



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 PM

ROLL CALL

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Salmon thanked everyone that came to or supported the Mountain Watch Pancake Breakfast which was a great success. Ebel thanked everyone that participated in Coastal Cleanup Day.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Etherton noted that Director Breault had accidentally been left off the roll call; she has corrected for the final minutes. Nunan moved to accept the corrected minutes and Calmes seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Brown Act Update
 - a. Kinser reported that Governor Newsom's executive order allowing us to meet virtually ends on September 30. A new law was signed allowing for continuing virtual meetings if the local jurisdiction adopts, every 30 days, a resolution declaring it necessary. The first such resolution will be considered by the City Council at their September 23 meeting.
 - b. Kinser explained that staff recently became aware of some distinctions between ad hoc and standing subcommittees. Standing subcommittees are those that address ongoing issues and they must be publicly noticed meetings. Ad hoc subcommittees are those that are convened for a particular project or task over a limited period of time, and their meetings do not need to be noticed.
 - c. Ebel had previously requested that ad hoc subcommittees also be noticed; staff has confirmed with the City Clerk and City Attorney that we need to follow the Brown Act and protocols of the City Council and other Committees/Commissions so will

not notice ad hoc meetings unless there is a specific reason to invite public participation in a meeting topic.

- d. Kinser outlined the staff's designation and purpose for each subcommittee.
- e. Kinser had been directed to review Nunan's property's proximity to the Open Space Plan areas. As a result of being within 500' of some properties under review, he has a conflict of interest and has resigned from the subcommittee. Prior to that, he performed a significant amount of research for the subcommittee, which staff and committee members expressed thanks for.
- f. Ebel inquired if there were any concerns with the designations presented; no one expressed concerns.

B. Recommendation for Open Space Plan Update

- a. Rogers introduced the issue, and Kinser and Salmon added background on the Open Space Plan and the City's history of purchase of Brisbane Acres.
- b. The subcommittee recommends including all nine of the originally-studied criteria to determine whether an Acre should be included in the Priority Preservation Area, and modify the criteria that Acres not have developed lots on more than one side.
- c. The subcommittee reviewed parcels 35, 84A, 87, 89, 90 and 91, which were previously not in the Priority Preservation Area, and are recommended for inclusion under the new criteria.
- d. Fieldman suggested an additional criterion be considered that assigns value to a parcel for providing a buffer for the mountain from which to attack invasives.
- e. Ebel suggested the language regarding development on a certain number of sides be flipped such that the focus was on the number of undeveloped sides. Salmon wanted to ensure that even parcels with valuable habitat which were surrounded by developed parcel, i.e. "habitat islands", be eligible. The group discussed that the criteria regarding development on a certain number of sides be dropped.
- f. The committee took public comments from Erin Becker, who encouraged dropping the criteria for development on a certain number of sides and focusing on the ecological value of the habitat, and Jason Nunan, who agreed with Salmon's perspective of taking the long view and Becker's suggestion.
- g. Fieldman moved to eliminate the criterion that a Priority Preservation Area cannot have development on more than one side, add criterion regarding buffering, add the three previously-studied but excluded criteria, and recommend the six parcels discussed be added to the PPA based on their meeting the new criteria. Salmon seconded and the committee voted unanimously by roll call in favor, excepting Nunan's abstention.
- h. Kinser suggested the consultants that researched the original plan be retained to propose a plan amendment. Salmon and Ebel did not believe the expense for a consultant was necessary and wished to bring the item forward for the Council's consideration; if the Council felt the consultant's services were needed they could provide that direction and budget.
- i. Rogers inquired about budget for purchase of Acres, as noted in the Open Space Plan Executive Summary VII.D. Kinser will investigate and report back.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Kinser:

- Fieldman had reported a dead pine tree at Mariposa and Alvarado and requested a Coast Live Oak replace it. It was recently removed, but staff believes the suggested replacement would be too large due to overhead utility lines. Staff is open to further suggestion on the replacement and Calmes indicated interest.
- The water bag program has had three addresses pick up bags for five street trees to date, with additional bags added by staff. Deep root watering is still happening with staff addressing the trees they see as priorities; she encouraged submission of a GoRequest for any trees on city property. Salmon noted the trees at the Bank of America site need to be addressed as the property owner seems to have not continued maintenance as they are trying to sell the property; Kinser will look into whether the City can address them. Calmes noted the B of A property is lit up all night long; perhaps the property owner can shift their energy savings from reducing unnecessary lighting to watering.

B. Etherton:

- Last year's Recycled Arts and Crafts Contest winner, Leesa Greenlee's fish mobile, is hanging in the Park and Rec Dept office for our Day in the Park display. She asked if Ebel and Salmon would like to also display their projects; Rogers will coordinate with Salmon.
- The Air District has proposed rules that would set a timeline (2029) for establishing a point of sale requirement that all water and space heating appliances have zero NOx emissions, which would in effect require them to be electric across the Bay Area. They have scheduled a workshop on October 7 from 6-8pm; Ebel asked for the details.
- Staff is continuing to prepare for EV charging stations with the assumption that we will receive CALeVIP funding this fall/winter. Also working with PCE on a solar + storage study for Mission Blue Center; we anticipate bringing that to City Council next month.
- Foodware Aware Program updates: volunteer ambassador training held last month but print materials were delayed, volunteers should do their outreach in Oct/early Nov before the County starts their outreach for the full ordinance after Thanksgiving. They will be sending letters, making calls, and doing targeted Google and social media ads, with materials, webinars and outreach staff available in English, Spanish and Chinese. The state legislature passed AB1276, an "Accessories on request law", which is expected to be signed by Gov Newsom; there are minor nuances on distribution between the state and local laws so OOS staff is working with County counsel to address.

C. Sage:

- Coastal Cleanup Day was a success! Roughly two dozen volunteers spent the morning picking up an estimated 6.5 tons of waste. Salmon noted a lot of the garbage was very small, such as cigarette butts
- Public Works will be promoting water conservation programs at Day in the Park, including the High Efficiency Toilet Program, Rain Barrel and Lawn Be Gone programs.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – the group met and began reviewing the updated RICAPS Menu of Measures. Etherton noted she is still awaiting County consultants to respond to some questions on forecast data, but meanwhile the committee can try to reconvene to continue review of measures.
- Events (Rogers, Salmon) – planning for Day in the Park and could still use volunteers in the afternoon. Nunan will join the subcommittee.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Nunan, **Rogers**) – Etherton coordinating for a meeting time with library staff. Fieldman suggested also discussing outreach on climate issues, which the public is much more receptive to now than in the past.
- Baylands Subcommittee (Dykes, Rogers) – no recent meetings.
- *Open Space Plan Update (Rogers, **Salmon**) – covered previously. Will consider an additional committee member at a future meeting.
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – Rogers is working on the presentation.
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman) – the committee will try to resume meeting in November.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Ebel reported meeting on some of the follow-up from the OSEC discussion, and she has drafted a flow chart. Etherton will send the subcommittee a meeting poll to finalize remaining items.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – no recent meetings, will reconvene in Nov or Dec.
- *Festival Tree (Calmes, Dykes, Rogers) – Calmes just shared with staff her research on nursery availability and pricing; she is hoping to visit a facility in Santa Rosa late October.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Etherton outlined updates to the calendar, including a proposed early December meeting in lieu of regular November and December meetings which conflict with holidays. The committee voted unanimously to meet on December 1.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

- Nunan thanked the committee for acknowledging his contributions to the Open Space Plan Subcommittee.

NEXT MEETING: October 27, 2021; Salmon noted she may be late or absent due to a flight.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:47 PM