

**OPEN SPACE & ECOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 25, 2018 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Called to order at 6:36 PM.

Committee members present: Fieldman, Salmon, Ankenbruck, Dykes, Rogers, Treyz (arrived ~6:54 PM)

Committee members absent: Ebel

Council Liaisons present: O'Connell, Cunningham

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser
Engineering Technician Sage
Sustainability Management Analyst Etherton
Management Analyst Ibarra

1. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda adopted.

3. Oral Communications (public comment) *

None.

4. Discussion of 2018 Work Plan with OSEC Liaisons: Councilmembers O'Connell and Cunningham

- Liaisons introduced themselves and shared their appreciation for committee members' participation and efforts and stressed their interest in hearing new ideas.
- Regarding the Building Energy Saving Ordinance: start with commercial rather than residential and bring a recommendation forward to Council. Be cautious of imposing costly requirements. Staff is actively working to find ways to motivate upgrades and provide resources on rebates, paybacks, and other benefits of energy-saving equipment. Suggestion to include guidelines on saving energy on city's building webpage, create a comprehensive portal, and/or provide it at the building counter.
- Discussed having art displays from local students on sustainability, open space, energy conservation, sea level rise and related topics in the large conference room as well as at the Marina, city events, etc. Consider working with the schools or with Parks & Rec through afterschool programs.
- Big Oil lawsuit: City has other challenges and decided not to put resources into this.

- Discussed prioritization of open space purchases with regard to Levinson and Peking Handicraft properties. The committee is seeking support for reclamation of those properties from Council, even if there is no budget for purchase. Kinser noted that these properties are identified in the 2001 Open Space Plan as well as included in the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) identified with ABAG which is due to have a grant opportunity in 2018. Liaisons requested to be notified when grant opportunities arise; a subcommittee should consider properties of interest and identify which is the best fit for the grant parameters.
- The committee requested that Liaisons ask Council to direct the Planning Commission to review interior courtyards in the Brisbane Acres Zoning Regulations, which they feel should not count as “open space” but rather as lot coverage.
- The committee requested that Liaisons ask Council to direct the Planning Commission to review how much land can be covered by impervious surfaces; the committee recommends no more than 50% of the property remaining after driveways, walkways and structures and that 50% be landscaped. After discussion the liaisons asked staff to present to the full council for direction.
- The committee’s letter requesting the review of the tree ordinance with regard to removals was previously discussed between staff and Liaisons. Staff was directed to look at the tree ordinance more comprehensively; a staff meeting was held and planning staff is working to address.
- A suggestion was made to consider offering free trees, as well as lightbulbs or other energy-saving devices, to residents.
- Discussed the environmentally-friendly purchasing guide and whether budget was available for purchasing more sustainable items, which may cost more up front. Cunningham noted the cost of paper at city hall and for the signboard, and the need to encourage paperless meeting practices. Staff reported on pursuing County Green Business certification for city hall (which requires use of 100% recycled paper among other green practices), working with a RICAPS subcommittee on implementation of the guide, the staff training being developed, and intern resources which will be able to support this effort.
- Discussed invasive species and how to manage them; the work plan includes an Invasive Species Ordinance. Liaisons were supportive of an ordinance in theory, but noted many details will need to be worked out and that education should be the first option. We have sent out communications through city channels in the past and recently sent a letter to 28 nearby nurseries requesting they not sell invasive plants. It was requested that OSEC explore further about how invasive species can be managed in backyards; suggestions included forming volunteer squads to help pull invasive species from private properties and/or providing incentives for property owners to do so. Liaisons noted the related efforts of “G3” and encouraged collaboration with them as a community-driven project.
- Salmon expressed appreciation for Council funding for ivy removal. Kinser noted that the original Firth Canyon project came in under budget which allowed us to also address Costaños Canyon and to purchase native plants from Mission Blue to replant the lower portion. A small amount of funding still remains which she will investigate using to have

ivy removed from trees in upper Sierra Point Canyon; there aren't currently any additional funds earmarked for ivy removal beyond this.

