

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Chair Fieldman called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Committee members present:

Court, Ebel, Gutekanst, Hayuk, Salmon, Sweeney, and Chair Fieldman

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Others:

Dean Peterson, Environmental Health Director, San Mateo County

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Under "Other Committee Matters", Chair Fieldman asked to add "Update on letter to SF Chronicle" to the agenda. MC Hayuk moved and MC Ebel seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Oral Communications for items not on the agenda.

There were no public comments under Oral Communications.

3. Discussion of County Reusable Bag Ordinance.

Chair Fieldman welcomed Dean Peterson, San Mateo County Director of Environmental Health. Mr. Peterson noted that the Board of Supervisors held a study session a year ago and decided to take a regional approach to addressing single use plastic bags. The County took the lead on the EIR and invited cities to participate. In October 2012, the Board of Supervisors certified the EIR and approved the Reusable Bag Ordinance in November. Cities may elect to adopt the ordinance by reference.

The ordinance bans the distribution of single use plastic bags and the free distribution of paper bags in most retail stores (excluding restaurants). A retailer must charge a minimum of

10 cents for a paper bag. The County will provide education and outreach materials to participating jurisdictions, and will enforce the ordinance.

The County is targeting 100% participation by Earth Day 2013, noting that if all jurisdictions participate, there will be consistency across the region. Mr. Peterson invited questions from the Committee.

After a period of questions and discussion, Chair Fieldman thanked Mr. Peterson for attending the meeting. She asked for comments from staff. Management Analyst Pontecorvo directed the Committee's attention to the staff report in their packets. She briefly reviewed the County's ordinance, EIR, and letter of support from the grocer's association. Ms. Pontecorvo then passed out some sample outreach flyers.

Chair Fieldman asked for a motion. MC Salmon moved that the Open Space and Ecology Committee recommend that the City Council adopt the County's Reusable Bag Ordinance. MC Sweeney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MC Court suggested that each Committee member bring a favorite reusable bag to the next OSEC meeting. MC Salmon asked to agendaize a discussion of Polystyrene.

4. Other Committee Matters.

a. Feral Cat meeting report

MC Ebel distributed notes regarding the meeting on feral cats that she and MC Salmon attended. The meeting was held on November 28 at City Hall, and included representatives from Rose's Kitty Rescue and the Nine Lives Foundation. MC Ebel conveyed the need to work cooperatively with spay/neuter/release programs. She proposed writing a brief article for the Star or City News to educate the community about the issue of feral cats and to ask for volunteers.

b. Sustainability Committee update

Chair Fieldman reported on the progress of the Sustainability Committee. The Committee is in the process of assessing and incorporating comments on the Draft Sustainability Goals for the Baylands from the Open Space and Ecology Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Planning Commission. The next meeting is scheduled for January.

c. Green Building Ordinance update

MC Hayuk reported that City Planner Ken Johnson and Management Analyst Pontecorvo worked with consultant Kathleen Gallagher to create a matrix with the Green Building subcommittee's recommendations for various building types. Chair Fieldman added that the Green Building subcommittee pushed for a more stringent standard for new construction. She noted that third-party certification will not be required, except in the case of public buildings. Management Analyst distributed an article entitled "Saving Money Spurs Builders to Go Green" from USA Today.

d. CAG update

MC Gutekanst provided an update on the last meeting of the Community Advisory Group. The meeting featured Tony Gambardella, a supervising air quality specialist for the compliance and enforcement division of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The next CAG meeting is scheduled for January.

e. Subcommittee report: Community Education

Michele Salmon discussed the diagram in the agenda packet that was created at a brainstorming meeting of the Community Education subcommittee (MC Salmon, Ebel, and Sweeny). She highlighted the main environmental topics, everyday habits and ecologically-friendly behavior, and avenues for disseminating information to the community, including articles, displays, films, and events. The subcommittee will meet again in January.

f. Discuss transmitting agenda packet materials via email.

Chair Fieldman raised the possibility of emailing the agenda packet, instead of mailing hard copies. Some members preferred to get the packet by mail. After considerable discussion, the Committee decided to continue with printed packets, since not everyone has access to printers or portable devices.

g. Update on Letter to S.F. Chronicle Home & Garden

MC Sweeney prepared the article regarding invasive plants. MC Gutekanst offered to incorporate a few small revisions. Once the letter is completed, MC Sweeney and Gutekanst will send it to Management Analyst Pontecorvo to print on City letterhead for Chair Fieldman's signature.

5. Approval of minutes: November 13, 2012.

After a correction to the draft minutes was noted, MC Gutekanst moved and MC Hayuk seconded to approve the minutes of November 13 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Next meeting date.

Chair Fieldman noted that she will be out of town in early January and would miss the next meeting. MC Ebel asked the Committee if it would possible to switch the regular OSEC meeting day to Wednesdays, rather than hold the meetings on Tuesdays. The Committee agreed to meet regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. After discussion, the Committee decided to meet on January 30 in order to receive the Baylands DEIR if it is available, and again on February 13.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm