

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 7:00PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Chair Gutekanst called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Committee members present:

Fieldman, Miller, Richards, Stiehler, and Chair Gutekanst

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Other:

Mich Mercado

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Under "Other Committee Matters" MC Miller asked to add "Removal of Sign on Quarry Road" to the agenda. He then moved and MC Fieldman 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. Energy Strategy Planning

a. October 29th Energy Ambassador event

Management Analyst Pontecorvo reported that the Energy Strategy subcommittee met at the home of MC Richards to plan for the Energy Ambassador house party that will take place on October 29 from 3:00-5:00pm. The City is collaborating with several partners, including Sustainable San Mateo, Skyline College, and Energy Upgrade California. The Committee discussed logistics, outreach and publicity for the event.

b. Science Fair

Administrative Services Director Schillinger conveyed that the City Council will be hearing this item on their October 17th agenda. The Science Fair will be held in January 2012.

4. Follow-up discussion of Presidio students' presentation on Economic Development in Crocker Industrial Park.

Chair Gutekanst suggested that the Committee begin by considering Brisbane's values and culture of ecological sustainability, the types of businesses that would align with them, and where they would be most appropriately located.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger described the Land Use Retail Criteria that had been utilized by the City Council Economic Development subcommittee several years ago. He also discussed the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis and the process of feeding the analysis into an overall Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Schillinger then introduced Mich Mercado, an MTEP employee from South San Francisco working on Brisbane's economic development strategy.

Ms. Mercado noted that she has been gathering data on the properties and owners of Crocker Industrial Park and putting together a large map of the area. She pointed out that the City has lost 15 out of the 25 largest revenue generators in the last decade. Mr. Schillinger commented that it is critical to sustain revenues in order to provide services, but that the City must attract the types of businesses that align best with the community's values.

The Committee discussed the challenge of absentee owners in the Industrial Park, the need for data on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions associated with trucking and logistics, and the trade-offs of maintaining a small town quality of life with a lack of services that may force residents into their cars.

In terms of the SWOT Analysis, the Committee noted that the Presidio students had neglected one of Brisbane's greatest assets: its proximity to the mountain and the bay. There was consensus that Brisbane's location and landscape should be identified in the SWOT as a major strength, potentially contributing to sustainable economic development through grazing or farming.

Staff agreed to convey the Committee's conversation to the City Council Economic Development Subcommittee for their consideration, and to write up a summary for the Committee's review prior to doing so. Administrative Services Director Schillinger further suggested bringing back this topic to a future Open Space and Ecology Committee agenda, once the Council subcommittee has made more progress.

5. Discussion items for City Council Open Space and Ecology Liaison Subcommittee **a. Litter, illegal dumping, and waste reduction**

Chair Gutekanst said that she and MC Fieldman raised this topic, but recommended postponing the discussion until the November meeting. Administrative Services Director Schillinger pointed out that it may be advisable to discuss this item with the Council Liaison Subcommittee, since it falls slightly outside the Committee's main purview.

b. Recommendation regarding Committee vacancies

Mr. Schillinger suggested that the Liaison Subcommittee may want the Open Space and Ecology Committee's thoughts and recommendations regarding whether there should be five or seven members serving on the Committee. He noted that as a seven person committee with two

vacancies, it remains possible to have a three person subcommittee. The Committee decided to postpone the questions concerning its composition and recruitment until January 2012.

6. Other Committee Matters. (Discussion was out-of-order)

a. Community Festival report back

Chair Gutekanst reported on the Festival and the Committee's booth, highlighting Sam Moreau's display, MC Fieldman's cardboard house, MC Stiehler's invasive plants, and the adjacent Energy Upgrade table. All members of Committee participated in the event.

b. Sustainability Committee update

Administrative Services Director provided an update about the Sustainability Committee, explaining that the Committee is working with consultant Geof Syphers to review the 10 One Planet Principles, beginning with topic ten (Health, Safety, and Happiness) and working backwards. He reported that the Baylands Draft EIR is anticipated to be released around March 2012.

c. CAG update

Chair Gutekanst updated the Committee on the Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group. The CAG is focusing on how to ensure that there will be ongoing management and monitoring of the toxins on the Baylands.

d. Recognition of Sam Ellis Moreau

Chair Gutekanst recommended that the Committee prepare a letter recognizing the contributions of former Committee member Sam Moreau. The Committee agreed that the Chair would work with staff to write the letter. MC Miller moved, and MC Stiehler seconded to mail a letter to Ms. Moreau thanking her for her service and dedication.

e. Vegetation Management Brisbane Acres 2011-12

Chair Gutekanst said that she put this topic on the agenda in order to propose a field trip to an area in the City owned Brisbane Acres where MC Stiehler has been working. Mr. Stiehler said he and other volunteers have been removing invasive plants, but suggested that the City consider contracting with professionals to remove some of the Acacia trees in the vicinity. The Committee scheduled the field trip for Wednesday, November 2, 4:00 pm at the corner of Margaret and Kings.

f. Removal of Sign on Quarry Road

Management Analyst Pontecorvo explained that she had spoken with California Department of Fish and Game biologist Conrad Jones, and County Park Ranger Supervisor Albert Zuker, who had removed the interpretive sign due to a misunderstanding. Mr. Zuker agreed to return it and MC Stiehler offered to reinstall the sign.

7. Approval of minutes: September 14, 2011.

MC Miller moved and MC Richards seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

8. Next meeting date: November 9, 2011.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.