- Kinser shared that budget will be proposed for adding recycling containers on Visitacion that would coordinate with existing trash containers, as well as adding a trash enclosure at the Community Park to provide enough space for both waste and recycling at rentals, parties and events. Staff is also investigating developing an Adopt-a-Spot program to address litter cleanups; Cunningham requested coordination with the Adopt-a-Drain program.
- Discussion regarding rat poison and how to address concerns with its use. Committee members would like to see a local rat poison ban, and the group discussed whether this could be effectively addressed at the local level. A state-level ban was introduced, AB2422 and had been scheduled for a hearing on April 24th. Additional outreach from the city was requested.
- Etherton noted that Senator Hill has an annual "Oughta Be a Law" contest every year which provides an opportunity for members of the public to submit ideas for state-level bills, and he selects one to move forward. Etherton will confirm the annual schedule and add it to the committee's annual calendar.
- Cunningham inquired about the need to replace the Christmas tree; the committee explained that the tree is not healthy and we'd like to plant a new tree to allow it time to grow before the old one has to be removed.

5. Approval of the minutes

Minutes approved.

6. Subcommittee reports/ Calendar items/ Chair and committee member matters

a. Subcommittee member assignments

Decided to postpone this discussion until next meeting, members should consider what committees they wish to participate in. Up to 3 members may participate on a subcommittee. Etherton will share committee members' contact information. Kinser reminded committee members to take care to not inadvertently host a virtual meeting by having electronic communications with a majority of the committee. It was noted that Park and Rec staff requested one or two OSEC members to work with the Signboard Replacement ad hoc subcommittee with Park and Recreation commission members

A committee member suggested a permanent liaison or joint subcommittee with the Parks & Rec Commission and with Planning Commission; staff will investigate.

7. Staff updates

Kinser noted that invasive weeds were removed from the City Hall rain garden and staff is scheduling cleanup of spillways and other green infrastructure maintenance such as new plants, mulch and pea gravel.

Etherton noted that invasive plant letters were mailed to 28 local nurseries on April 6th; one letter (Coastside Propagation) bounced back and no other address was located. She reported that the BAWSCA class on Edible Gardening was held on April 18th and while turnout was low,

engagement among participants was high and reviews were excellent. The City is eligible for a Platinum Spotlight Beacon Award for Agency GHG Savings of 32%; Etherton will submit the application. The County Green Business Coordinator will be speaking at the Brisbane Chamber Board Meeting on May 16th. Etherton also noted that staff has engaged SSF Scavenger in a discussion on the feasibility of compost giveaways for local residents.

Sage reported that the Earth Day Habitat Restoration event on April 21st had 30 volunteers and three staff participating in removing invasive plants, primarily French Broom, from open space areas near the intersection of Monarch and Mission Blue Drives. He also shared some highlights from the Annual San Bruno Mountain Field Day on April 13th. In particular, HCP managers noted significant funds for maintenance of the McKesson property, and Sage is investigating the possibility for restoration of Buckeye Canyon areas. Sage also reported that he spoke with Ramona from the County regarding signage clarifying that dogs are allowed on State Fish & Wildlife property but not County property; she suggested instead asking Fish & Wildlife to not allow dogs and has already reached out to them.

Sage, Kinser and Salmon agreed to coordinate visits to a few potential sites so we can move forward with planning for the summer habitat day. Sage noted that he had visited the Crocker Trail to investigate committee complaints of litter and found very little present, though he did encounter a small team from Expeditors out cleaning up that reported being part of regular company efforts.

Ankenbruck noted the upcoming Bay Area Open Space Conference on May 10. Sage and Salmon will look into attending.

- 8. Next meeting date: Discuss moving back to the third Wednesday, May 16 or 23, 2018 6:30 PM**
Agreed to keep the meeting on the fourth Wednesday in May: the next meeting will be on May 23rd.
- 9. Adjourned at 9:08 PM.**

*Public comment on the agenda items is welcome at the discretion of the Chair