



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:31 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: Armstrong, Atapattu, Becker, Ebel, Rogers, Salmon, Walker

Staff members present: Director of Public Works, Breault; Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Management Analyst, Brown; Sustainability Fellow, De La Cruz

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salmon mentioned the upcoming Habitat Restoration Day Saturday, April 26th, and the Frog Habitat Restoration Day Saturday May 3rd. The Spring plant sale at Mission Blue Nursery will also take place on May 3rd.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of March 26, 2025 - Ebel motioned to approve the minutes and Becker seconded. Salmon abstained; the motion was otherwise adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- C. Consider process and possible subcommittee for OSEC Baylands DEIR review
- Committee divided responsibility of the remaining chapters for review.
 - Kinser mentioned that, according to a suggestion by City staff, the schedule of dates for comments on the Specific Plan will be June 17th and comments for DEIR due July 15th /August 19th respective of chapters.
 - Committee would like to focus on DEIR, and revisit the Specific Plan as needed in the future, should any comments arise out of the EIR review.
 - De La Cruz to send Committee links to Specific Plan and DEIR; schedules of review dates, and chapter assignments.

NEW BUSINESS

- D. Public Tree Inventory and Management Plan – Bob Sage, GIS Manager
- Sage introduced himself to the newer members of the Committee, as well as the scope of the Tree Inventory Hub Site - 5,000 trees with 43 attribute fields- now condensed into an easy to digest webpage format.

- Sage clarified the trees on the inventory are City owned, and show everything except trees in the Acres, and confirmed that trees that need vine removal, or PG&E maintenance are not included in the management plan.
- Sage walked the Committee through the interactive apps, created by the City from PlanetGeo Data, to show areas such as diversity, size, and tree health throughout the City.
- Sage also pointed out potential planting sites and mentioned that he plans to build out a Vine Volunteer Management app to use in future on mobile phones to highlight the trees that require maintenance for vine growth on them.
- Sage also mentioned that maintenance on trees with high priority health issues have already begun, and a three-phase 5-year management plan is in place
- Kinser highlighted that the health management plan is projected to cost \$510,000, and asked for a recommendation from the Committee to bring the scope to Council.
- Kinser mentioned other sources of funding for tree health are around \$100,000 per year and are dedicated to tree trimming, replacement, and maintenance, and a smaller amount to tree planting.
- Breault mentioned that given upcoming budgeting asks and constraints within the Department, input and support from the Committee would be valuable.
- Salmon recommended a community-based tree growing program, Breault agreed an “adopt-a-tree” program would be a good idea.
- The Committee recommended a three-year plan with five-years as a backup position.

E. Tree Canopy Goal Recommendation –

- Salmon brought up comments from the March meeting: along with the community “tree garden”, the cutting of the eucalyptus trees required treatment from leftover stumps; tree canopy is an important process in cooling; and fire resiliency is crucial in canopy planning.
- Kinser mentioned it would be a good idea for the subcommittee to meet with the Fire Department to give their recommendations on fire resiliency and tree maintenance.
- Three options for tree canopy recommendations were discussed – the original Goal of 23%, 25% with exceptions, and CalGreen’s 20/50 scenario.
- Kinser noted that, as the CalGreen solution would include undeveloped land, staff advised against this option since grassland areas in the City should remain as-is.
- Committee agrees the CalGreen scenario would give good justification for the 23% goal, which was agreed to be a reasonable and actionable starting recommendation.

- The tree subcommittee will meet to refine ways to meet that goal in concert with fire resiliency planning, and Salmon to meet with City Fire Department in near future.

STAFF UPDATES - none

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

- Education and Outreach (Armstrong, **Rogers**, Walker) – Will meet to discuss education and outreach for the upcoming tree planting and care projects. De La Cruz to follow-up on next library display. Summer Dark Skies event to be revisited at a later date
- Climate Action Planning (Ebel, Walker) – Next subcommittee meeting to be held Wednesday April 30 and will recap for full Committee at next meeting
- Open space plan update (Becker, Rogers, **Salmon**)– Salmon mentioned an update for Open Space Element in the General Plan, and suggested familiarity with Open Space Element in the General Plan for the upcoming meeting
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (**Rogers**, Salmon) – Rogers mentioned the upcoming Frog Habitat Day, with pictures from the event to be featured in the City’s “Blast” messaging
- Tree Issues (Ebel, Rogers, **Salmon**) – Subcommittee meeting to be scheduled in near future
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – none
- Liaisons – Salmon and Walker have made a workplan, approved by the Liaisons. Kinser will bring it to Council
- PCA Grant – Salmon mentioned the May 2nd deadline to add the 6 properties that now qualify for inclusion. Salmon will investigate whether she can do the application for submission by staff.

CALENDAR ITEMS – Events as discussed.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – none

NEXT MEETING: May 28, 2025

ADJOURN – 8:21 PM