



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 PM

ROLL CALL

- A. Consider any request of a committee member to attend the meeting remotely under the “Emergency Circumstances” of AB 2449 – none.

Committee members present: Becker, Calmes, Ebel, Fieldman, Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

Staff members present: Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Special Assistant – Sustainability, Regan; Legal Counsel, Roush

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Legal Counsel presented on the importance of committee members using city emails. All city business needs to be easily retrieved if needed, doing this retrieval from personal email accounts is cumbersome. From time to time, cities receive public document requests that involve a particular item of city business. In an extreme situation, committee members could be called upon by a court for them to determine which personal emails involve city business and which do not. So long as city-related business is conducted through a separate system (i.e., separate email accounts on the same smartphone), this separation should be sufficient. City matters that are not within the committee’s subject matter jurisdiction can be discussed using personal email. If a committee member receives an email to their personal account regarding city business, best practice would be to forward the message to the city email account and reply from that account.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of March 22, 2023 – Salmon moved to approve the minutes and Ebel seconded; the motion was adopted with Nunan and Calmes abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Consider formation of subcommittee(s) for review of Baylands Specific Plan and future EIR – Etherton confirmed the City Attorney agreed to having multiple subcommittees. The recommendation is to have up to 3 subcommittees, with each person serving on no more than 1, with the intent of avoiding serial meetings. Committee members discussed how to assign the chapters of the Baylands Specific Plan. It should be acceptable for all committee members to read and discuss chapter 04 within the separate subcommittees before discussing it as a whole group at the next publicly noticed OSEC meeting. Staff participation is not necessary at these ad hoc subcommittee meetings.

All will read Chapters: 00, 01, 02, 04, 09. Three subcommittees: Rogers, Becker: 03, 08; Calmes, Salmon, Fieldman: 05, 07; Nunan, Ebel: 06.

The 30-day Notice of Preparation (NOP) public comment period began today. The next OSEC meeting is the day before comments are due (May 25). There is also a public meeting scheduled for May 9. Subcommittees should submit their comments & questions to staff by May 17 for compilation and posting with the May OSEC meeting agenda, at which OSEC can finalize their public comment for submission.

Etherton shared a flowchart showing the [Brisbane Baylands Review Process](#), published on the city website.

- D. Consider formation of subcommittee(s) for future review of Quarry Development and EIR – Kinser reported that the Council agreed to OSEC review. There is no application available to review at this stage, so this is a discussion about future review process. Salmon stated this is a development in the HCP which could have significant impact, and asked if there was a specific plan available to review; staff will investigate. Decided to keep this on the agenda for next meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Building Efficiency Program Amendment passed City Council on April 6th and 20th. Upon inquiry, Etherton detailed the changes made.
- Charge Level 2 EV chargers:
 - A faulty setting for the Charge EV chargers was discovered and corrected, which should fix the slow charging experience that some users had previously reported.
 - Charging costs 30 cents/kWh, paid via app. City will receive majority of revenue (Charge receives fees); this rate was set in order to pay for electricity. Etherton will be keeping a close eye on usage and pricing, may need to increase price (especially during summer peak hours).
 - Regarding the EV chargers at Mission Blue, and the implications for parking: signs will be added indicating that these spaces should be used for active EV charging. Enforcement will likely be complaint based. We recognize that parking constraints could be a problem during events in the near term.
 - The construction at Tunnel & Bayshore is complete apart from a PG&E service upgrade. Completing reporting for the grants at the other sites.
- Fast chargers:
 - ChargePoint DC fast charger at Brisbane Village must be replaced; there is a sign posted that this parking space is available for any car. Currently, grant funding is not available for maintenance, replacement, or removal of existing EV charging stations.
 - Fast charger permit for city hall has been submitted.
- Solar interconnection application was submitted to PG&E for the Mission Blue Center project just in time before the net metering rule change.

Regan:

- Building Efficiency Program:
 - The annual reporting deadline is coming up on May 15. At this point, 21 out of 100 buildings have submitted: of these 21, 13 buildings are compliant, 3 are exempt, and 5 have pending revisions.
 - Starting this year, under the Beyond Requirements, commercial buildings must meet energy and water standards or conduct an audit and adopt improvement measures.
 - Vendor Touchstone IQ has greatly improved the compliance review process and is also helping with the preparations for the Beyond phase.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS * = ad hoc

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – successful Earth Day habitat restoration last Saturday with 27 volunteers including several from the city. Thank you to Adrienne and Jeff for your support and participation. July 22 is tentatively suggested for next event.
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Rogers) – Fieldman to write a Star article about dark skies (500 words and an image) for the June edition, needed by May 15. Rogers asked if there was space to put up educational posters in City Hall, and commission Bob to create them? Etherton will look into.
- Baylands Subcommittee (Rogers) – no update
- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – questions about implication of legal challenge to Berkeley’s ordinance; to be discussed at next meeting
- *Open Space Plan Update (Calmes, Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser to follow up with information/packet
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Nunan, Calmes) – several service requests received regarding drainage issue, and trail resurfacing. Kinser coordinated several experts to consult. Future work after frog season
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – no updates
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, Ebel, Salmon) – book recommendation from Ebel: “The End of Night: Searching for Darkness in the Age of Artificial Light”. Working with Bob on mapping of environmentally sensitive habitat area. Some other pending items include streetlights and obtaining feedback from a consultant.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, Ebel, Salmon) – concern about tree removal/cutbacks, ivy-covered city trees, and one tree in particular should be removed because it is buckling the sidewalk & street (purview of a service request). Could be an opportunity to advertise the right trees to replace downed trees.
- *Sierra Point Park Planning (Ebel) –
- *Lipman Science Fair Judging (Ebel, Rogers) – inactive

CALENDAR ITEMS – Summer Habitat Day (June 22)

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS –

- Becker: gift certificate to native plant nursery is a fantastic Mother’s Day gift!
- Fieldman: KQED “Road to Zero Carbon” beginning at 9pm this evening

NEXT MEETING: May 24, 2023

ADJOURNMENT – 8:38 PM