



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 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, Walker

Staff members present: Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Fellow, De La Cruz

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Introductions of Committee Members and their backgrounds including new arrival Atapattu.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Article on geothermal networks shared with committee by former member Glenn Fieldman; Ebel mentioned this could be an opportunity for the Baylands.

Paul Bouscal, Brisbane resident, former OSEC member and previously involved with San Bruno Mountain Watch, mentioned the recent approval of the protection of the Brisbane Acres, was appreciative of OSEC and the City for work on classifying the land as open space, and is hopeful of the outcomes for wildlife and the local environment.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

- C. Consider process and possible subcommittee for OSEC Baylands EIR review
- Etherton mentioned EIR will be available April 3 and comments are due in 150 days. Comments from Committee will be due to staff for compilation likely mid-August; Etherton will follow up with the proposed timeline.
 - Atapattu will focus on Socioeconomic Effects, Aesthetic Resources, and Irreversible Environmental Effects; Land Use and Planning Policy will be taken on by Ebel and Becker together; Armstrong will take over Transportation from Rogers. Growth-Inducing Impacts is left unassigned and will be revisited later.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Frog habitat update and volunteer events – Paul Bouscal

- Kinser introduced Bouscal, who is working on maintaining Crocker Trail frog habitat and would like to initiate volunteer days.
- Bouscal introduced the frog habitat (on City and private property) and gave background on the area, mentioning that the invasive grasses were removed from the channel by the city's contractor. The channel is an important space for frog habitat and biodiversity. Highlighted talks of volunteer days coordinated with Bouscal and the City, hopefully with educators from San Bruno Mountain Watch. The volunteer days would include a first light planting and habitat restoration every quarter or semiannually moving forward. Goal is to create other stewards for the habitat who will be able to in the future take charge of the project and volunteer days.

E. Tree Canopy Goal Recommendation –

- Rogers recapped a meeting with Etherton, with the outcome to recommend a goal of 23% citywide tree canopy over the next 15 years (requiring adding around 280 trees/year).
Etherton added clarifying details about the scenario and mentioned the need to encourage or incentivize private property owners to plant trees.
- Becker expressed concerns with recommendation, as it does not address trees that need to be removed, and focus should be on quality and variety of existing trees, rather than adding trees. Becker also mentioned fire dept recommends residents remove trees from certain areas of their property.
- Rogers mentioned the concern over the costs of trees, and ensuring appropriate trees planted and suggested a partnership with San Bruno Mountain Watch or their nursery to provide acceptable trees at a low cost.
- Atapattu mentioned Title 24, Part 11 of CA Building Standards Code, aka CalGreen standard for new development, which requires paved areas to have 20% canopy, and 50% for undeveloped areas. Others suggested a 25% target across all areas except those included from the presented scenario. Etherton and Rogers will run these two additional scenarios for review next meeting.
- Bouscal mentioned Mission Blue Nursery offers contract grows and might be a viable partner and suggested the industrial park as a good area for a nursery.

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Noted the PCE contracts for the Pool Incentive and Loan as well as Local Agency grant have been signed, so we can move forward on the Brisbane Village EV charger replacement
- Will be sending an email from HR about mandatory harassment prevention training

- Outlined the results of the 2023 GHG inventory: reduced overall emissions 15.72%, with highest emissions from on-road transportation, which are around 40% commercial vehicles

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

- Education and Outreach (Armstrong, **Rogers**, Walker) – Etherton noted the trash grabbers are available at City Hall, the Marina and the pool, not at the library
- Climate Action Planning (Ebel, Walker) – Ebel noted their review of the GHG inventory in detail, and started brainstorming funding options
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Salmon) – Armstrong will join
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – Atapattu will join Chapter 6 subcommittee

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton noted the April 10th compost giveaway and April 26th Earth Day Habitat Restoration events

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – Rogers mentioned illegal dumping on Quarry Road

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2025

ADJOURN – 8:30 PM