

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

- Chair Salmon called to order at 6:35 PM

Committee members present:

- Court, Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk, Salmon and Sweeney

Committee members absent:

- N/A

Staff members present:

- Finance Director Schillinger
- Management Analyst Muñoz

1. Adoption of the agenda.

- Fieldman asked Muñoz to speak about the Sea Level Rise Conference.

2. Oral communications for items not on the agenda.

- Sea Level Rise discussion after Peter Stiehler's presentation.

3. Presentation from Peter Stiehler

- Peter Stiehler is a community member that is working to restore parcels 83 and 85. Stiehler has been working on eradicating invasive species such as the ivy vine and acacia tree.
- The Bay Area Arborist Cooperative assisted Stiehler in providing free tree removal. Acacia tree stumps sprout, so they must be treated or re-cut, which should be done this spring. Foliar spray may need to be applied.
- Mission Blue Nursery will participate in this restoration project. The restoration project will be a multi-year commitment.
- New trees and understory will be planted in the place of ivy and acacia that is removed.
- Court asks: How will the plants be watered? Stiehler answers that he will water manually when there is no rain, normally planting season is during the rainy season, but there has not been much rain this year.
- Stiehler is clearing a trail head located near Margaret Ave., where it becomes Paul Ave.
- Near this trail you can see bay trees, sword and wood ferns and snowberry.
- The dead and dry ivy are used as mulch. Logs from the acacia trees are used for erosion control, stairs and benches.
- Stiehler would like to restore the area for public access.

- Fieldman asks: How much will the herbicide and plants costs? Stiehler answers the cost will range from \$500-\$1000 per year, for three years, for the re-landscaping and plants only. Stiehler is unsure about the cost of herbicide at this time. Stiehler hopes to begin planting next month.
- It was suggested to get an estimate of herbicide cost that Stiehler speaks to Ken or Joe from the City, or Mike from West Coast Wildlands.
- Ebel suggests that we use an alternative to herbicide. A bacterial solution has been used to start decomposition of trees. Fieldman is concerned about the introduction of bacteria into the environment. Salmon said the foliar spray is not as toxic as other herbicides. Ebel will look for further information about the bacterial solution. Sweeney mentioned another alternative is to drill holes and place high nitrogen fertilizer into the tree trunks.
- Salmon mentioned that the library garden from Mountain Watch is being worn thin. Mission blue gives free plants and they need to sustain themselves. Salmon asks Schillinger: What funding do we have available? Schillinger answers that, he will check and meet with Stiehler.
- Ideally funding can go towards restoration for the Canyons and Quarry Rd.
- Fieldman asks if it is possible to create an ordinance to prevent invasive species in town. Towns have such ordinances with state law against certain species. The top five targeted species can be on the list: Broom, Scabiosa, Ivy etc. Community input should be sought out before pursuing this. Schillinger will ask the attorney about this.
- Court asks about the landscaping of local businesses. There are some business owners that do not live in Brisbane and do not want to change their landscaping.
- Salmon asks about the diseased Monterey Pine, is there a cure? Sweeny said that there is no cure. Is the city required to remove dead trees? Schillinger will talk with Maria and find out the process, she can potentially come to a future meeting.

4. Sea Level Rise conference

- Muñoz told committee members about the Sea Level Rise conference with Q&A.
- Repetitive message to take precaution and prepare for a 3 inch rise within a century.
- San Francisco Bay and surrounding areas that have been built on fill will be under water again in the future.
- IPCC estimates are conservative due to the fact that they exclude uncertain data.
- Carbon sequestration efforts may not help sea level rise.
- San Mateo County will be greatly impacted from Sea Level Rise.
- Local collaboration and local decision making will be the most efficient in making changes to prepare for sea level rise, as opposed to dependence on federal government.
- Unfortunately there were no handouts at the conference to include in comments, notes taken and postings on the website will be used for supporting statements.
- There was no discussion of impacts of sea level rise and landfill toxins.

5. Review of comments

- Comment on GHG and title 24. Fieldman says that the GHG baseline should be clarified. BAAQMD per capita thresholds should be reached to reduce project impacts. Schillinger said that a more measurable mitigation is a percentage of title 24. This comment will be submitted as a planning and CEQA comment.

- Ebel searched for permeable and non-permeable pavements phrases in the DEIR. Non-permeable was not found, but reduced infiltration was. Would be useful if DEIR made it clear where reduced infiltration and permeable materials will be used.
- Ebel will look into rooftop materials and impacts on water.
- Ebel asks if executive orders are for the state level. It would be argued that regulations for the state are good enough for Brisbane. CARB is writing the regulations for EO S-03-05.
- Ebel will look into SWPPs and how it controls litter.
- Cumulative impacts of noise should be considered and mitigated if noise levels are above normal. Salmon will continue research on this.
- Salmon will do research on lack of success in growing *Viola pedunculata*.
- Muñoz will research references and add to comments.
- Salmon said review of final CEQA and Planning comments can be done before next meeting on January 15, and take care of any outstanding issues.

6. Miscellaneous

- Schillinger mentioned that a few committee members were coming up due to reapply to be on the committee. An email will be sent to them by Sheri with a form to reapply. Members due in 2014: Hayuk, Salmon, and Court. Members due in 2016: Ebel and Fieldman. Sweeney is not reapplying. Gutekanst has resigned.
- Schillinger mentioned how meetings may be held to discuss responses to comments.
- Muñoz announced that a grant she has written has been accepted. There will be seven trees planted in Community Park. Sweeney asks: What tree species? Muñoz: *Pyrus kawakamii* and *Magnolia grandiflora*. Sweeney said that a new Christmas tree is needed in Community Park, not to remove the current tree but to plant a new species to be used when it is large enough such as a Douglas fir or Blue spruce. Ebel asks if the trees along San Bruno Ave. are being watered near Brisbane Elementary School, Schillinger will check with public works if those trees belong to the city.

7. Approval of the minutes

- Minutes approved

8. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM