

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 6:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

Brisbane City Hall

50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order:

Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Committee members present:

Abney, Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk, Keogh, Salmon and Vladimirova.

Committee members absent:

N/A

Staff members present:

Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser

Management Analyst Muñoz

1. Adoption of the agenda.

- Agenda adopted.

2. Oral communications.

- N/A

3. Welcome to new OSEC members

a. Introductions

- Megan Keogh: Keogh joined OSEC because the issues are near and dear to her heart and she would like to learn and teach more. About Keogh: She works in a software company, and swims at the community pool. Her daughter grew-up in Brisbane and went to Lipman Middle School.
- Kameliya Vladimirova: Loves the beauty of Brisbane and the mountain. She has done some research on the toxicity of the environment and impacts on human health. She is passionate about living a sustainable lifestyle and promotes sustainability.
- Ebel asks that a new contact sheet be circulated.

4. Approve PCA areas for application

- Salmon read a letter composed from Del Schembari, SBM Regional PCA Committee Head addressed to property owners. The letter covered Plan Bay Area, PCA and PDA topics.
- PCA began in 2007, its main purpose being protection of natural resources.
- The letter discusses the PCA application for San Bruno Mountain and the importance of preserving the mountains habitat and natural resources.
- The letter explains that PCA status does not preclude properties from development or PDA designation. No action is required from the property owner; questions may be addressed to Schembari, additional information on the provided link in the letter.

- Salmon reiterated PCA status does not have authority power, but simply affords the opportunity to apply for grants.
- Staff and subcommittee members have developed a map for approval for the PCA application.
- San Bruno Mountain Watch Del Schembari addressed committee members. Schembari has sent this letter to acres owners and other property owners, there has been no response.
- Ebel asked Schembari if there are additional PCA applications in the area. Schembari answered there is a joint effort between Colma, Daly City, South San Francisco and Brisbane has identified areas they would like to include in the application. The final application will be submitted by San Mateo County. The application has to be submitted by May 30th.
- Ebel asked why all categories are not included in the application. Schembari mentioned Brisbane is not applicable for the Agricultural Lands designation. The 3 other designations are: Natural Landscapes, Urban Greening and Regional Recreation. Salmon offered to explain those designations to Ebel.
- Abney asked about the support from other cities on this application. Schembari said surrounding cities have been supportive. Schembari said Mountain Watch has prevented previous development on the mountain. After several lawsuits, 30 acres was given and prevented on high rise development. Towers were agreed upon.
- Abney asked about what will be done with the Colma dump. Schembari was not sure. The dump is closed and regularly tested for toxics.
- Review of the PCA map proposed. Kinser would like to gain approval from OSEC and bring to the City Council meeting on March 19th.
- The lower acres were previously considered from the subcommittee which, the OSEC liaisons removed. The lower acres will be added back for City Council consideration.
- There is a current PCA for the Bay Trail, there is not for the shoreline. The Bay Trail cannot be built on the east side of Highway 101 due to Caltrans jurisdiction and the necessity to fill the Bay.
- Kinser mentioned this application is focused on the mountain for time constraints and limited amount of grants issued. Other areas for consideration of PCA status can be applied for in another round of applications.
- Abney asked about inclusion of the Quarry. Salmon said the Quarry is within the sphere of influence of Brisbane. Abney asked if this area could be restored. Salmon said upper benches are important habitat to the San Bruno Elfyn and the entire Quarry contains water resources.
- It is not clear if a portion of a parcel can be highlighted for PCA status, thus highlighting the entire parcel should be ok.
- Hayuk asked why the roads between the acres parcels were not included in the PCA map. Kinser mentioned they were not included in the PCA map because the Open Space Plan does not include them and is used as a supporting document.
- Icehouse Hill will be added back to the map area due to its watershed connection.
- Abney asked where the water comes from that feeds into the lagoon. Salmon described the water from the mountain collects in channels, some water goes in the ground and some enters the lagoon.
- Roundhouse and the east part of the Bay have been removed from the PCA map under consideration. Ebel asked why the Roundhouse was removed. Kinser said the application

does not cover categories of historical significance. Salmon said there is marsh land there, but will likely be dealt with alongside the Baylands.

- Salmon moves to approve the amended map that will include the lower acres, and the rest of the Peking Handicraft and Levinson properties, and the water shed area between the lagoon and Bayshore Blvd. Hayuk seconds. All members are in favor.
- Salmon mentioned this can be supported as community members at the City Council meeting on March 19th.

5. Approval of the minutes

- Minutes approved.
- Salmon corrected the amended minutes in item 4, page 2. She is concerned about the health of the tree, not the appearance. Minutes will be changed back to the original wording.

6. Chair and committee member matters

- Abney reported that the Lions Club is in favor of donating a new Christmas tree as long as it is reasonably priced and have the tree become established before it is decorated with lights and until the other tree has lived out its natural life. Once the species and the price are determined, it can be taken to the Lions Club for approval.
- Kinser said this will have to deal with at a higher level and there will be great community interest. Hayuk said he thinks this should be taken to council and other committees.
- Kinser can consult with a certified arborist that works with the city to determine tree species recommendations. Kinser will discuss with staff and the city manager on how to move forward.
- Fieldman asked is staff has heard from the Sustainability Committee, to set up a meeting to review the Sustainability Plan for the Baylands. Kinser said planning staff has the lead on this and has not involved OSEC members or staff.
- Salmon wanted to clarify when the election of the vice chair and new chair will begin. Muñoz reviewed the when that occurred the last few years, May is the election and June is the start of the new chair and vice chair.

