

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 6:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

Brisbane City Hall

50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order:

- Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

Committee members present:

Abney, Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk and Salmon.

Committee members absent:

N/A

Staff members present:

- Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser
- Management Analyst Muñoz

1. Adoption of the agenda.

- Agenda adopted.

2. Oral communications.

- N/A.

3. Approval of the minutes.

- With amendments the minutes were adopted.

4. Chair and committee member matters.

- Fieldman cited several more dead Monterey Pines on Valley Drive.
- Salmon said she did not find plug in/single solar panel information at the Green Festival.
- OSEC January meeting will be Monday the 12th or Tuesday the 13th.
- Fieldman recommends reading the Sonoma County Climate Action Plan.

5. Subcommittee reports

- Day in the Park subcommittee meeting is cancelled. Fieldman would like to incorporate ideas from the Energy Action Plan into the fair. Ebel would like to use different ideas each year. Ebel felt having people calculate their carbon footprints was educational.

- Salmon has not been able to meet with Abney or Ebel.

Ad hoc subcommittee Brisbane acres lot coverage: Abney and Salmon

- Salmon and Abney have not met. They will coordinate.

Education and Outreach: Ebel and Salmon

- Salmon and Ebel will meet on Wednesday the 17th at 6 PM.
- The sustainability article written by staff is intended to give the public a cursory background.
- Future articles can be more in depth and actionable.

Residential and commercial site treatments: paved vs permeable vs landscaping: Ebel and Fieldman

- Ebel and Fieldman will edit the letter to include commercial and other aspects.
- Fieldman will add information about the natural environment, species and landscaping.

6. South San Francisco Scavenger Annual Diversion Report

- Barbara Bernardini, Recycling Manager and Paul Formosa, CFO.
- Discuss recycling and upcoming collection of food scraps.
- Food scraps will start to be collected in January 2015.
- Current A and B systems will stay in place for now.
- A small food scrap collection bin will be distributed to each residence. Various food scraps can be collected in the small bin including cooled cooking oil, and then thrown in the large green waste bin. Once food scrap collection is added the green waste bins will be collected on a weekly basis.
- Due to raccoons and wildlife being attracted to the food, it is recommended to add food waste to green bins on the day of pick up or to place a bungee cord on the lid.
- Food waste will be processed in the anaerobic digester. There are other digesters located in Monterey, San Jose and now South San Francisco. The methane produced will be used to fuel 10-12 fleet vehicles.
- There are not different sized bins for those that do not want the large green bins.
- There are eight anaerobic digesters: spotters will look at materials as they are processed and materials that do not belong will be removed.
- Compostable plastic bags interfere with the digester. It is preferred not to use these. Foods that produce strong odors can be frozen before placing in the green bin.
- There are prototypes of lids with locks being tested. Formosa mentioned Mayor Conway suggested placing bins a few feet apart so raccoons do not have another trash can to climb on to open the lid.
- Plastic spouts on milk and juice cartons should be removed. Kitty litter is not compostable. Salmon suggested that this information be included in instructions on how to use the food waste bin.
- Formosa would like to clarify that the small bin is not to be placed on the curb or inside the large green bin. Waste collected in the small bin must be emptied in the

