



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM

ROLL CALL

- A. Consider any request of a committee member to attend the meeting remotely under the “Emergency Circumstances” of AB 2449

Committee members present: Becker, Ebel, Rogers, Salmon, Walker

Staff members present: Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Fellow, De La Cruz

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Rogers moved to adopt the agenda as amended and Walker seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salmon announced public that all comments before the deadline for the draft Environmental Impact Report for Guadalupe Quarry are available on the city website. She also reminded the public not to feed wild animals or birds of any kind.

Etherton noted the revised Brown Act memo from the city attorney which was in the packet.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of January 6, 2025 – Becker requested a modification to remove “preference for housing” from the Old Business section. Becker moved to approve the minutes as amended and Ebel seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- C. Discuss how to address Climate Action Plan goals
- Walker synopsized key points from a document he sent out addressing the Plan, pointing out self-reliance and fast action as essential, and the idea that Brisbane be a leader in mitigating and adapting to climate change in the future.
 - Etherton put together climate action highlights of what Brisbane has accomplished to date. Walker highlighted that the pool is the biggest source of emissions in Brisbane’s municipal operations and the electrification of it is the most impactful action to date.
 - Walker questioned the need to rewrite the Climate Action Plan versus tactics like taxes on polluters or climate resiliency funds as financial vehicles to support climate initiatives that feed local programs. Ebel suggested challenging city council to put a percentage of their budget to sustainability initiatives.

- Ebel brought up EPA data on vehicle emissions; focus should be on issues like day-to-day driving and funding sources. Salmon asked for metrics on EV charging stations and the idea of tracking and providing metrics to the public in a “progress report” format. Salmon brought up an idea of electric shuttles for seniors as a solution for getting people out of cars, but cater to those who find it hard to walk around.
- Etherton encouraged and the committee agreed to disband the Building Decarbonization subcommittee and create a Climate Action Planning subcommittee. Ebel and Walker will join.
- Kinser mentioned applications for the committee were received and after interviews new members are tentatively scheduled to be sworn in on Feb 20.

NEW BUSINESS

- D. Discuss draft Work Plan – Salmon reviewed the draft and the committee briefly discussed some of the priorities. Ebel moved to adopt the Work Plan and Becker seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.
- E. Consider process and possible subcommittee for OSEC Baylands EIR review – Staff recommended that committee members plan to review the same chapters of the Baylands EIR as they did for the Quarry EIR if the draft is published between meetings. Becker proposed to accept for now and reopen the conversation in a month with the new member(s).

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Etherton introduced De La Cruz to the committee
- Updated OSEC on pool electrification; staff are reviewing the draft construction amendment documents and hope to take it to council next month for approval
- Updated committee on EV fleet program and potential to get incentives and PCE local agency grant to move forward with charging stations at the Corp Yard to support
- C/CAG applied for a grant to plan for zero emission vehicle infrastructure across the county and Brisbane provided input and a letter of support
- 2023 emissions inventory is expected to be ready in a month or so
- RICAPS published a Grid Reliability Explainer that she will send to the committee and/or schedule a presentation on
- Shared that Peninsula Clean Energy has added an incentive finder on their website
- Air District is holding a public workshop and survey for regional climate action planning
- Dark Sky Ordinance outreach will be going out in March and April STAR

Kinser:

- Public Works has been looking to purchase a street sweeper to keep bike lanes clean. Measure M funds is a hopeful funding source for an electric sweeper.

De La Cruz:

- Provided updates on Building Efficiency Program. Issued four citations last week, three of them being the second warning. Working with two owners with 10 and 15 properties, respectively, to move them into compliance.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

- Events (Becker, Salmon) – Salmon noted Feb 8 habitat event
- Education and Outreach (Rogers, Walker) – Climate Action library display was posted on Jan 15th
- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Walker) – disbanded in favor of Climate Action Planning Committee (Ebel, Walker)
- *Open Space Plan Update (Nunan, Rogers, Salmon) – no updates
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Nunan, Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser noted that the invasive plants have been removed from the channel and shared possibility of setting up a volunteer day in February
- *Tree Issues (Ebel, Salmon, Rogers) – Kinser mentioned the need to discuss potential changes to the tree ordinance and noted the tree inventory is in progress
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – no updates
- *Liaisons to Council – Etherton will reach out to set a meeting to review workplan
- *Lipman Science Fair (Walker, Ebel) – Ebel noted she will be out of town and asked if anyone else could join; Rogers will step in. Judging will be on Feb 3. Kinser suggested to take pictures for social media

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton reviewed the 2025 calendar as currently known

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – no updates

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2025

ADJOURN – 8:09 PM