



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:36 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, Fieldman, Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Rogers moved to adopt the agenda and Salmon seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salmon noted San Bruno Mountain Watch is not hosting a Pancake Breakfast this fall; they will be holding a plant sale on Sept 14 and a Summer Solstice event on June 21, 2025. Coastal Cleanup Day and the Sierra Point Yacht Club’s Regatta will both be on Sept 21, with cleanup volunteers receiving a free lunch ticket for the regatta.

Fieldman noted that both OSEC and the City Council previously supported SB252, for the state pension funds to divest from fossil fuels, which was withdrawn by the author after “poison pill” amendments. She expects it will be reintroduced in a future session.

Nunan shared that a councilmember had emailed about the ban of gas leafblowers. He expressed concerned about enacting any further bans given recent ordinances on outdoor lighting and invasive species, and noted the state ban on the sale of gas leafblowers which is already in effect.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of July 24, 2024 – Becker moved to approve the minutes and Rogers seconded; Fieldman abstained and the motion was adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Presentation on 2019 & 2021 Community Emissions Inventories – Etherton presented slides on the latest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories, with support from Emily Saul of Rincon Consultants who had worked on the inventories under the auspices of the countywide RICAPS program. Changes in methodology and the addition of new emissions sources resulted in changes to our 2005 baseline emissions inventory, which increased approximately 19%, and in the emissions reductions achieved to date, which

as of the 2017 had been estimated at 20.3% but are now at 13.66%. Committee members and members of the public asked questions about transportation methodologies, the leakage rate of methane gas, residual electricity emissions and the value of new solar installations, among other discussions.

- D. Consider recommendation to City Council regarding Brisbane Acres re-zoning – Salmon read the proposed letter. Fieldman suggested including a point about biodiversity and about the impact of additional cars on the properties downhill; Becker concurred with Fieldman regarding the substandard roadways. Minor edits were discussed. Salmon moved to accept the letter as amended; Rogers seconded, and all voted in favor.

STAFF UPDATES

Chase:

- Reported identifying a building that had not complied with the Brisbane Building Efficiency Program (BBEP) for the past three years and helped them get caught up!
- The BBEP reporting for 2023 was submitted to the CA Energy Commission, and she continues to support building owners with the Beyond Benchmarking requirements.
- Hosted CalRecycle staff for a site visit last week.

Etherton:

- In addition to the site visit, we also completed CalRecycle's Electronic Annual Report and a response to the Civil Grand Jury Report on Compost which will be on the City Council's agenda on September 5.
- Staff is organizing a tour of Scavenger for the City Green Team and has open spaces; Salmon wanted to join and Chase will coordinate with her to complete the waiver.
- The city's reach code, adopted on July 18, is on the upcoming agenda for the CA Energy Commission's approval, which is required for it to be in effect.
- CALeVIP has approved the release of grant funds for the EV Fast Charger at City Hall.
- The regional SunShares program, which provides reduced rates for home solar and storage projects through a "bulk buy" effort, launches on Sept 1.
- Peninsula Clean Energy approved the incentive and loan applications for the pool water heating electrification project, and the CA Public Utilities Commission gave conditional approval on the PG&E incentive. Staff is working through PG&E new service planning.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Etherton reported discussing Day in the Park booth plans with Scavenger, who wanted to join forces, and including waste sorting of challenging items as well as a launch of the litter grabber checkout program. We will schedule a subcommittee meeting to finalize the plans.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Rogers) – no report.

- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton noted we have completed reach codes and have new emissions data so could discuss what our next actions should be, but likely want to put this off until after subcommittee reorganization next month.
- *Open Space Plan Update (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Nunan was to be added to the committee but omitted from the slides. Salmon acknowledged the need to revise the letter to the Acres owners and the group concurred it could be managed remotely with Salmon taking the lead, as the other letter had been.
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Nunan, Salmon) – Kinser reported contacting the property owner; a meeting is being scheduled for the afternoon of Sept 11 and a member of the subcommittee could join if interested. Rogers suggested considering whether Paul Bouscal could come.
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – Becker reminded that the subcommittee had planned to draft a “dear neighbor” letter about the ordinance. Salmon suggested a STAR article; Becker noted Fieldman had drafted a preamble for the ordinance that had been stripped out but could be the start of an article.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, Ebel, Salmon) – Rogers shared that a resident that had attended a prior meeting had suggested she could “sponsor” someone’s outdoor lighting conversion; consider updating the “dear neighbor” letter that Etherton had created for the library display with a checkbox offering to help offset the cost.
- *Tree Issues (Ebel, Salmon) – Kinser just re-sent the email with meeting videos to review. Staff is working to migrate the tree inventory data to our in-house GIS so we don’t have to pay for the ongoing platform.
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – Etherton suggested members catch up on reading their specific plan chapters.

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton reviewed the calendar, noting Coastal Cleanup Day on September 21 and Day in the Park on October 5. Salmon requested hosting Scavengers’ annual presentation in Sept or Oct; Etherton will check their availability.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – Nunan stated he will be absent next month, as will Becker. New member Anthony Walker will be sworn in by then, and confirmed he would be available. Staff will confirm with Ebel or look into rescheduling.

NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2024

ADJOURN – 8:18 PM