

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 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 6:31 PM.

Committee members present:

Court, Ebel, Gutekanst, Salmon, Sweeney, and Chair Fieldman

Committee members absent:

Hayuk

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Others:

SF State students: Jessica Ambriz, John Baldini, Linda Becker, Natasha Dunn, Cody Hicks, Kelly Moran, and David Murphy.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

MC Ebel moved and MC Sweeney 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 S.F. State University students on rodent poison and impacts on wildlife.

Chair Fieldman introduced her students from San Francisco State University who attended the meeting to give a presentation on the problem of rodent poison and its impacts on wildlife. The students represented Raptors Are the Solution (RATS), an alliance of individuals, governments and nonprofits that focuses on the ecological impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides. The students discussed the problems of bioaccumulation and

persistence of these toxins, and the raptors and other wildlife that are harmed by them. The EPA has identified certain rodenticides, including d-CON, as posing unreasonable risk and has tried to ban the product in consumer applications, but the ban is currently tied up in lawsuits, according to the students.

Several Bay Area cities have passed resolutions encouraging business to voluntarily ban the sale of anticoagulant rodenticides. The students asked the Open Space and Ecology Committee to consider forwarding a resolution to the City Council that would discourage the sale and use of d-CON and other rodenticides that pose unreasonable risks to wildlife, pets, and children. They drew attention to the sample documents from the City of Berkeley, including a staff report, resolution, and letter to the State Department of Pesticide Regulation. They stressed the importance of education and outreach to businesses and residents, citing the Don't Take the Bait Campaign, an effort of the SF Department of the Environment to stop the sale and use of d-CON.

When the students concluded their presentation, they invited questions from the Committee. After a lengthy period of discussion, Chair Fieldman thanked the students for their informative presentation.

Chair Fieldman suggested editing the sample resolution to meet the needs of Brisbane. MC Gutekanst proposed discouraging the purchase and use of the rodenticides by Brisbane residents and businesses, rather than banning its sale. The Committee discussed providing educational flyers to the hardware store with information about the risks of d-CON as well as safer alternatives. The Committee directed staff to prepare a draft resolution and letter to DPR. Administrative Services Director Schillinger recommending having the City Attorney review the documents before forwarding them to the City Council.

4. Follow up discussion of County Polystyrene Ban Ordinance.

Management Analyst Pontecorvo provided the staff report on the County's ordinance prohibiting food vendors from using polystyrene based disposable food service ware. She noted which jurisdictions in the County currently have ordinances banning polystyrene, and answered a number of questions that had been raised at the last meeting. She concluded by drawing attention to the lists of compostable and recyclable food container costs and vendors.

Following Management Analyst Pontecorvo's presentation, the Committee had a robust discussion about the implications of banning polystyrene and whether the additional cost would be burdensome to Brisbane restaurants.

MC Ebel expressed ongoing discomfort with the County's ordinance because it does not address the problem of single use disposable packaging, but she withdrew her objection to moving forward with it. MC Gutekanst recommended that the Committee speak to all the businesses in town that would be affected by the prospective Styrofoam ban.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger recommended that staff check with the City Council first to inform them that OSEC is considering recommending a polystyrene

ordinance and would like to reach out to businesses that would be affected by it. Staff could then report back to the Committee with direction from the Council at its April meeting.

MC Salmon made a motion to direct staff to go to Council with a request to conduct outreach to business owners that would be affected by a polystyrene ban. MC Ebel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. City Council Items.

a. Reusable Bag Ordinance

The Reusable Bag ordinance was introduced at the March 4th City Council meeting, adopted on March 18th, and will go into effect 90 days later. Staff and Committee members thanked Chair Fieldman for giving a presentation to the City Council on the problem of plastic marine debris. Chair Fieldman then introduced two short videos that were produced by Heal the Bay. The Committee viewed both videos, and asked staff to look into whether Brisbane would have permission to air them on the cable channel.

6 Other Committee Matters.

a. Habitat Restoration Day update

MC Salmon and MC Sweeney attended the joint subcommittee meeting with representatives of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as Ken McIntire from Mountain Watch. MC Salmon summarized the decisions to hold Habitat Restoration Day on Saturday, April 13 9am – 1pm at Costanos Canyon.

b. Community Education – No Deposit, No Return program / publicity

MC Salmon noted that the No Deposit, No Return program will be on Sunday May 5 at 3:30, not 4:00pm. She reported that the Education subcommittee met to plan the publicity, program, and refreshments. She discussed inviting Recology to participate in the program. MC Ebel discussed food preparations for the event.

c. Bay Area Open Space Council annual conference

Management Analyst provided information about the annual Bay Area Open Space Council conference that will take place on May 16 8:30am – 4:30pm in the Presidio. In the past, one or two Committee members have attended. MC Salmon and MC Gutekanst reported on their experiences attending the conference in past years.

d. CAG report

MC Gutekanst reported that the next CAG meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00pm at the Community Center, and will include a presentation by the Committee for Renewable Energy in the Baylands (CREBL)

e. DEIR update

Administrative Services Director indicated that there was no more new information on the expected dates of the release of the Baylands Draft EIR.

7. Approval of minutes: February 13, 2013.

MC Salmon noted that the No Deposit, No Return film program would begin at 3:30pm not 4:00pm. MC Gutekanst moved and MC Sweeney seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Next meeting date.

There was a discussion about topics to agendize for the next meeting. Chair Fieldman asked to agendize an update on the Green Building Ordinance, a discussion about recruiting volunteers for litter pickup, and the issue of landscape and habitat management in the Northeast Ridge. Administrative Services Director commented that the City Council may be a more appropriate venue for the discussion of the landscape issues.

The next meeting date was set for April 10, 2013.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.