

**OPEN SPACE & ECOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

October 16, 2019 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Called to order at 6:45 PM.

Committee members present: Lam, Dykes, Salmon, Ebel, Fieldman (7:41)
Committee members absent: Ankenbruck, Rogers
Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser
Sustainability Management Analyst Etherton
Engineering Technician Sage
Public Present: Teresa Montgomery, South San Francisco Scavenger

- 1. Roll call**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
Adopted.
- 3. Oral Communications (public comment)***
None.
- 4. Approval of the September minutes**
Postponed to next month.
- 5. Annual Waste Diversion Update – Teresa Montgomery, South San Francisco Scavenger**
Montgomery gave a presentation on Scavenger’s operations, including hauling, sorting, and anaerobic digestion which provides ~40% of the fuel for their truck fleet. She noted that the Blue Line Transfer Station still has a recycling buyback center for CRV containers, one of the few left in the area. They started an annual Earth Day Celebration a few years ago which includes tours, games and prizes, and starts off with a compost workshop in coordination with the County Office of Sustainability. They also partnered with the City on a Compost Giveaway for the last two years which really demonstrates closing the loop; this program will continue next spring. Scavenger messages to businesses through the Chamber’s monthly publication, the Luminary, regarding mandatory recycling and organics legislation. Montgomery shared a picture of the split

recycling truck with separate sections for paper and containers, and stressed the importance of proper sorting as there is no tolerance anymore for contaminated recyclables and those materials will now go to landfill. She noted they send a Recycling Guide to residences each summer.

Ebel inquired about barriers to companies participating in recycling and composting. Montgomery responded that some are recycling or composting with other companies, some have space constraints to additional bins, some have “yuck” factor issues. Scavenger tries to work with individual companies to overcome issues.

Ebel asked whether Scavenger could increase their percentage of fuel; unfortunately, they are maxed out on their permit and space for an additional digester.

Lam asked whether Scavenger is trying to work with product manufacturers to shift packaging; they are not directly but do work with industry groups that do. Montgomery noted that companies like Pepsi and Coke are moving away from plastics towards glass and aluminum which are infinitely recyclable. Lam also asked about the increase in cardboard from companies like Amazon; Montgomery confirmed they have seen an increase in cardboard and she is interested in new companies working on reusable packaging.

Montgomery encouraged questions via email to info@ssfscavenger.com or reaching out through social media.

Ebel asked about the City’s diversion rate; Montgomery noted that it was 76% last year.

The group briefly discussed Construction and Demolition waste; there are both city and state ordinances requiring diversion. Source separated wood, metal, dirt, rock, concrete, aggregates, carpet, cardboard are recycled at high rates.

6. Discussion of Street Trees

Salmon expressed concerns about a number of street tree removals, as well as the poplar on the Habitat for Humanity site (private property) and the trees on another private property on Sierra Point Road near Firth Park. Kinser noted that the trees on Sierra Point Rd. were removed without approval and the property owner was fined \$1000/tree.

Committee members feel the tree removal process could be improved, including enforcement and follow up, and that further efforts to preserve and expand our tree

canopy are needed. Kinser noted that tree concerns had also come up with the Green Team; the idea would be to do an Urban Forest Plan that did an inventory, and also identified locations for further tree plantings. A volunteer tree planting day had also been discussed. Dykes suggested putting greater effort into tree health and management; for instance, ensuring that trees are not neglected, and Live Oak Death does not take hold and spread to every oak nearby.

7. Subcommittee reports and reorganization

- a. **Open Space/Acres** – no report.
- b. **Climate Action Plan** – have not met. Upon inquiry, Etherton reported that revisions to the Building Efficiency Program ordinance were still underway.
- c. **Events** – Lam reported on Day in the Park; we had good turnout with the kids' art activity and four signups for HomeIntel. Etherton encouraged everyone to sign up for HomeIntel and bring her their welcome email to claim their free Smart Power Strip. Sage reported that Ariel suggested either December 7th or 14th for a planting day on San Bruno Mountain; his preference is for the 14th and committee members did not express any concerns or preference so staff will move forward with that date.
- d. **Education & Outreach** – no report.
- e. **Dark Skies Ordinance** – Ebel will replace Fieldman on this committee.
- f. **Festival Tree Replacement** – Kinser met with committee members at the Park to determine the location. Salmon pointed out the potential locations on a map. OSEC members had diverging opinions; Kinser noted that Park and Rec Commissioners on the subcommittee will have an opportunity to weigh in and she encouraged subcommittee members to come to the meeting to make the decision.
- g. **PCA Grant Application** – Kinser reported that we just learned we did not receive the grant; the project scope was considered too limited.
- h. **Liaison for Tree Ordinance** – already discussed.
- i. **Liaison for Benchmarking Ordinance** – already discussed.
- j. **Beautification (w/ Council, Parks & Rec)** – Ankenbruck was not present.

8. Calendar items

Noted the November agenda will include discussion of a potential Climate Reality Presentation.

9. Chair and committee member matters

None.

10. Staff updates

Sage noted the BAWSCA Landscaping Class on Wednesday October 23rd on Rainwater Harvesting and Rain Gardens. He also brought up the pampas grass, and it will be discussed at the Weed Management meeting in November.

Etherton noted City Council members are receiving the Platinum Beacon Award the following day. She shared that she went to a ribbon cutting for Sea Hugger's "Sea Bin" installation at the Pillar Point Harbor, which removes oil and microplastics from the water, and is working with Keegan Black to investigate an installation locally.

Kinser and Etherton reported the list of Green Team projects identified at their launch meeting; Kinser also noted that the Complete Streets Safety Committee also has a subcommittee on shuttle stops.

Committee members requested an update on the Adopt a Spot stations next month.

11. Next meeting: November 20, 2019 6:30 PM

12. Adjourned at 8:20 PM to Closed Session on Building Security.

*Public comment on the agenda items is welcome at the discretion of the Chair