not being exempted. Nunan suggested changing the prohibited outdoor lighting portion on fading, flashing, blinking or strobe lighting to not allow that lighting for Class 3.
- e. Salmon suggested that outdoor flood lighting in the prohibited outdoor lighting portion should be changed to be consistent with the earlier portion on spotlights not being higher than 45 degrees below the horizontal plane.
- f. Salmon recommended to change the exception for holiday lighting to require lighting be off at midnight. The committee also discussed moving the holiday date window; Salmon moved to set the dates to October 20 to January 20, Nunan seconded and all present voted in favor by roll call. Etherton wanted to confirm this window would cover holidays of all faith traditions.
- g. Nonconforming uses must be off between midnight and sunrise, which would put some limits on existing lighting. Staff noted that we could do education on this specific point through the Star and perhaps the Chamber would through thesay Luminary as well.
- h. Salmon suggested a provision which would apply to all lighting, not just new lighting, that light must be contained to your own property.

C. Consider forming Crocker Trail Frog Habitat subcommittee

- a. Kinser provided background on the issue and Salmon provided additional history. Salmon and Rogers are to prepare a proposal for the City on habitat restoration and ongoing maintenance plans by volunteers. Upon Fieldman's inquiry, Rogers noted that she expected the subcommittee's role would be to plan and coordinate volunteer days and consult experts to advise on the management.
- b. Fieldman suggested contacting the Biology teacher at Lipman to help with the ongoing project and provide longevity.
- c. Calmes noted the area has a lot of litter as well and there is an absence of waste receptacles; there is one near Trove but members noted it is often full.
- d. Ebel motioned and Salmon seconded the creation of the subcommittee; members present voted unanimously in favor. Subcommittee members will be Calmes, Salmon and Rogers.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Etherton:

- On July 15th the City Council passed the Climate Emergency Declaration

- Only one volunteer for Skip the Stuff outreach so far; seeking additional volunteers until the end of the month. Ebel and Nunan signed up.
 - Two Chevy Bolts have been added to the City's vehicle fleet. We are running a pilot program with Enterprise Fleet Management, which if continued would allow for quicker turnover of vehicles than our prior purchasing program, thus providing opportunities for faster conversions to electric or other lower-emitting vehicles.
 - Staff recently met with the county Energy Watch program contractor, who will evaluate a couple city facilities projects for high-efficiency, electrification and incentive/funding opportunities.
- B. Kinser:
- Noted that she and Director Breault could not find the large trash dump off Quarry Road that Rogers had reported. Rogers and Kinser will coordinate to meet on the site.
 - Tree water bag giveaway has had a couple of participants and the City is going to begin the deep root watering soon. Calmes noted the graphic had the bag attached to the tree which is not recommended.
- D. Cousar:
- Provided an update on BBEP compliance: 105 buildings covered of which 41 have fully complied, 4 more have complied but have minor issues which will need to be corrected in the future, 18 have data quality issues being investigated—primarily low Energy Use Intensity which is likely due to covid impacts, 7 have either temporary or permanent exemptions, 16 received extensions, and 14 buildings have not responded. If all data issues and extensions are successfully resolved, which is largely expected, our compliance rate should exceed our first-year goal of 75%.

Etherton provided an update on public meeting options for the coming months and asked the committee whether anyone was interested in returning in person for hybrid meetings in August or September. Committee members all preferred to stay virtual at this time due to the delta variant and current mask requirements.

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

- Open Space (Nunan, Rogers, **Salmon**) – Nunan reported that the committee met recently to get organized and will meet again next week.
- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – hasn't met recently.
- Events (Rogers, Salmon) – Salmon noted she will not be present for Day in the Park; the subcommittee could use additional support and will need help for the table. Etherton will set up a meeting. Ebel and Fieldman volunteered to help at the table.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Nunan, **Rogers**) – The library is open but still has limited in-person hours. Etherton will reach out to the library staff about an OSEC display opportunity.
- Invasive Species Ordinance (Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman) – Salmon to put together notes/outline of ordinance asks based upon the last meeting.

- Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – covered previously.
- Baylands Subcommittee (Dykes, Rogers) – no recent meeting.
- *Sierra Point Park Planning (Ebel) – has not kicked off yet.
- *Crocker Trail Master Plan (Rogers) – the Council approved the plan; will move to inactive list.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – no recent meeting; Ebel to set one up.
- *Festival Tree (Calmes, Dykes, Rogers) – meeting at the tree site next week.
- *Lipman Science Fair Judging (Ebel, **Rogers**) – move to inactive list until late in the year.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Etherton noted there will not be a STAR publication in August. Fieldman volunteered to draft an article on ocean pollution to pair with the Coastal Cleanup Day promotion in the September edition, due by August 15.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

- The committee enjoyed the new group “photo” compiled by Sage.

NEXT MEETING: August 25, 2021

ADJOURNMENT – 8:42 PM