

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:00 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Chair Gutekanst called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Committee members present:

Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk, Richards, Salmon, Sweeney, and Chair Gutekanst

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo
Community Development Director Swiecki

Others:

Mayor Lentz
Mayor Pro Tem Miller

1. Adoption of the agenda.

MC Fieldman moved and MC Richards 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. Welcome to New Member of the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

Chair Gutekanst welcomed and introduced Sean Sweeney. She thanked the four new members for serving on the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

4. Presentation by Community Development Director John Swiecki on Update of Sierra Point Design Guidelines.

Community Development Director Swiecki provided background on the Sierra Point Design Guidelines and the topics the City Council referred to the Committee for its input. He noted that at the February 14th meeting, staff provided a redlined report delineating these topics and proposing revised language for the Committee's consideration. Following the meeting, staff updated the language to reflect the Committee's feedback. Mr. Swiecki noted that the current changes, highlighted in yellow, are intended to more comprehensively imbed sustainability language throughout the Guidelines, and to address specific topics including sea-level rise, native plants, energy, and transportation. Mr. Swiecki stressed that the Committee's deliberations should be timely in order to meet the Council's April deadline. He then invited questions and comments.

a. Discuss and finalize OSEC recommendations to City Council.

Chair Gutekanst asked each member for reactions and comments. The Committee agreed to most of the new language and offered further suggestions to clarify and strengthen the document. MC Salmon raised the issue of the land swap. Administrative Services Director Schillinger suggested that the Committee address this topic in a separate comment to Council. Management Analyst Pontecorvo directed the Committee's attention to the proposed language noting that "the plaza in the new configuration is not as valuable high quality open space as was the open space in the original configuration." The Committee wished to add that open space by the Bay would allow birds and other animals to thrive in a natural environment, and offer people the opportunity to enjoy being in nature. Staff agreed to incorporate the Committee's feedback into an updated set of comments and recommendations to deliver to the City Council.

5. Meeting with City Council Liaison Subcommittee.

a. Discuss Open Space and Ecology Committee matters with Mayor Lentz and Mayor Pro Tem Miller.

Councilmember Miller offered thoughts on the Committee's work program and priorities. He began by discussing the draft Sustainability Goals for the Baylands based on the 10 One Planet Principles, and explained that the Committee would be asked to read and comment on the document. A second large task for the Committee will be the review of the Baylands Draft EIR. He added that there will be a workshop to address how to evaluate and comment on an EIR prior to the beginning of the 120 day comment period. Third, Councilmember Miller highlighted that the Committee will review and make recommendations to update the Green Building Ordinance.

Mayor Lentz addressed the issue of sustainability, and the intersecting dimensions of environment, equity, and economics. He asked for the Committee's thoughts on the meaning of ecology. The Mayor invited questions regarding Sierra Point or other matters. MC Salmon inquired about the land swap and expressed concern about the diminished open space value in the proposed land configuration. Chair Gutekanst asked for direction regarding waste issues, including bans on single use plastic bags and Styrofoam, and the need for a franchise agreement that includes food waste and composting. Councilmember Miller suggested that the Committee incorporate these items into an updated work plan, and review it to ensure that the plan reflects current priorities.

Mayor Lentz and Councilmember Miller thanked the Committee for its advice and assistance to the City Council on these important matters. The Committee thanked the

Council Liaison Subcommittee and Community Development Director Swiecki for attending the meeting.

6. Other Committee Matters.

a. CAG update

Chair Gutekanst announced that the next meeting of Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group (CAG) will take place on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00pm in the Community Center.

b. Review of Open Space and Ecology Subcommittees

MC Richards regrettably announced her resignation from the Committee. Chair Gutekanst reviewed each subcommittee, and noted that new ones could be formed as needed on an ad-hoc basis. MC Fieldman agreed to serve on the Green Building subcommittee along with MC Hayuk, with Chair Gutekanst serving as an alternate.

d. Habitat Restoration Day update

Management Analyst Pontecorvo reported that a joint subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Open Space and Ecology Committee had met to plan for Habitat Restoration Day. The event is set for Saturday, April 14 from 9am – 1pm at Costanos Canyon.

e. Discuss presentation and display on marine debris

MC Fieldman explained that three of her students at San Francisco State University are working on an exhibit and presentation on plastic marine debris. The exhibit will be displayed in the Brisbane library. She asked if the presentation could take place at an OSEC meeting, and the Committee agreed to invite the students to present at the May meeting.

f. Recognition of Service by Ray Miller and Peter Stiehler

This item was continued to the next meeting.

7. Approval of minutes: February 14, 2012.

MC Hayuk moved, and MC Richards seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was approved with one abstention by Chair Gutekanst.

8. Next meeting date.

a. Discuss meeting dates/times for 2012

The regular meeting schedule was set for the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting date is April 10.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44.