



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minute

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:33 PM

Committee members present: Calmes, Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman (until 7:28), Rogers, Nunan (6:47)

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

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Rogers moved to adopt the agenda and Calmes seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Rogers noted the Google Parking Lot is being considered by the Planning Commission tomorrow; she is concerned by the lighting. Fieldman noted trash on San Bruno Mountain reported a couple meetings back has not yet been addressed; Beth Grossman and Jason Nunan are aware of the location.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Fieldman moved to approve the minutes and Dykes seconded; the motion was adopted by roll call vote with all in favor except Ebel who abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss gas-powered lawn equipment – Etherton provided some background on the issue, and Breault stated that he did not want to risk inviting a lawsuit by getting ahead of state legislation but suggested that the city could approach the issue through the noise ordinance. Ebel suggested we add it to the 2022 Work Plan with the holidays approaching, and create an ad hoc subcommittee to address. Calmes provided some perspective as a small landscaper and stated that her electric leafblower was still quite loud; staff and committee members hoped she would be able to share her input on the subcommittee going forward. Fieldman asked staff to research the decibel level on gas and electric leafblowers. Nunan added that he estimates his electric leafblower is probably half as loud as a 2-stroke gas blower. Committee members asked staff to research the pollution and emissions impacts. Calmes noted the equity considerations of

affecting the landscaping business sector. Fieldman moved and Rogers seconded adding this to the 2022 Work Plan; all present voted in favor of the motion.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Kinser:

- Council passed a resolution allowing us to continue virtual meetings for the next month.

B. Etherton:

- There are 5 seats on OSEC up for appointment/reappointment (everyone but Ebel & Nunan) - apply by Jan 14th at www.brisbaneca.org/open-seats
- Optional cybersecurity training Nov 9 – look for email from City HR
- City Council approved a resolution on Oct 7 to participate in Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) solar + storage bulk procurement effort; will likely result in a solar Power Purchase Agreement for Mission Blue Center and possibly energy storage on site as well
- City has a Request for Proposals for Design/Build of up to 31 EV charging stations at three city sites: City Hall, Mission Blue Center, and Bayshore Park & Ride
- The state passed a law, AB1276 - Accessories on Request, which will require an amendment to our Disposable Foodware ordinance; County Office of Sustainability staff working with County counsel to develop and we will follow
- United Against Climate Change fair at the Farmers Market on Nov 4th 3-6pm; OSEC volunteers requested to help – Ebel, Calmes and Fieldman signed up. Fieldman asked about a carbon footprint flyer; staff will search for it and follow up.
- An Air District subcommittee gave unanimous support for zero-NOx appliance standards for gas water heaters and furnaces which are slated to be finalized by the end of the year and adopted in early 2022. These are point of sale rules that would go into effect in 2027-2031 and effectively require them to be electric.
- PCE All-Electric Leadership Awards applications due Nov 17. Award winners will be featured on PCE's website and in social media and will receive a customized plaque and \$2,000 cash award.
- COP26 - the international climate conference - starts Oct 31
- Coastal Cleanup Day in San Mateo County had 2700 volunteers who picked up 21,943 pounds of trash and recyclables.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – no meeting.
- Events (Nunan, Rogers, Salmon) – Rogers reported that Day in the Park was a success; there was good turnout and a lot of kids came to our booth to decorate masks. The committee is light on handouts.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Nunan, **Rogers**) – Fieldman reported that she and Etherton met with Tomika Price about an OSEC library display. The library has stricter limits and locations for a display, but it seems we may be able to do a poster and possibly a small shelf of featured environmental books from the library's collection. The subcommittee needs to meet to develop a proposal for quarterly displays for the library's consideration; Etherton will try to set one up.

- Baylands Subcommittee (Dykes, Rogers) – no recent meetings.
- *Open Space Plan Update (Rogers, **Salmon**) – Kinser reported that a meeting has not taken place yet because staff wanted to work with the City Attorney to ensure that any entitlements for properties recommended to be added to the Priority Preservation Area would not be a conflict, and he did not think it would. The “ask” needs to be refined a bit based on OSEC’s direction at last meeting before bringing to Council. Rogers will set up a meeting.
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – Rogers did not have anything to report.
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman) – Fieldman reported she spoke with a park ranger about San Bruno Mountain invasives which she and city staff had mapped and reported which have not yet been addressed; she hoped the committee would meet soon and push the County to take action.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Subcommittee met, Dykes confirmed no conflicts with the sign ordinance, Ebel is working on one additional image, and Etherton has passed the draft to other staff for review.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Ebel noted the committee has not met; Ebel has inventoried central Brisbane and hopes others can assist with Crocker Park and the Ridge. Kinser will set up a meeting.
- *Festival Tree (Calmes, Dykes, Rogers) – the subcommittee wants to recommend planting a small Norfolk Pine; they met as well as the Parks & Rec subcommittee; both supported the suggestion. Kinser noted the negative community feedback over the previous tree planting and the desire to communicate with the community and the council over the issue. Calmes is planning to visit tree farms in Santa Rosa next week to gauge pricing and available specimens/sizes.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Etherton noted the Winter Cleanup was in the October or November STARs and the Recycled Arts and Crafts Contest submission deadline passed with around 20 submissions. South San Francisco Scavenger will make their annual presentation at the next meeting on December 1.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

The committee congratulated Nunan on his solar installation, the completion of which caused his delayed participation in the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: December 1, 2021

ADJOURNMENT – 7:56 PM