

## OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 6:30pm  
Community Meeting Room  
Brisbane City Hall  
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

#### **Call to order**

-Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

#### **Committee members present:**

-Abney, Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk, and Salmon

#### **Committee members absent:**

-N/A

#### **Staff members present:**

- Finance Director Schillinger  
- Management Analyst Muñoz

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda.**

Move items 15 and 7 under item 3. Agenda adopted as amended.

#### **2. Oral communications for items not on the agenda.**

- Fieldman would like for staff to search for a biological inventory done on the Levinson property approximately 10 years ago. This item will be placed on the July agenda.
- Salmon would like staff to give an update on the status of priority conservation area.
- Ebel would like staff to search for a previous calendar of events and add calendar of events to the June agenda.
- Staff will check that council is able to meet with OSEC in July to go over the Work-plan.
- Mission Blue Nursery is having a plant sale this Saturday from 9 AM -2 PM.

#### **3. Invasive Species ordinance- Guest: Joe Cannon.**

- Fieldman asks Cannon about starting the process of an invasive species ordinance.
- Cannon says to start with positive education about San Bruno Mountain and invasive species. Supply a list of plants and why they are invasive.

- Cannon created his invasive species list by considering highly invasive and horticultural plants.
- Cannon feels that people that live closer to the mountain should be a target for education since they are the most prone to causing invasion on the mountain.
- Cannon suggests starting with a campaign, then the ordinance comes after so people are aware of what the ordinance is about.
- Cannon mentioned that the core issue is invasive vs. non-invasive instead of non-native vs. native due to the fact that over 1,200 plants have been naturalized in California and approximately 70 of those are highly invasive.
- Cannon goes over his list of invasive species and why he chose those plants:
  - a. Pampas grass: seeds spread by wind, spreading quickly and highly invasive.
  - b. Ox-eye daisy: starting to show up on the mountain and showing up on trails. People like having this plant in their gardens and spread around. Highly invasive.
  - c. Licorice plant: covers large areas of Mount Tamalpais. In some Brisbane yards, not yet on the mountain.
  - d. Cape ivy: Is on the mountain, creeps and takes over a habitat. Takes over canopies and moist areas. Currently in the bog of Guadalupe Canyon rd. a small sprig of it can start a new population. Destroyed by burying or covering with plastic. More invasive than English Ivy.
  - e. Pincushion plant: Believed to be spread by people since it is attractive. There is a lot along the roads in Brisbane. Spreads easily by attaching to clothes and animals. Cannon is unclear if all Scabiosa are invasive.
  - f. French broom: highly invasive.
  - g. Scotch broom: highly invasive.
  - h. Fountain grass: invasive in many areas of CA and Hawaii.
  - i. Cotoneaster: many people have this on their property and is often spread by birds. People just adopt this plant since it is discovered on their property.
  - j. Ageratina adenophora eupatory: invaded many places in CA.
  - k. Hedera helix English ivy: similar to other species of ivy, highly invasive.
  - l. Bellardia: small populations in the mountain. Has become an issue in national parks. Also named, 'Chinese houses'.
  - m. Hawthorn: grows through rhizomes, birds can also spread seeds. Want to discourage planting of this species.
  - n. Capeweed: creates a carpet/ ground cover creating a monoculture. Difficult to remove.
- There are many nurseries in the Bay Area that continue to sell these invasive species including species of broom. Complaint letters have been sent out but they continue to sell these plants.
- Salmon asked if Cannon can help form a list of replacement species for the invasive species. California Invasive Plant Council has a list on their website of common weeds. Many books and resources will have alternative species to use, particularly those vines that don't produce seed or flower.

- Ebel mentioned an additional species: Salsify. Has started from San Bruno and Santa Clara and spread through the rest of Brisbane. Cannon mentioned using a website as a tool to educate people.
- Currently the plants in the brochure are not the same as those on Cannon's list. Cannon omitted species of plants that people are not planting.
- Salmon mentioned the start of the campaign could be sending letters to homes that contain invasive species in their yard. A letter will be sent to them saying they can receive a free non-invasive plant from Mission Blue nursery if they remove their invasive plant/s.
- Fieldman asked if the State has taken any action on these invasive species. Cannon said there has been attempts but nurseries fight back. Nurseries make profits from selling exotic species. Cannon is not aware if there have been attempts at a County ordinance.
- Salmon said legislation is more often passed when there is a threat to agriculture, not environmental.
- Fieldman asked if nurseries check plants for invasiveness before selling them. Cannon said that this is difficult to control, especially when people illegally bring in plants or seeds.
- Schillinger suggests featuring an invasive species each month in a newsletter. Ebel and Fieldman will work on writing the content, Muñoz will give them the deadlines.

