

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:30pm
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

- Chair Salmon called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Committee members present:

- Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk and Salmon

Committee members absent:

- N/A

Staff members present:

- Finance Director Schillinger
- Management Analyst Muñoz

1. Adoption of the agenda.

- Agenda was amended to discuss: Ordinance of Brisbane acres lot coverage and Thank You letters to previous OSEC members. Amended agenda adopted by the committee.

2. Oral communications for items not on the agenda.

- Schillinger announced that he will be acting City Manager for the City of Half Moon Bay. He will continue to staff the Open Space and Ecology committee during his three month acting period.

3. Update on the CAG.

- Salmon attended the last CAG meeting. She will forward her notes to be distributed to the committee.

4. Schedule of future event/ event planning.

- i. & ii. Habitat restoration day and Quarry Road Clean-up
Representatives from Mountain Watch, The Parks & Recreation Commission and Park & Recreation staff met with Muñoz and Salmon to discuss planning details. The date is set for April 26th, from 9am-1pm, meeting at Humboldt Rd and Placer Wy. Restoration efforts will be

focused on Costaños Canyon this year. To decrease the budget there will be one t-shirt for both events. The shirts are being solicited for by staff from neighboring companies such as Recology. Lowering the budget will allow OSEC to do Quarry Rd. Clean-up day on June 21st. Restoration Day next year will be for Firth Canyon.

- Ebel suggests that volunteers make a small donation to receive a t-shirt. Salmon replied that would be a possibility if the shirts were coming out of the OSEC budget and not donated.

iii. Ebel spoke to the principal of Brisbane Elementary School about doing anti-littering presentations at the school. Ebel has not been in contact with Lipman Middle School or Panorama Elementary School. The principal said the best days for the school to have a presentation are Wednesday mornings. Fieldman is not available Wednesday mornings, Fridays work. Fieldman suggests will work on Ebel to make the presentation to incorporate plenty of visual aids and music. The presentation should be about 30 minutes in duration. Dominique Bocanegra, Brisbane resident, would like to help with giving presentations to the schools. Bocanegra shared the following ideas: children can take “Trash Police” duty, to help discourage littering. Trash and recycling bins should be decorative to make throwing away trash fun. A poster contest for ‘No littering’ campaign. Other ideas from committee members were mentioned: t-shirt art contest, presentation on the Great Pacific Garbage patch, materials and activities to supplement the presentation to do in the classroom.

5. Review of Thank you letter to Gutekanst.

- The letter was approved as drafted. Muñoz will copy onto a letter head and have members come sign it. Other letters to be drafted for Sweeney and Court will be written by Salmon.

6. Brisbane acres lot coverage.

- Salmon discussed the ordinance for lot coverage. The lot coverage should aid in maintaining open space. The current ordinance and parcel exceptions will be sent out for the next meeting packet.

7. Polystyrene ban.

- Fieldman and Hayuk did not have a drafted questionnaire. Staff will draft a letter to the restaurants, rather than surveying them. Restaurants can return a letter to us in reply. A meeting will be set to discuss any concerns with subcommittee and staff. Included in the letter we can ask if the restaurant is already compliant, if concerns are not expressed by a business, we will assume compliance.

8. Review of staff reports.

i. Storage of liquid fuels/ fire code changes.

- Salmon brought an article from High Country News, Fallon’s Deadly Legacy, to share with members. The article is about a cancer cluster that occurred due to a Kinder Morgan pipeline leak. This article will be scanned and emailed to members and included with the staff report as an attachment for council. Letter approved as drafted for changes in liquid fuels storage.

ii. Fossil Fuels Divestment.

- Fieldman feels that the fuels divestment letter should elaborate on GHGs and climate change. She will send materials to staff to incorporate into the letter.

9. Invasive species ordinance.

- Fieldman expressed interest in working towards a county ordinance for invasive species. Muñoz contacted San Mateo County and spoke with Fred Crowder, Director of Agriculture Commission. Crowder encouraged for OSEC members to come to a San Mateo Weed Management Group meeting. Crowder asked for a list of species that we are looking to list on the ordinance, he will inform us on what work has been done to eradicate these species thus far, if any. He commented that ordinances normally need community support; there is a lot of push back from nurseries that make a profit from selling certain species.

10. Inventory of dead trees/ tree removal.

- Muñoz spoke to staff at Davey Tree, they charge tree removal by distance traveled and amount of hours, there is a bulk rate available, but a site visit is needed to determine accurate costs. Many of the trees are on private property that Court has provided. Using this list Muñoz will get 2-3 bids for the cost of tree removal. If property owners will pay the tree removal cost, per Salmon, it may be an incentive to defer the tree replacement requirement. The cost of tree removal will be presented to City Council. Muñoz will look into Invest from the Ground Up, or Friends of the Urban Forest to see if they are able to help replace trees. A specialist or consultation with Golden Gate park will be useful to determine the next appropriate tree species to plant, with consideration of climate change.

11. Follow up on property of the Baylands project area.

- Muñoz completed the map and spreadsheet of properties in the Baylands area and respective owners. Muñoz was in contact with the Land Manager of UPC, he was going to help find the owners of some unknown properties, but contact ceased. Salmon would like to know the ownership of the last properties; Schillinger will research these last unknown properties.

12. Staff updates from previous meeting

- Muñoz gave updates from last meeting:
- The rental agreement for Community Park is going to be amended to prohibit hanging objects on trees.
- Muñoz has been in contact with San Mateo Environmental Health Services to get the amounts of liquid fuels that are being stored in Crocker Industrial Park. This will take a few weeks to process, since they were given nearly 70 addresses to look up.
- Two more trash bins may be able to be placed on Quarry Rd. Costs will have to be figured out with the private contractor that empties the cities current trash bins. Also, the property owner of the exact area will have to be determined.
- The Quarry operator was contacted and they spoke with the truckers about not littering on Quarry Rd.
- To get an anti-littering sign on Quarry Rd., property lines will have to be determined. Muñoz shared some ideas of signs she found. Schillinger mentioned the 'Littering is wrong too' campaign for ideas.

13. Energy Action Plan

- Schillinger said that an energy action plan needs to be drafted by a subcommittee. Muñoz will gather plans from other cities to help to begin a draft plan for Brisbane. The council members are asking about when this plan will be drafted. Ebel and Fieldman will join this group.

14. Miscellaneous

- Dominique Bocanegra, Brisbane resident, expressed her interest in helping with littering education to local schools.
- Salmon announced a green awards event charity dinner. There is a cost associated, if a member is interested Schillinger can look into funding.

15. Approval of the minutes.

- Correction to item 8, Review of last years work plan. Delete one sentence about the Green Building committee.

16. Adjournment.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM