

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2012 4:00PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Chair Gutekanst called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Committee members present:

Fieldman, Richards, Stiehler, and Chair Gutekanst

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Others:

Community Development Director Swiecki
ESA consultant Greta Brownlow

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Chair Gutekanst proposed moving the Sustainability Committee report to first on the agenda. MC Richards moved, and MC Stiehler seconded to approve 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. Sustainability Committee update

Administrative Services Director Schillinger provided an update on the progress of the Sustainability Committee. He noted that the draft Baylands Sustainability Action Plan based on the One Planet framework is almost complete and will be ready for public distribution and feedback in about a month.

4. Presentation by Community Development Director John Swiecki
a. Review of CEQA / Baylands Draft EIR

Chair Gutekanst welcomed Community Development Director John Swiecki. Mr. Swiecki introduced Greta Brownlow, Senior Project Manager from ESA Consultants. He explained that the City of Brisbane is preparing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with ESA, a consulting firm working for the City. Mr. Swiecki provided a PowerPoint presentation on the purpose and process of the EIR as it pertains to the Baylands. He emphasized that the EIR is an informational document and summarized the applicant's proposed plan, the community preferred plan, as well as the renewable energy alternative, each of which will be studied in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Consultant Greta Brownlow presented an overview of the CEQA guidelines and the requirements for the EIR. She described the list of environmental topics defined under CEQA and the role of mitigation measures to reduce and minimize environmental impacts. She noted that once the preparation of the Draft EIR is complete, it will be available for review by the City of Brisbane, other agencies, and the general public. The City Council will determine the length and process for the public review comment period once the DEIR is released.

Mr. Swiecki and Ms. Brownlow took questions from the Committee.

Dana Dilworth inquired about the relocation of industrial facilities and issues pertaining to High Speed Rail.

After further discussion, Chair Gutekanst thanked the speakers for their presentation on the Baylands EIR.

b. City Council Referral of Sierra Point Design Guidelines

Mr. Swiecki introduced the Sierra Point Design Guidelines to the Committee with a presentation on the project area and history. He noted that the Guidelines were originally adopted in the 1980's. At the City Council's January 9, 2012 meeting, Council referred the Design Guidelines to OSEC for recommendations on updating them to incorporate sustainability principles.

Dana Dilworth commented on the necessity for open space along the waterfront and for greater consideration for animal communities.

Tom Heinz commented on the history of the Sierra Point Design Guidelines since 2008 and the need for public input on public trust land decisions.

Following a period of extensive comments and questions by Committee members, Chair Gutekanst thanked Mr. Swiecki for his presentation. She proposed studying the Guidelines and discussing revisions at the February meeting.

The Committee took a brief recess.

5. Other Committee Matters.

a. Science Fair

Management Analyst provided the schedule of events for the Science Fair and thanked MC Richards for volunteering to judge and present the first Ecology Award.

b. Vegetation Management Plan

Management Analyst Pontecorvo presented a brief staff report on the 2012 vegetation management plan and drew attention to a memo on habitat restoration prepared by Chair Gutekanst. The Committee asked that staff bring the management plan for City owned open space to the attention of the City Council.

c. Habitat Restoration Day 2012

Management Analyst Pontecorvo provided a report on the annual Habitat Restoration Day stewardship event. The Committee agreed to partner with the Parks and Recreation Commission to plan the event and discussed working at Costanos Canyon on April 21 to coincide with Earth Day.

d. Recology Art Exhibit / Library Display

MC Fieldman proposed to invite her San Francisco State University students to put together an exhibit and presentation on plastic debris in the marine environment. She agreed to follow-up with her students and report back at the February OSEC meeting. Management Analyst Pontecorvo announced the date of the Recology Art Exhibit.

e. Recognition of Service by Ray Miller

Chair Gutekanst proposed creating a scrap book as a gift.

6. Approval of minutes: December 14, 2011.

MC Stiehler moved and MC Richards seconded to adopt the minutes of December 14, 2011. The motion passed.

7. Next meeting date.

a. Discuss meeting dates/times for 2012

The Committee discussed switching its meeting time to a new date and time for the remainder of 2012. A decision was made to schedule the next meeting for February 14 at 4:15pm, but not to set a regular schedule until new members are appointed by the Council.

John Burr discussed sea level rise and handed out maps of the Bay shoreline.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.