



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:36 PM

ROLL CALL

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

Council Members present (through the break): Cunningham, O'Connell

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Engineering Technician, Sage; Public Works Director, Breault; City Manager, Holstine (through the break); Administrative Management Analyst, Ibarra (through the break)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of December 1, 2021 – Nunan requested the minutes reflect that OSEC questioned the validity of the 8lbs/person of garbage reported by Scavenger, Ebel added that follow-up also be noted. Salmon moved to approve the amended minutes, Nunan seconded; the motion was adopted with Fieldman and Rogers abstaining.

DISCUSSION WITH COUNCIL LIAISONS

- B. 2021 Report of Accomplishments (informational) – Etherton highlighted the accomplishments for the prior year.
- C. 2022 Work Plan
- Etherton reviewed the work plan
 - Salmon provided clarification on the subcommittee's desires for the invasive species ordinance
 - Etherton noted the omission of reach codes under the Policy Issues section. The group later discussed that the effort may shift from new buildings, which the city has already addressed, to existing buildings which would require more investigation of options and stakeholder feedback.
 - Salmon brought up the committee's previously-discussed desire to address leaf blowers; Fieldman mentioned the state law banning them starting in 2024 and the need for time for regulations to go into effect. The group discussed what approach was preferable

under this context, including education & outreach, and the City and our contractors leading as role models. Council Members supported a lighter, non-regulatory approach. Breault noted that staff will make a budgetary request in the coming year to replace half or all of the city's devices. Kinser noted that staff had reached out to contractors; they were all aware of the state law, planning to move to electric and ready to comply.

- The group had an extensive discussion on the draft Tree Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) proposal. Council Member Cunningham felt the TTAC was an overreach. Council Members noted that including staff on a committee was inappropriate, but they supported many of the goals outlined in the proposal. An inventory to establish a baseline, education and outreach, best practices for tree health and maintenance, and involvement or creation of a community group were mentioned as preferable ways to achieve desired outcomes.

BREAK

NEW BUSINESS

- D. Trex plastic recycling – Rogers had requested this item upon hearing of a program in Millbrae. Etherton reported that she had investigated the program online and through discussion with staff in Millbrae and did not feel it was a good fit due to the significant time investment needed for staff and volunteers, as well as the lack of a local Trex commercial partner nearby. In addition, a viable alternative for film plastic recycling already exists in town through the Brisbane Post Office.

STAFF UPDATES

- A. Etherton:
- Dr. E.O. Wilson, who opined that San Bruno Mountain was one of the world's 18 biodiversity hotspots, died Dec 16 at the age of 92
 - Brisbane had one solar installation for ~4kW installed through SunShares last year
 - Staff is completing the contract for EV stations on city properties, but still awaiting "funds reserved" notices from the CALeVIP grant program, now expected in Q2
 - SB 1383: one-time state grant will be put towards participation in a countywide compost broker program with the Resource Conservation District, countywide education and outreach campaign, and city procurement. We have been ramping up outreach and held trainings for city staff on procurement and recordkeeping requirements.
 - Working with Willdan, the San Mateo County Energy Watch consultant, on several heat pump water heater projects: installation of two units at the fire station in Dec as part of a pilot program at no cost to the City except staff time; a larger project for the community pool for which we hope to get PG&E to allow On-Bill Financing for fuel-switching; and City Hall for which there is limited equipment currently available.
 - The Bay Area Reach Codes effort kicked off with a staff meeting. They are having a Community Feedback Event on Feb 16 6pm-7:30pm as well as a building industry event the prior day, before returning to jurisdiction staff. Visit bayareareachcodes.org for details and registration.

- They County's disposable foodware amendment passed first reading on Jan 25; we plan to bring forward our amendment on March 3. The amendment addresses conflicts with a new state law and pushes the enforcement start date back to Oct 1.
- B. Kinser wrote a short article about identifying street trees for the Feb STAR.
- C. Sage shared that Kettle brand potato chips is restoring wetlands and grass prairie. He regretted not being able to attend the habitat restoration day; Etherton added that it had been a great event with 12-15 volunteers and appreciated the partnership of Ariel and San Bruno Mountain Watch.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Climate Action Plan (Dykes, Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton met with Rincon Consultants regarding the RICAPS emissions forecast tool; they provided technical fixes and a quick demo of their SPARQ (Scenario Planning And Reduction Quantification) tool. SPARQ provides a high-level analysis that will be a good fit for outlining actions and reporting to Council on the Climate Emergency Declaration. Etherton is gathering some input data and will schedule a meeting once it has been incorporated.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Nunan, **Rogers**) – Etherton reported that the subcommittee met and completed the library display proposal, which was submitted and well-received. Library staff is collecting catalog materials, Etherton will be connecting with them on additional details, and Sage is excited to help with posters.
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – Rogers is working on research but noted that it had recently been trimmed again
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman) – Committee asked Kinser to schedule a meeting
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Dykes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Etherton reported that Planning staff has completed their review and she expects more details within a couple weeks
- *Festival Tree (Calmes, Dykes, Rogers) – Kinser reported that Council discussed at their meeting the prior week, settled on just planting one tree, and requested a soil study. Now that the work is done the subcommittee will disband.
- *Lipman Science Fair Judging (Ebel, **Rogers**) – Rogers shared that the Science Fair would be held virtually on Feb 21.

CALENDAR ITEMS – the calendar was briefly reviewed.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

- The City Clerk informed staff that this area is where items from committee members should be brought up, versus Oral Communications. Members requested consideration of an Announcements item early on in agendas.

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2022

ADJOURNMENT – 8:47 PM