



CITY *of* BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 PM

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members present: Calmes, Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman (6:39), Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Rogers motioned and Salmon seconded to adopt the agenda, which was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Salmon reminded that Mountain Watch's Pancake Breakfast and Plant Sale is on September 12. County safety protocols will be followed, tickets are available online or at the door, and breakfast is available to-go.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Rogers motioned and Nunan seconded to approve the minutes, which was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Building Efficiency Program Presentation – Climate Corps Fellow Nila Cousar
 - a. Cousar gave a presentation on the program background and results, her fellowship experience, and recommendations for steps to take with the program before the next compliance year.
 - b. OSEC members asked about plans to help close the gap with the 13% of buildings that haven't been responsive. Etherton responded that additional research into correct/updated contacts will be needed. Staff is also looking at template letters from San Jose and San Francisco for second-year outreach and non-compliance notifications.

- c. Salmon commended Cousar and specifically appreciated her comments on the need for plain language. She suggested providing template press releases for participating businesses, and an article in the Luminary on the program's results and first-year successes.
- d. Fieldman thanked Cousar for her work, and other committee members and staff echoed their appreciation for her support.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Kinser:

- Noted that we will plan to roll out a more structured process for elections in the future, including a call for nominations electronically in advance with an opportunity for all nominees to be voted on.
- Reported that Fieldman shared an article on cool pavement with staff which led to staff begin looking into some of our specifications. We will use lighter colored aggregate and not include black rock in the future, but may need to do some community education as there is a perception of black asphalt being newer or better.
- Working on Crocker/Guadalupe Trail preliminary designs; engineering staff walked the trail noting all the features. Also looking at Quarry Road pavement maintenance; a retaining wall is needed and funds need to be identified.

B. Sage:

- Provided an update from the Natural Resources Coordination Meeting and the areas that the County has been addressing invasives on San Bruno Mountain.
- Coastal Cleanup Day on September 18th will be back at the Lagoon, both to avoid the need for van transportation and because it has been a few years since we've met there and some litter has accumulated.
- Fieldman asked about a dead Monterey Pine street tree at Alvarado and Mendocino which she had emailed staff about. Kinser responded that staff is looking into whether we can plant the recommended tree in that location. Ebel requested that Fieldman forward her the email as well.

D. Etherton:

- Foodware Aware Ambassador training coming up on Friday August 27th. Salmon requested the training be recorded if possible. Ebel asked if she could share the information about the training; she can but additional participants should contact Etherton by Friday morning.
- There is a new My Brisbane app that replaced the Go Request app. Rogers asked and Kinser confirmed that requests from the previous version transferred over.
- E-ink signboard installed at the Ridge in early August and the Community Park was planned to be installed.
- Participated in the CA Climate and Energy Collaborative Forum and presented with Marc Costa from The Energy Coalition and other reps on decarbonization from benchmarking programs. Fieldman requested the panel info be shared.

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

- Open Space (Nunan, Rogers, **Salmon**) – Kinser noted the subcommittee has been meeting about updating buffer zone parcels to the priority preservation zone, and also looking at the outreach to property owners about the sale or donation of property.
 - Fieldman mentioned hiking in the Acres with Beth Grossman and seeing significant garbage dumps including what looked like may have been a homeless encampment. Nunan knows the location and said he could geo-locate it for staff to investigate whether it was on City or private property.
 - Calmes noted encountering cars looking for the trailhead around Margaret and Paul. Ebel encouraged anyone with similar encounters that is willing or able to ask where people are getting this information; others thought it was likely social media and unlikely to be stopped.
- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton reported that she will send out a poll for a meeting; the RICAPS group recently posted an updated forecasting tool which we can use independently to begin to estimate trajectories to meet new goals established in the Climate Emergency Declaration.
- Events (Rogers, Salmon) – Rogers, Salmon and Etherton met to discuss Day in the Park plans. Salmon encouraged all committee members to help table for an hour or two; Etherton will send out a sign-up sheet.
 - Ebel asked about any outreach for Dark Skies Ordinance. Salmon suggested a star-finder app. The subcommittee will discuss.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Nunan, **Rogers**) – Etherton will request a meeting with library manager Tomika Price. Fieldman noted she asked at the library about a display and was told all such requests now need to go through the County. Etherton will still aim to follow up with Price, and if that is unsuccessful Breault will follow up with the County Library Director.
- Baylands Subcommittee (Dykes, Rogers) – no recent meetings.
- Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – Rogers committed to completing an initial presentation in the next month. Salmon asked if Kinser could coordinate a subcommittee meeting the third week of Sept.
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman) – the committee will aim to reconvene in mid-October and Salmon will work to prepare.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Ebel worked to incorporate the feedback from last meeting into the draft ordinance; the prohibition on blinking/flashing lights would limit a number of popular holiday decorations so she reworked that section to curtail them. She is working on a flowchart as well but would appreciate some direction from the committee on what should be included. Etherton will send an email for a meeting next week.
- *Sierra Point Park Planning (Ebel) – has not kicked off yet. Staff will reach out to counterparts in Park and Rec for any info on when this will commence.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Fieldman shared images of tree cover and expressed concern that Brisbane was starting to look more like the “bad” image than the

“good” image. Salmon expressed concern over the conflict between tree cover and fire hazards, that insurance companies were starting to drop coverage, and specifically the corridor above Lipman school and down to the pool as a high-risk zone with broom and eucalyptus. Breault confirmed this is school property and will have the fire marshal take a look. Continued public education on trees and fire hazards is needed; Breault noted that North County Fire Authority has been doing a lot of messaging on this and also is doing a lot of work on trimming for ingress and egress. Fieldman encouraged the city to move away from the practice of planting small street trees.

- *Festival Tree (Calmes, Dykes, Rogers) – Calmes reported discussing tree species with arborist friends, including visiting the site, and two species that were recommended were Coastal Douglas Fir and Abies Grandis. Ebel asked and Calmes confirmed the water table was taken into consideration. Kinser noted the suggestion to plant a smaller tree, 24” or 36” box which would likely be between 6-8’ and hopefully limit the community concern over it; Calmes is looking for local stock. The subcommittee needs to meet with the Parks and Rec reps for their input.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- The group discussed the potential to extend the Recycled Arts and Crafts Contest deadline and expressed interest in doing so based on the number of submissions and staff’s judgement. Staff will coordinate with the Events Subcommittee if needed.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

None.

NEXT MEETING: September 22, 2021 – the committee meeting will be virtual for at least one more month, and staff hopes to have further guidance on meeting formats for October and beyond at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:35 PM