



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:33 PM

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Becker, Calmes, Ebel, Fieldman, Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Sustainability Assistant, Regan

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Salmon moved to adopt the agenda and Rogers seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regan invited others to join a tour of SSF Scavenger she is organizing for her grad program on December 8; email her to sign up.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of October 26, 2022 – Nunan moved to approve the minutes, Salmon seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously by roll call vote with Rogers abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

- B. Informational Overview on CEQA & Entitlement Process – Senior Planner Ayres walked the committee through the CEQA process, including the flowchart attached below, and addressed committee questions on ministerial projects, lead versus responsible agencies, negative declarations and mitigations, project timelines and when a project revision restarts the process, and various aspects of the public input process and how public comments are responded to. Ayres suggested the Office of Planning and Research for additional resources: opr.ca.gov/ceqa/getting-started
- C. CAP Subcommittee submission to Senator Becker’s “There Ought to Be a Law” contest – Etherton shared that the CAP Subcommittee, during their recent discussions on existing building decarbonization, wished to see a climate and energy disclosure bill at the state level. Senator Becker currently has a bill contest open for submissions, and the CAP subcommittee was seeking OSEC approval to submit their idea, with final language to be determined by the subcommittee. The committee unanimously supported the idea.

- D. Discuss Draft 2023 OSEC Work Plan – Etherton introduced the draft work plan for the next calendar year, which was largely the same as the current year. Members noted it is too ambitious for a single year and that council liaisons had shared concerns on that last year. Others noted that items need to be included to be able to be worked on. The group discussed re-formatting the list to show the priority projects, routine or ongoing items, and items which would only be worked on after an external trigger. Etherton confirmed five priority projects with the group and will revise the draft work plan accordingly for review at next meeting. Staff will coordinate a meeting with the council liaisons; members expressed interest in having them to a full committee meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Reminded members to send their picture so we can update our committee members slide
- Preparing for SB1383 enforcement starting in January, just sent final notice to properties that currently appear to not be complying
- At the Natural Resources Meeting, County Parks staff noted upcoming jubata grass treatment along Radio Road and a few other locations. They are planning oxalis treatment in several areas December through February, plus re-treatment of gorse in the saddle area, and spring treatment of fennel, radish, and broom. They also passed along Peking Levinson as a mitigation site but haven't heard anything further.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board already adopted an order on October 12 on the issue Dana Dillworth's letter was addressing, so we will not be moving forward with a letter discussed in October. The order and response to comments are linked from the agenda (#7): waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2022/October/10-12-2022.pdf
- The Sustainable San Mateo County Indicators Report recently came out with a focus on building electrification; it is available at tinyurl.com/ssmc2022ir

Regan shared that just two buildings had not reported for the 2022 benchmarking requirements and had recently received their third citation. Staff continues to work with Touchstone to set up software and prepare for Beyond requirements.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Climate Action Plan (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – main focus discussed under item C
- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Etherton noted staff discussed holding the Earth Day Habitat Restoration event on the holiday itself, Saturday April 22nd
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, **Rogers**) – Rogers suggested updating library display
- *Open Space Plan Update (Calmes, Rogers, Salmon) – Salmon noted working with an owner to consider a dedication and suggested a spring meeting to review the overall Open Space Plan to determine any other areas to address. Kinser confirmed letters had been sent to the six parcels recently added to the Priority Preservation Area
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – expecting to receive the scope from the RCD soon. Nunan noted he has been working on the area with Paul Bouscal and expressed interest in joining this subcommittee and Salmon was willing to step off; we will agendize committee assignments for the January meeting

- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – Kinser gathering quotes to assess cost of implementing recommendations on City properties
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, **Ebel**, Salmon) – Ebel reported meeting with Planning staff who will be providing additional feedback; OSEC staff has received that input and will pass along in advance of a scheduled subcommittee meeting on Dec 14
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, Ebel, Salmon) – Kinser noted street trees in town are being replaced two at a time, deep root watering is continuing, and information was sent out in the blast about caring for trees. Salmon requested a meeting in January, after 5pm.
 - Calmes asked about planting of the Douglas Fir grove; Kinser reported maintenance staff has been unable to find any 6-10’ tall in the Western US. We may need to purchase 3-4’ trees and keep them at the Corp Yard until they are large enough. Salmon asked about the Creekside Farm option; their only Douglas Firs are 15’+ so not suitable for moving.
- *Sierra Point Park Planning (Ebel) – Ebel missed the meeting
- *Lipman Science Fair Judging (Ebel, **Rogers**) – Rogers will contact school staff

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton shared the preliminary 2023 calendar.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – none.

NEXT MEETING: January 25, 2023

ADJOURNMENT – 8:24 PM

CEQA Process Flow Chart