- large green bin. Any bin can be used in your home to collect food waste and SSF Scavenger does not plan to supply more than one small bin to each residence.
- Participation in food scrap collection is not required for businesses.
 - Hayuk asked about organic certification of composting materials? Formosa said the end product is processed at a compost facility in Novato.
 - Ebel asked if there will be future expansion of the facility. Formosa said there is a limited amount of space, thus there is not room for expansion.
 - Ebel asked about information from the Brisbane diversion report. Formosa: Currently 80% diversion rate. For employment: target is 7.9 lbs./person/day, currently at 5.2 based on a population of 5,919. Formosa said these numbers are determined from a model, the exact calculation is unclear. Dumpsters for public use counts against Brisbane's diversion rate.
 - Residential diversion: target is 16.9 lbs./person/day, currently at 7.0 based on a population of 4,379.
 - 5,588 tons per year total is what is going to landfill for Brisbane.
 - Ebel feels the numbers are high; Abney said this includes what businesses throw away. Bernardini explained that SSF Scavenger does not take all wastes and recycling such as hazardous wastes from tech companies, also food wastes sometimes to go animal feed, etc., it is not straight forward in determining what a community actually recycles. Construction and demolition materials are recovered as well due to Brisbane's ordinance.
 - Bernardini said carpet is beginning to be recycled, mattresses will be next.
 - Salmon suggested collection days for specific materials.
 - Ebel requested that Bernardini connect with staff when there is more clarity about the numbers in the report. Bernardini referred Ebel to Cal Recycle website that explains their measuring procedures and data manipulation.
 - Fieldman would like to hear a report on the participation of Brisbane in composting. Bernardini will be happy to come back in a year.
 - Salmon would like to do public education on recycling/ waste diversion. Example: people do not think of blenders as e-waste.
 - Ebel said she leaves her trash container out for neighbors use with a sign free to use for waste, since she does not fill her trash. She said it has been successful and encourages others who chronically underuse their waste bins to do the same.

7. Energy Plan update and subcommittee update

- Ebel and Fieldman met with staff and discussed an outline of the plan.
- Fieldman will draft an introduction and send it to staff before the subcommittee meeting.
- Structure will consist of: Renewable measures, Efficiency measure and Behavioral change measures.
- Questions for staff to address: funding from the County level for efficiency measures such as audits. Revolving funds or loans can be considered. Transportation measures and programs that C/CAG will implement. Last, point of sale (and possibly at time of

rental) disclosure of energy usage led by the County to consider also requiring energy upgrades such as San Francisco does.

- Implementation committee should include a diverse group, such as youth and minorities.
- Education and outreach: Suggestions included a sea level rise exhibit and climate change banners on Visitacion Ave.
- Subcommittee will meet with staff next on December 17th at 1:30 PM.
- Fieldman will add in her introduction: Efficiency, renewables and conservation/behavior and explain how they fit into emissions reduction.

8. Review of 2015 Draft Work Plan

- This draft work plan is based on prioritization from OSEC members.
- Salmon: Under policy recommendations for lot coverage clarify that it is in the Brisbane Acres.
- Hayuk feels this is a realistic list for a year's work.
- Once items are completed, OSEC can revisit the old plan to add other items.

9. Staff updates

PCA subcommittee

- Kinser has been in touch with Del Schembari from Mountain Watch, he would like to work with an OSEC subcommittee on the PCA application. The application is due in May. The entire OSEC committee would review the work; it will then be taken to City Council for their review and approval.
- Hayuk and Salmon will form the subcommittee. Abney will contribute. Ebel would like all OSEC members to send a few ideas to Salmon and Hayuk.
- San Bruno Mountain Watch (SBMW) is overseeing the application on behalf of the County. PCA status will allow grant applications to fund projects. SBMW is working with Colma, Daly City, South San Francisco and possibly parts of San Francisco.
- The subcommittee will vet properties and projects to be included.
- Fieldman suggest members of the community can give input on a list of properties.
- Hayuk will be able to meet starting in January.

Publications

- The sustainability articles, price increase of plastic bags, title 24 training and CA First announcements will be next. Muñoz is holding on to invasive species (Licorice plant) and grading permit publications. Ebel needs a reminder to write the next invasive species blurb, once licorice plant is published.

Reimbursement for conservation work

- Peter Stiehler will be reimbursed for conservation work he is doing and materials he is purchasing for this work.

Title 24 training

- January 28th from 4-5:30 PM will be the training.
- Announcements will be publicized in a number of different ways.

- Fieldman would like to invite South San Francisco. Salmon would like to send an announcement to Golden State Lumber and contractors that hold a business license with Brisbane.

CA First rebate

- CA First has a rebate for up to \$1,000.00 for home energy upgrades. The information has been announced and posted.
- Muñoz will send to Ebel to post on Facebook.

Plastic bag ordinance price increase

- Reusable plastic bags or paper bags purchased at checkout at retail establishments in San Mateo County will now cost 25 cents each starting January 1, 2015.
- Announcements (social media and print) have been made and letters to business owners (both from the City and County) have been sent.

10. Adjournment.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM