

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday November 9, 2011 7:00PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Chair Gutekanst called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Committee members present:

Fieldman, Miller, Richards, Stiehler, and Chair Gutekanst

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Other:

Marge Bushman

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Under “Other Committee Matters” MC Miller asked to add “Green Festival.” MC Fieldman requested adding “Review Approved Tree List” under “Discussion items for Liaison Subcommittee.” MC Miller moved and MC Fieldman seconded to adopt the agenda as modified. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Oral Communications for items not on the agenda.

There were no public comments under Oral Communications.

3. Report from Audubon Society on Lagoon Bird Count.

Chair Gutekanst introduced Marge Bushman and Committee members introduced themselves. Ms. Bushman presented information on the Christmas Bird Count, a sampling of birds taken each year around the holidays in locations throughout the country. In Brisbane, birds are counted on the Mountain and at the Lagoon. She noted that Brisbane and all of San Mateo County are part of Sequoia Audubon, and explained that she has retrieved the data from Audubon for over a decade and entered it into a spreadsheet. Ms. Bushman proposed that this responsibility be turned over to the Open Space and Ecology Committee. Following her presentation, the Committee asked questions and engaged in discussion. Chair Gutekanst recommended the PRBO Bay Area State of the Birds Report. The Committee decided to invite Golden Gate and Sequoia Audubon to attend the January or February OSEC meeting to discuss

the results of the Christmas Bird Count. The Committee agreed to inform the City Council Liaison subcommittee about its role in keeping the bird count for Brisbane.

4. Brisbane Energy Strategy.

a. Energy Upgrade California update

Marge Bushman discussed her participation in the Energy Upgrade California program and the work she is having done on her house to improve energy efficiency. She heard about Energy Upgrade at the Energy Savings Forum. Ms. Bushman noted the large rebates available for home energy efficiency and reported that her experience with Solar City had been very positive. She offered to help spread the word to the community.

Management Analyst Pontecorvo reported on the last Energy Upgrade Advisory Board meeting, and updated the Committee on new rebates that have increased from a maximum of \$4000 to \$10,000. She noted that the additional \$6000 will be available only through February 2012. The Committee recommended publicizing the Energy Upgrade program incentives in the Luminary and the Star.

b. Energy Ambassador Open House report

Management Analyst Pontecorvo thanked Anjana Richards for hosting the Energy Ambassador Open House at her home. MC Richards reported on the event and the excellent whole house energy assessment conducted by the Skyline College students. MC Miller and Fieldman also offered positive feedback. Chair Gutekanst suggested using the Brisbane cable channel to promote the Energy Upgrade program, as well as the Luminary, Star, and blog.

5. Discussion items for City Council Open Space and Ecology Liaison Subcommittee

a. Litter, illegal dumping, and waste reduction

Chair Gutekanst and MC Fieldman raised the concern about excessive litter entering the Bay. Administrative Services Director explained that County crews are costly and difficult to obtain, and that City staff is constrained. He recommended seeking out volunteers and community groups who could help tackle this problem.

Management Analyst Pontecorvo provided the staff report on Styrofoam and plastic bags. She noted that the County recently adopted an ordinance prohibiting retail food vendors from using polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers, but that it affects only the unincorporated portions of San Mateo County. The County is also considering the feasibility of a ban on single use plastic bags. Chair Gutekanst suggested discussing these issues with the City Council Liaison subcommittee. Once the Committee receives direction, staff can follow-up with additional study and analysis.

b. Recommendation regarding Committee vacancies

Chair Gutekanst noted that there would be only four members present at the December 14 OSEC meeting since Ray Miller was elected to the City Council and would no longer serve on the Committee. Further, there are three members of the Committee whose terms expire at the end of the year. Mr. Schillinger noted that it is likely that new members would not be appointed until February 2012. He pointed out that a quorum requires four people; the Committee can meet with three but can not take action. The Committee discussed whether to ask Council to temporarily change the composition of the Committee from seven members to five members, with the possibility of increasing it back to seven at a later date.

MC Miller discussed the timing and topics for the meeting with the City Council Liaison subcommittee. He listed a number of concerns and priorities. He recommended establishing a subcommittee and offered to serve on it. Chair Gutekanst volunteered to be on the subcommittee with MC Miller. MC Miller moved, and MC Richards seconded to establish an OSEC subcommittee to identify priorities for 2012 and issues to discuss with the Liaison subcommittee.

6. Other Committee Matters.

a. Vegetation Management Brisbane Acres 2012

Management Analyst Pontecorvo announced the next meeting of the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Chair Gutekanst and MC Stiehler suggested creating a vegetation management plan that would build on the work of Shelterbelt and include removal of acacia trees. Management Analyst Pontecorvo said she would arrange to get a proposal from a professional tree contractor. Vegetation Management subcommittee members Stiehler and Gutekanst agreed to meet to discuss and propose a management program for the coming year.

b. Sustainability Committee update

Administrative Services Director Schillinger provided an update on the Sustainability Committee's progress. He reported that the Committee is continuing to discuss the ten One Planet Principles from BioRegional. The goal is to complete an initial work product by the first quarter of 2012 and send it back to the Committee and Commissions for their review and comments.

c. CAG update

Chair Gutekanst provided a brief update on the last CAG meeting. Mary Hasham of Brownfield Partners gave a presentation to the CAG on the topic of remediation and the challenges of long-term monitoring.

d. Public Education: Library displays

MC Fieldman raised the topic of reserving the library display shelf for an environmental education topic. She and Chair Gutekanst suggested creating a display about the plastic garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean. Staff agreed to check with the library about reserving the space, and with Recology and SSF Scavengers to see if there are ready-made exhibits.

e. Green Festival

MC Miller announced the dates of the Green Festival in San Francisco.

7. Approval of minutes: October 12, 2011.

MC Richards made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12th. MC Stiehler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Next meeting date: December 14, 2011.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.