



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 25, 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, Ebel, Rogers, Walker. Salmon is attending remotely, using the Just Cause provision of AB 2449.

Staff members present: 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 – Armstrong reported that the frogs at the Crocker Trail Frog habitat are thriving and that the latest display on frogs is now viewable at Brisbane Public Library. Ebel resigned from the Committee, effective immediately.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of May 28, 2025 - Atapattu motioned to approve the minutes and Rogers seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

PRESENTATION

- C. Alejandra Posada, Program Manager, Residential Programs for Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) presented remotely on new programs available for the public
- PCE is a local public agency that provides clean energy to residents at lower rates, and services San Mateo County, among others, and per state law, everyone is automatically enrolled
 - PCE generates clean energy (solar/wind) at rates 10% lower than PG&E on the electricity side
 - Posada introduced the topic of home upgrade services for helping residents electrify their homes (i.e. replace gas appliances like stoves, space and water heaters and gas dryers with electric alternatives)
 - Posada mentioned that electric appliances often have enhanced features, use less energy, and are safer and better for air quality within the home, and barriers include lack of awareness, cost, and complexity

- PCE offers rebates (\$2,500 on heat pump water heaters and \$1,500 on heat pump space heating and cooling) and financing (zero-interest loans for five years up to \$10,000), both of which can be combined, as well as personal advising and support, full-service installation which includes appliances for income qualified residents at no cost to them, and emergency water heater replacement. These rebates include special offers for income-qualified residents
- Posada mentioned that PCE service includes advice and support, full-service installation (free for income qualified, and incentives and pricing for all other residents)
- To have full-service installation one must be a PCE residential customer, an owner, have a single-family home (or up to a four-plex), and you must install at least a heat pump water heater or a heat pump HVAC replacing gas equipment, and there are additional requirements for no-cost upgrades. These services do not include rentals or new construction
- Rogers to give a summary of the presentation to provide to Brisbane residents, and a potential library display on home electrification in the future

OLD BUSINESS

D. Baylands DEIR Comments – Review

- Rogers gave a background on her comments on the draft EIR; these included the permits required, and lack of timelines for them, concern for the term “significant and unavoidable” impacts for topics such as noise and air quality, and a clear understanding of the staging for Geneva overpass and Lagoon Road, construction parking, and diesel emissions
- Becker mentioned that one lane South and two lanes North on Bayshore might be a better option for the transportation issue
- Atapattu mentioned blocking of the views of the Baylands development from Brisbane residents as it stands now, with mitigation measures such building height limits, and would like to see modeling images of these measures, and brought up the lighting ordinances are stated as “recommended”, but should be mandatory
- Becker mentioned that the Committee should include comments regarding compliance with seismicity and concerns with the development being built on a compacted landfill, and vapor mitigation and the soil within it
- Becker to take on review of previously shared chapters with Ebel
- Staff to send a link to Measure JJ to Committee

E. Progress Report on Open Space Element comments

- Kinser mentioned that Ken Johnson from the Planning Department made changes based on feedback, for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility Committee and forwarded changes for review by OSEC, and there will be another document for review in August

- Armstrong mentioned comments were addressed in the changed document
- Chair Salmon would like to address the document in future meetings
- Rogers would like the definition of Open Space to be the same as the definition in the Baylands DEIR
- Kinser suggested the Committee send written comments to Staff, to be forwarded to Johnson for review and inclusion, optimally in September

NEW BUSINESS – none

STAFF UPDATES – Kinser announced her upcoming retirement, with the last work day of August 22, 2025 and the movement of the Sustainability Division to the City Manager’s Department; Assistant City Manager Christina Fernandez will take over Kinser’s role

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

- Events (Becker, Salmon) – to organize Day in the Park, introduce new Staff to Subcommittee
- Education and Outreach (Armstrong, **Rogers**, Walker) – no updates
- Climate Action Planning (Atapattu, Walker) – Kinser requested another meeting before her departure, with Becker to temporarily join, and Walker to send documents to Staff on previous meetings to keep them up to speed
- Open space plan update (Becker, Rogers, **Salmon**)– no updates
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (**Armstrong, Rogers**, Salmon) – Staff to look into a public contribution fund for the habitat, and possibly informational signage along the trail
- Tree Issues (Rogers, **Salmon**) – Kinser mentioned a meeting with Battalion Chief Whitner for defensible space and the outreach around it, and OSEC to align messaging in the overall goal increase tree canopy on city and private property responsibly. Fire Department to cooperate with OSEC on tree canopy goal and provide tips and literature to minimize fire issues. Next steps will be to provide messaging for residents on tree management, planting/removal with considerations for fire mitigation. Kinser to look into Becker’s question about amendments to the tree management plan/permit process that would entail planting a tree for every removal, or in lieu fees to fund tree planting on other City spaces. Kinser mentioned staff has made a Tree Management Plan budget request for funds for tree removal and maintenance of unhealthy or dead trees.
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – no updates
- Sierra Point Park Planning – Salmon to replace Ebel
- Liaisons – no updates
- PCA Grant – no updates

CALENDAR ITEMS – Dark Skies Walk August 11, Baylands DEIR comments for July meeting review due July 15, Coastal Cleanup in September followed by Day in the Park, and broom cleanup on Ice House Hill Habitat Day in the Winter with Brown and Fernandez to coordinate with Baylands.

Rogers and Armstrong mentioned a frog habitat cleanup near the tunnel along Crocker Trail in August, which was put on the calendar as a maintenance reminder - the events sub-committee to coordinate with Paul Bouscal to organize the event. Kinser mentioned the Vegetation Management Plan which is pending and should be on the agenda for next month.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – none

NEXT MEETING: July 23, 2025

ADJOURN – 8:39