



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:36 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: Becker, Calmes, Ebel, Fieldman, Rogers, Salmon

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ebel moved to adopt the agenda and Calmes seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Ebel noted she is working on her annual carbon footprint; Fieldman noted attending a CA Native Plant Society event in Owl Canyon and there is another on April 9; Ebel noted some upcoming BayREN events

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - Fieldman asked about the emailed public comment about leaf blowers and whether a response was needed; Etherton thought Assistant to the City Manager Cheung had likely already responded based on the background she had provided and will confirm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of February 28, 2024 – Calmes moved to approve the minutes and Rogers seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Priority Conservation Area grant application and subcommittee
- Etherton provided background on PCAs and the grant opportunity; the Letter of Interest is due on May 8 and Etherton recommended the committee suggest some project ideas and assign a subcommittee
 - Not particularly interested in re-applying for the 2019 project
 - Greatest interest would be property acquisition: Peking Handicraft or Levinson property, or property in the Brisbane Acres; would require a willing seller. Kinser noted talking with Peter Sutherland about the Acres property available
 - Other suggestions included Quarry Road restoration, removal of eucalyptus near Lipman School and replacement with natives, starting a native seed bank, frog habitat, animal crossing to connect Icehouse Hill to San Bruno Mountain; the native seed bank was selected by vote as the second choice project

- Etherton will send out the guidelines and all committee members can send additional ideas back to her for forwarding to the subcommittee
- Subcommittee members: Ebel, Becker, we will ask Nunan if he's interested and Calmes will step in if he is not

D. San Bruno Mountain celebration event in May – Salmon noted that the celebration is much smaller than originally anticipated and it turns out there isn't really an opportunity for us

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton introduced Alejandra Chase, our new Sustainability Fellow through the Climate Corps program. Her year-long fellowship will focus on the Building Efficiency Program in the near term and on SB1383 implementation if our CalRecycle grant budget is approved. Chase introduced herself and provided some background on her work and personal history.

Etherton noted that the City's internal Green Team is relaunching, and the PlanIT Geo tree inventory is underway.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

Etherton flagged the reorganization to discuss filling subcommittee roles that Calmes will be vacating upon her departure

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Etherton shared the flyer for the Earth Day Habitat Restoration event; Ariel recommended Buckeye Canyon for this event and registration will be through San Bruno Mountain Watch's website
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Rogers) – Rogers noted the committee had discussed potential programs for check-out or distribution of trash grabbers, Etherton needs to confirm eligibility for funding with CalRecycle. Fieldman asked about the "I litter because..." signs the committee had discussed; Etherton needs to investigate if these would be acceptable to put out. Etherton noted the posters were ready for subcommittee review.
- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton noted she is awaiting legal review on the proposed new reach code; she will schedule a meeting when we have news
- *Open Space Plan Update (Calmes, Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser got the OK for the letter to Acres owners asking about interest in selling or donating properties to be from OSEC instead of staff. Salmon asked Kinser to send the subcommittee the letter and schedule the meeting.
 - Becker noted she and Nunan had been prevented from joining the subcommittee due to their properties being adjacent to open space; Kinser said that staff would check in with the City Attorney on this. If the subcommittee is continuing to work on open space plan items, we may need to make it a standing meeting.
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Nunan, Calmes) – Kinser asked the City Manager about getting a meeting with the property owner

- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – Kinser is working with the city attorney regarding how to enforce the provisions on properties similar to fire abatement and may be able to move forward as a regulation instead
- *Ad hoc letter for invasives - Calmes provided input on the letter; Becker encouraged everyone to review and respond to the updated letter
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, Ebel, Salmon) – Ebel reported on the meeting to discuss outreach, including before/after picture campaign, and her research on products which Becker encouraged having a presentation on a future meeting on
 - Salmon mentioned the night hike suggestion to the water tank. Our next meeting date of April 24 is an ideal date for sunset/moon rise, or Friday May 24 or waiting until August. Becker asked about starting our OSEC meeting earlier, and Salmon encouraged the event to be captured on video; Etherton will check on both. The group agreed to try April 24 and we can do it again in the fall if desired.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, Ebel, Salmon) – Ebel shared that she felt the canopy software was more of a blunt instrument than she envisioned but overall it was still a good tool and she was glad to have it. Salmon noted the meeting was not training with PlanIT Geo but rather a high-level overview with staff to identify questions and areas of focus for the official training. We'll put off the training for now.
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – no meetings or news on EIR timing

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton noted the Earth Day event and that she is working with Scavenger for a date for the compost giveaway; Salmon reported wood chips are available at the Yacht Club

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – Becker encouraged the public to consider applying to the open seat on the committee; members thanked Calmes for her service

NEXT MEETING: April 24, 2024

ADJOURNED – 8:28 PM