



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 PM

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Becker, Calmes, Ebel (6:55), Fieldman, Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fieldman noted a report by Tuolumne River Trust called “The State of Salmon” provided by Mary Gudekanst. She will leave them at City Hall for OSEC members to pick up.
- SB1173, Fossil Fuel Divestment, supported by the City, made it all the way through the CA State Senate but was blocked by a committee chair in the Assembly. Fieldman expects it to come back next year.
- Salmon noted the SBMW Pancake Breakfast and Plant Sale on Sept 11 and requested blackberries from anyone willing.
- “Edge of the Wild” documentary about the Habitat Conservation Plan screening 6pm Aug 26 at Pacifica Community Center followed by panel discussion; free, sign up on Eventbrite. Hosted by Pacific Beach Coalition.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Note for the record that correspondence from Dana Dilworth dated July 20 was received by the committee members.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of April 27, 2022 and June 22, 2022 – Rogers moved to approve the minutes, Becker seconded; Nunan and Fieldman abstained and all others in attendance voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Model Reach Codes

- Etherton provided an introduction on the reach codes already in place for new buildings. She recommended dropping solar reach codes since the state code will now require all buildings to have solar, extending the existing EV infrastructure codes since they are still

very strong, and extending building electrification codes while closing some of the current loopholes to the extent possible.

- Blake Herrschaft, Peninsula Clean Energy provided a presentation on reach code options for existing buildings and the cost-effectiveness of measures.
- The group discussed options, challenges and priorities. There was broad support for building disclosure requirements at time of sale and end of gas flow in 2040. Other actions that are low or no-cost should also be prioritized, while more difficult or costly conversions should be avoided while the market and incentives are developed.
- Additional education on electrification through City channels and with building permits were also discussed. Fieldman and Etherton will work together on an article for the STAR about the dangers of gas appliances, particularly related to indoor air quality.

Election of Chair & Vice Chair – Salmon nominated Vice Chair Calmes to Chair, Calmes nominated Becker for Vice Chair. The nominations were supported unanimously.

STAFF UPDATES

Kinser: reported that the City has received a few transportation grants recently: for a walkway extending the Central Alleyway from Alvarado to San Benito from Transportation Development Act; County Transportation Authority Alternative Congestion Relief/Transportation Demand Management for improvements to shuttle stops in Crocker Park; and completed asphalt rubber cape seal on Sierra Point with a CalRecycle grant to cover the increment for using recycled rubber tires

Etherton:

- Shared pictures from the June OSEC meeting in Firth Canyon and the Summer Habitat Restoration Day where roughly 20 volunteers pulled scabiosa near Buckeye Canyon
- Scheduled Trash2Treasure Workshop for Tuesday Aug 16th 4-7pm at the Brisbane Library Community Room to help facilitate projects for the Challenge
- Brisbane Village EV charger is down, we have been aware since late June and have been following up with ChargePoint regularly to push them to take action. It seems to be a modem issue and we are awaiting investigation of which part(s) need to be replaced and a quote to do so.
- City Council meetings: the Pool Heat Pump Water Heater contract was approved at the July 7th meeting; Climate Emergency Declaration presentation on July 14th
- Received Funds Reserved Notice for EV chargers in late June, working with contractors to complete design & submit permits by mid-August to meet CALeVIP deadline
- Submitted our benchmarking report to the state today (in advance of Aug 1 deadline)
- Planning to participate in SunShares again, which will run Sept 1 - Nov 15 with deals on solar, storage, and possibly also building electrification & EV infrastructure

Regan: reported that just 11 buildings had not submitted their 2021 benchmarking reports for the Building Efficiency Program. A few additional buildings required corrections.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Climate Action Plan (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – time to schedule a meeting about reach codes, Etherton will send options for a W or Th at 6:15p

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Day in the Park will be Oct 1; Etherton will schedule a meeting to discuss our booth. Salmon asked for suggestions for kids activity.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, **Rogers**) – time to update library display – our next theme is gardening; good time to prepare gardens before rains, talk about mulching
- Baylands (Rogers) – no meetings
- *Open Space Plan Update (Calmes, Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser is working to bring the proposed update to Council and will target September
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – Kinser noted the budget was approved and we are able to begin work on this; she will schedule a meeting
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – Kinser and Salmon will circulate documents from prior subcommittee; Fieldman will organize a meeting in Sept
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Etherton reported that staff had met with planning staff; they have significant concerns over the current ordinance draft and will propose guidelines by mid-August, after completing the Housing Element
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Kinser noted we got funding to do an urban canopy assessment; Calmes and Salmon were to rework the proposal before a meeting
- *Sierra Point Park Planning (Ebel) – Salmon expressed frustration that the Council had selected a consultant without involving the subcommittee; Ebel has not heard anything about any meetings either. Kinser will look into it

CALENDAR ITEMS

Salmon encouraged staff to reach out to San Bruno Mountain Watch about optimal timing for a winter planting day. Will consider Nov 30th for Nov/Dec meeting, to be confirmed next meeting

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

- Salmon requested agendizing Dana Dilworth's public comments; the group agreed.
- Salmon also requested that the meeting slides be shared after meetings; Etherton will send them out.
- Fieldman reported on a podcast of what President Biden could do if he declared a climate emergency; she sent to Etherton just before the meeting for distribution to the committee. Fieldman asked to agendize making a recommendation that the City send a letter encouraging the President to make such declaration; the group agreed.

NEXT MEETING: August 24, 2022

ADJOURNMENT – 8:57 PM