7. Earth Day and Habitat restoration day updates

- Muñoz went to the Earth Day site and met with Peter Stiehler and Paul Bouscal. A work plan was developed for the day and details were sent to Mountain Watch and Salmon. Recology has agreed to donate to pay for the shirts, which have arrived today. Muñoz will start to conduct outreach to residents around the Earth Day site. All OSEC members have copies of the flyers and are encouraged to recruit people they know.
- Salmon announced this to Mountain Watch volunteers at a restoration event. Mountain Watch does habitat restoration days every Saturday and occasional weekdays. At the last restoration event, 1,000 plants were planted on San Bruno Mountain.
- Fieldman asked how volunteers will get to this site since parking is limited. Russ Carmick is working on a shuttle, the flyer asks volunteers to carpool. Salmon suggests posting a map on the city website with the easiest walking route to the site (up Humboldt and across Trinity).

8. Subcommittee reports

- a. Ad hoc subcommittee Brisbane acres lot coverage: Abney and Salmon**
 - Salmon was not able to complete the letter due to working on the PCA application.
 - b. Education and outreach**
 - i. OSEC library shelf**
 - Review of the list of items for the OSEC library shelf. #2 and 22 are the same.
 - Fieldman has items to donate. Ebel will ask if donated items can be added to the library collection.
 - Keogh will work with Ebel to curate items for the library shelf.
 - Vladimirova asked if this list can be made available on the city website and how many of the items are available in an electronic version.
 - Abney said the library will take requests to acquire items, from Amazon for example.
 - c. Environmental action plan update**
 - Kinser gave the update that staff has been working on refining measures for the plan.
 - The consultant will take the measures and calculate GHG emissions savings. Measures can then be chosen with available funds taken into consideration for implementation.
 - Kinser wants to get feedback from the council liaisons on the measures.
 - Council will be updated on the status of the plan and review of measures.
 - OSEC members would like to review the measures and discuss.

9. Staff updates:

- a. Moving OSEC meetings to 3rd or 4th Wednesdays**
 - The Park and Recreation Commission would like to switch their meeting days to the second Wednesday of the month, if OSEC is willing to move to the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of the month. All in favor of moving to the 3rd Wednesdays of the month.
 - b. County Green Business Certification program**
 - The environmental action plan subcommittee considered joining the County Green Business Certification program as a part of the EAP.
 - The fee to join the program is \$1000, which was considered to be high.
 - Ebel inquired about lowering or adjusting the fee. Muñoz reached out to the County to ask about lowering or altering fees. The fee is currently at the lowest tier and cannot be changed at this time. There may be assistance with the fee next fiscal year, OSEC may revisit it then.
 - Ebel looked into the Nation Green Pages, there are not many requirements to join besides a fee, and thus Ebel did not feel it was worth joining.
 - Abney asked if the Chamber of Commerce would be willing to pay the fee.
 - Salmon asked if OSEC funds can cover the cost. Kinser said OSEC will review the measures and collectively decide. At this point the subcommittee and staff do not recommend joining the county program, but there will be a discussion and final decision with all OSEC members.
 - c. Monterey Pine Removal**
 - Muñoz looked at the most recent list of trees that Fieldman sent her of Monterey Pines that appear to be diseased. Some of the trees have been removed. Kinser and Muñoz

determined if the remaining trees are on public or private property. Letters will be sent out to those businesses.

- Fieldman asked if letters have already been sent out. Muñoz said letters have been sent out previously to the original list of businesses. Following those letters Muñoz contacted the arborist companies that gave quotes to ask if they have received inquiries about tree removal. The arborists have supplied quotes to some businesses.
- Fieldman said she has noticed some of the trees have been removed from Valley Drive.

d. Residential and commercial site treatments letter: paved vs. permeable vs. landscaping

- Kinser consulted with planning and public works staff about the zoning ordinance and will write the letter to state that half of the remaining lot needs to be landscaping after required parking and driveway in the zoning ordinance. After adjustments OSEC will approve before sending to the Planning Commission or City Council.

e. Park rental agreement amendment

- Muñoz will work with Stuart Schillinger on the amendment. Salmon sent Muñoz some language additions on the contract to consider. The changes may have to be approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.
- Salmon described the issues with the trees in Community Park to Keogh, about items being tied to trees and climbing on immature trees causing damage.
- Ebel asked about addition of a piñata pole. Staff will discuss that alongside the park rental agreement changes.

f. Litter

- Fieldman said dumping on San Bruno Mountain has gotten worse. A sign on Guadalupe is knocked over and should be propped up again. Kinser said this can be done through a service request. Fieldman said the sign is between Mission Blue and Carter Street, on Guadalupe. The police do patrol the area, but need to be present in town and parking is difficult at this site without being visible to potential people that plan to dump.
- Ebel asked if dumping has improved on Quarry Rd. Fieldman said people are still leaving dog poop on the side of the road. Ebel asked if there was a 'No Dumping' sign placed on Quarry Rd. Muñoz said no because it was the hope that the garbage can placed there would resolve the littering issue.
- Ebel said she leaves her trash bin on the street for public use and she has noticed her street is much cleaner. Salmon said remember not to place animal waste in the compost/ green bin.

g. Name plates

- Ebel would not like plastic name tags.
- Visibility on television or streaming is not clear enough to read the name tags.
- Members decided name tags are not needed.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM