



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. • Virtual Meeting

MEETING SETUP AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO ORDER – 6:34 PM

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Becker, Calmes, Ebel (6:50), Fieldman, Rogers, Salmon

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salmon noted the Earth Day Habitat Restoration Day on April 23.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of February 23, 2022 – Rogers moved to approve the minutes, Fieldman seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- B. Budget – Carolina Yuen, Finance Director
- Yuen provided background on the process: the City adopts two-year budgets, the current budget was adopted by Council in June 2020 for Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-22; staff drafts budgets with programmatic input from committees and makes recommendations for Council consideration in line with city revenues and priorities.
 - Yuen reviewed the current OSEC budget. Members asked about expenditures to date; Finance staff noted that the implementation of the budget happens at the staff level. The committee should focus on policy matters and what they want to see done, staff's role is to then figure out how to implement and fund these programs.
 - Salmon requested additional funds for vegetation management, particularly to remove ivy from city-owned canyons and continue to maintain these areas. Staff noted this was done at the committee's request several years ago.
 - Salmon asked about a fund for purchase of Brisbane Acres; Schillinger noted that the fund had been overspent and paid back by the General Fund. At that time the Council decided to eliminate the separate fund and purchase Acres when properties are available for purchase, through available general funds and/or grants.

- Becker asked about the timeline for budget requests; staff responded that the budget season is underway and additional suggestions at the April meeting could be incorporated. Schillinger reiterated that items that come up at other times can be considered as separate requests.

C. Divestment – Stuart Schillinger, Assistant City Manager

- Fieldman provided an introduction regarding Fossil Free CA’s efforts to get the state’s pension funds, CalPERS and CalSTRS, which together have roughly half a trillion dollars under investment, to divest from fossil fuels. CalPERS is where City staff pension funds are invested, and fund managers have resisted divestment, preferring engagement. Senator Lena Gonzalez has introduced a bill, SB 1173, which would require the funds divest. The City sent a letter requesting divestment in 2014.
- Salmon moved and Fieldman seconded that the committee recommend the City endorse SB 1173. Further discussion took place and the committee voted by roll call; Becker abstained and all other committee members present voted in favor. Etherton explained that the process would be to take forward the template resolution in support of SB 1173 with OSEC’s recommendation for Council consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

D. Discuss Work Plan

- Etherton explained why the 2022 work plan had been structured and titled as it was. Kinser noted the staff time required to bring the item back to Council, which has already approved the plan.
- The group discussed, and members suggested the changes should be made and sent without going back in front of Council; staff was not sure this was possible.
- Salmon moved that the work plan be titled OSEC work plan and the invasive species ordinance cover all of Brisbane and not just the Acres; Fieldman seconded. Calmes abstained and all other committee members present voted in favor.
- Breault noted that staff will make revisions and bring it back for confirmation before taking further action. Staff will investigate how to communicate changes to Council.

STAFF UPDATES

Kinser provided data on street trees removed and their status. Committee members requested Kinser send the list to the Tree Subcommittee along with notes from their prior meetings.

Etherton:

- The Building Efficiency Program 2021 reporting link has been posted online and notification letters sent to the majority of building owners.
- The Disposable Foodware Amendment passed second reading at the City Council meeting on March 17.
- Compost was delivered for the community garden on March 11 and the annual giveaway is planned for April 8. Both giveaways are compost provided by SSF Scavenger that contribute to the City’s procurement requirements under SB 1383.
- E Ink recently announced that they were the world’s first display technology to receive Dark Sky Certification from the International Dark Sky Association.

Breault noted information about tree removals at Sierra Point which had been sent to committee members via email. Committee members asked questions about the history, urgency, replanting plan and quantity of trees, root barriers, protected status of replanted trees, and alternative contributions in lieu of the seven trees which are unable to be replanted. Breault will discuss some of the options and alternatives with the developer, Phase Three.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS & REORGANIZATION

- Climate Action Plan (Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton reported that the group had met to discuss emissions forecasts and strategies to meet the Climate Emergency Declaration goals; the work will continue at another meeting scheduled for the following week. Becker will join the subcommittee; Etherton will reach out to catch her up.
- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Etherton shared the flyer for the Earth Day event on April 23. Salmon and Rogers offered to step off the subcommittee.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Nunan, **Rogers**) – Etherton reported that the Library Display on Dark Skies was put up earlier in the day, and a post shared on social media. Fieldman asked about adding new library catalog suggestions for future displays; Etherton suggested emailing them to her to share with library staff, particularly in advance of the quarterly display rotation.
- Baylands (Rogers) – no meeting. OSEC’s representation to the committee was appointed by City Council so is not open for reorganization.
- *Open Space Plan Update (Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser is planning to have it the Council agenda for one of their April meetings. The committee was ad hoc for the purpose of the update; so once that is completed we will need to discuss any further goals and reconstitute the subcommittee.
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon, Calmes) – Rogers reported that the subcommittee had met and started pulling data together; they expect to complete that work in early April. Kinser noted the weed abatement notices are planned to go out at the beginning of May and wanted to ensure they coordinated.
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman) – Calmes requested background information which Kinser will send. Becker expressed interest in the subcommittee and Salmon and Calmes expressed willingness to consider stepping down.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (**Ebel**, Salmon) – Etherton reported that planning staff has sent comments on the draft ordinance; she will send them out and schedule a subcommittee meeting to work through them. Becker will join the subcommittee.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, Ebel, Salmon) – The subcommittee is meeting next week.
- *Lipman Science Fair Judging (Ebel, **Rogers**) – Rogers sent Etherton this year’s awardees for certificates and noted asking the school contacts to promote projects related to climate change in future years.

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton reviewed the calendar.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

- Rogers asked about orange tags on Quarry Road; Breault suggested this may be survey work for the development proposal expected for the quarry. Committee members asked

if a subcommittee should be formed; Breault stated that would require direction from the Council, development proposals are under the purview of the Planning Commission.

NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2022

- Calmes asked about continuing virtual meetings; staff noted that there has been no change indicated yet though it ultimately depends on the state's emergency declaration and Brown Act rules.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:07 PM