



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 24, 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: Armstrong, Atapattu, Becker, Salmon, Rogers, Walker.

Staff members present: Assistant City Manager, Fernandez; Senior Planner, Johnson; Sustainability Fellow, De La Cruz

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Becker would like to develop a formal process to evaluate and add plants to the Invasive Species Regulation. Staff to agendize the topic and whether this process should be handled by the full committee, a reinstated invasive species subcommittee, or the tree subcommittee. Armstrong would like to include scientific names of the species to avoid ambiguity.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Minutes of August 27, 2025 – Armstrong would like to amend the minutes to add reference to the discussion on the Crocker Trail frog habitat and whether the issue was addressed with the property owner, as it remained unresolved at the time. Becker motioned to approve the minutes and Armstrong seconded. Rogers abstained due to her absence. The motion was adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- B. Open Space Element - Ken Johnson, Senior Planner

- Johnson presented the Draft Element that included previous comments on the May draft made by the Committee
- Department to complete mapping and table of citywide vacant lands to comply with SB 1425 and include in the final draft to meet state requirements. The Bill goes into effect January 1
- Staff to review comments made by the Committee with aim to release a complete Draft in October, with a tentative plan to schedule a Planning Commission Hearing for November, followed by a City Council hearing in December

- Johnson stated that the aim of the Department is to have the Element adopted by the end of the year
- Committee members to review the draft Element individually and provide comments to Staff before the October 23 Planning Commission workshop. The Public Hearing will take place in November
- Individual comments can be submitted until the Draft goes to Council the first meeting in December
- De La Cruz to distribute a template for Committee

NEW BUSINESS

C. Baylands Development, Inc. (BDI) Presentation

- BDI presented elements of their Draft Specific Plan, available for review on the City's website, to the Committee
- BDI team to ensure written and verbal feedback from Committee is documented and reviewed during Specific Plan updates.

D. Baylands Specific Plan - Review Comment Schedule

- Committee to review current redline of Baylands Draft Specific Plan, De La Cruz to resend
- De La Cruz to send out timeline and schedule of due dates
- Final comments due to staff December 9
- Individual comments can be submitted until December 31
- De La Cruz to follow-up with Committee on availability of the Draft at the library

E. Quarry Trail work - Tony Verreos

- Tony Various Fire Trail and Beautification project efforts using natural materials to manage runoff and erosion was presented to the Committee
- Committee informally endorsed his ongoing work unanimously (no motion required)
- De La Cruz to follow up on receiving and distributing the drainage diagram from Verros
- Committee to agendaize item at a future meeting if drainage issue escalates

STAFF UPDATES –

- Fernandez mentioned the success of recent Coastal Cleanup day - 95 volunteers, 591 pounds of trash and recyclables removed.
- Staff mentioned upcoming Day in the Park – Committee to increase sign-ups for participation. Staff to address comments about the new timing of the event with Parks and Recreation Department

- Fernandez to confirm member term dates and changes, staff will aid in recruitment to ensure vacancies are filled
- Staff to research extension of the trash grabber program

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

- Events (Becker, Salmon) – Day in the Park, as discussed
- Education and Outreach (Armstrong, **Rogers**, Walker) – Butterfly host plant display is up at the library with plant coupons donated by San Bruno Mountain Watch
- Climate Action Planning (Atapattu, Walker) – no updates
- Open Space Plan update (Becker, Rogers, **Salmon**) – no updates
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (**Armstrong, Rogers**, Salmon) – Staff to help coordinate next meeting with Committee and Paul Bouscal to plan another restoration day. Staff to follow up on concern about previous habitat destruction.
- Tree Subcommittee Meeting (Rogers, **Salmon**) – meeting scheduled September 29
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – no updates
- Sierra Point Park Planning (Salmon) – no updates
- Liaisons – no updates
- PCA Grant (**Becker**, Salmon) – meeting scheduled September 29

CALENDAR ITEMS – Volunteer event confirmed for Dec 13 at Ice House Hill – time TBD. October 18, 10 AM – Noon is the Committee and Commission recruitment, Volunteer Pathways, at Community Meeting Room at City Hall. Dumpster weekend confirmed for Nov 15–17 (yard waste only).

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – Committee to include more robust collaboration with schools (beyond science fair judging) in 2026 Work Plan discussions. Discussion to create a new subcommittee for defensible space / wildfire resilience, with focus on sustainable landscape alternatives to concrete (e.g., permeable surfaces) and public education. Reinstatement of invasive species subcommittee, as mentioned.

NEXT MEETING: October 22, 2025

ADJOURN – 8:27