

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 9, 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 6:30 PM.

Committee members present:

Court, Gutekanst, Hayuk, Sweeney, and Chair Fieldman

Committee members absent:

Ebel, Salmon

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger

Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Others:

Mark Heath, Shelterbelt Builders, Inc.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

MC Gutekanst moved and MC Hayuk seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Oral Communications for items not on the agenda.

There were no public comments under Oral Communications.

3. Presentation by Mark Heath, Principal / Restoration Specialist, Shelterbelt Builders, Inc.

Chair Fieldman welcomed Mark Heath. Mr. Heath introduced himself and his habitat restoration company, Shelterbelt Builders, Inc. He is a licensed contractor

who advises and designs restoration plans, and manages open space lands in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since 2004, Shelterbelt has managed invasive plants and maintained native habitat on City-owned open space in the Brisbane Acres. Mr. Heath shared a PowerPoint presentation with slides of the vegetation management work he has done in the areas around Harold Road, the water tank, and Paul Ave. He discussed the vegetation and the methods he employs to control invasives, including manual removal and selected herbicide application. After concluding his remarks, Mr. Heath invited questions from the Committee.

MC Gutekanst asked about ways to protect grasslands and to inhibit the encroachment of woody coastal scrub. Mr. Heath suggested that cutting coyote brush may be an option. He referred to the invasive species maps that he prepared graphing the location of various exotics, including French broom, English ivy, fennel, cotoneaster, Himalayan berry, and eucalyptus, among others. After a lengthy period of comments and discussion, the Committee thanked Mr. Heath for his eight years of work on the City's open space land in the Brisbane Acres.

4. Review of approved Street Tree List.

Chair Fieldman invited comments from MC Sweeny to start the discussion. He pointed out several trees on the list that may be inappropriate in Brisbane for a variety of reasons including invasiveness, height, roots, and susceptibility to disease. Some of the trees of concern are Flowering Cherry, Mayten Tree, Purple Leaf Plum, Chinese Pistachio, and Cajuput Quinquenervia.

After reviewing the tree list, MC Gutekanst recommended that the Committee communicate its concerns to the Public Works Department. Chair Fieldman suggested that a subcommittee be established to formulate specific recommendations regarding which trees to remove from the list, as well as suggestions of new trees to add to the list. Sean Sweeny and Mary Gutekanst volunteered to serve on the subcommittee and to work with staff to deliver a recommendation to Public Works.

5. Other Committee Matters.

a. Community Festival report back

MC Hayuk reported that MC Sweeney's biochar exhibit was very successful. The invasive plant display and printed materials were also well received. He thanked Mr. Sweeny and all the Committee members for each of their participation.

b. Green Building subcommittee update

MC Hayuk informed the Committee that consultant Kathleen Gallagher attended the Green Building meeting. The group decided to continue using the LEED

rating system for commercial buildings, and the GreenPoint Rated system for residential projects. The group began with new construction and will be continuing with remodels and tenant improvements at the November meeting.

c. CAG update

MC Gutekanst updated the Committee about the last CAG meeting that featured a talk by Rob Oremland, USGS Senior Geologist and Brisbane resident who spoke about the impact of sea level rise on the landfill. The next meeting will be take place on October 16, 2012.

d. Science Fair planning

Management Analyst Pontecorvo discussed the Committee's role in last year's Science Fair. Former Committee member Richards had served as a judge and recognized one student project to receive an Ecology Award. Chair Fieldman offered to contact Ms. Richards to find out if she would be interested in working on the science fair again.

6. Approval of minutes: September 11, 2012.

MC Gutekanst made a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2012. MC Sweeney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Next meeting date: November 13, 2012.

The next meeting date was set for November 13 at 6:30pm.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.