#### **4. Invasive species brochure.**

- Cannon suggests new invaders should be prioritized to prevent further spread.
- Showing before and after picture of a monoculture will be helpful in showing the effect of invasive species.
- target plants that are for sale in nurseries.
- Top plants Cannon suggests for the pamphlet: Pampas grass, Ox-eye daisy, Licorice plant, Pincushion plant, French broom and English ivy. Cannon will take a look at the pamphlet and make suggestions on the opening paragraph. Cannon will get back to us in a few weeks.
- Abney asked if there is a possibility to have an invasive species tab on the city website for easy access. Schillinger will check.

#### **5. Monterey Pine removal, quotes and species replacement list.**

- Review of the Brisbane approved street tree list.
- Cannon suggests running the list by Friends of the Urban Forest.
- Salmon asked if Cannon has suggestions for native trees to plant in replacement of the Monterey pines: California Bay is a nice evergreen tree. Oaks are slow growing. Acacia tree. Some large bushes can be cultivated into trees: Toyon tree, Arroyo Willow, Hollyleaf cherry, Wax Myrtle and Blue elderberry.
- The Brazilian pepper tree is an invasive species on the approved street tree list.

- Cannon mentioned that in Australia they have incorporated native tree species and the increase of birds followed, the Audubon Society may have a list of trees that support birds.
- To alter the street tree list OSEC should meet with Public Works. Ebel said a master spread sheet should be created for city wide use.

#### **6. Update on Quarry Rd. Clean-Up day.**

- Quarry Rd. clean-up day is June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Cannon recommends that removal of the trash would be the best way to focus the efforts of the clean-up day.

#### **7. Polystyrene ban letter to business owners.**

- Abney would like to add that Polystyrene is carcinogenic in the letter.
- Salmon and Hayuk say the letter is too long.
- The questionnaire should have 'Yes' and 'No' check boxes. A question should be added asking if the ordinance will cause hardship for their business.
- Fieldman will edit the letter.
- Abney and Muñoz will work on the presentation, gathering samples from vendors and creating an updated cost list.
- After the meeting with business owners the subcommittee can meet with council and discuss what occurred in the meeting.
- The target date to meet with business owners is on June 19 at 4 PM. The target date to meet with City Council is July 17.

#### **8. Draft fossil fuels divestment letter to CalPERS and Resolution.**

- City Council voted to send a letter to CalPERS to divest from fossil fuels. Letter has been approved and will be sent to council along with the resolution.

#### **9. Recap on Habitat Restoration Day at Costafios Canyon.**

- The event went well. Salmon will send Muñoz pictures of the event. Salmon did most of the clean-up at the bottom of the canyon. Many native plants were flourishing in previously restored area.

#### **10. Carbon Calculator community education.**

- Ebel has collected all the data from Berkeley needed to complete the calculator. When the time comes to build out the calculator OSEC will have weekend work days to construct it. This item will be added on the July agenda. This will be competed for the Community Fair.

#### **11. PV Panels and Parking lots.**

- Muñoz supplied information about greening parking lots to supply shade. Salmon said she parks in a parking lot with a species of tree that releases sticky substances. Salmon will look into what species those trees are.
- There should be permeable surfaces and proper drainage in parking lots. The topic of permeable surface and bio swale should be considered. Non-permeable surfaces create run-off during rain and possible local flooding. Ebel said there are many reasons why Brisbane has resisted permeable surfaces. Brisbane has a high water table creating ground water intrusion in homes and landslide issues.
- Ebel would like to use the guideline that 50% of the parking lot be shaded, leaving it to the discretion of the property owner that it would be reached by planting trees or installing PV panels in their parking lot.
- Planning will need to be consulted on moving forward with this before bringing it to council. Staff from planning will be invited to a future meeting.

## **12. Update on the CAG.**

- The next BBCAG meeting is Tuesday, May 20 at 7 PM. There will be a presentation by Dr. Horne, *Constructed wetlands that treat waste, look great, and provide excellent wildlife habitat*. Dr. Horne received his education in the UK extensively covering topics on biochemistry, chemistry and zoology. Dr. Horne has experience with contaminants such as those found in the Baylands; copper, zinc, lead, mercury etc.
- The discussion will cover Unit Process Natural Treatment Wetlands (UPNTS), and the ability to process contaminants while remaining aesthetically pleasing and providing valuable habitat.
- Salmon would like to know if this meeting can be recorded and broadcasted, Schillinger will find out.
- Fieldman suggests Dr. Horne sharing his presentation materials. Schillinger said those can be shared on the city website.

## **13. Brisbane Acres lot coverage.**

- Muñoz included in the packet the definition of “Lot coverage”, also proposed rewording of the municode.
- Muñoz searched for lot sizes in the acres, this information was not available on the county assessors’ website.
- Planning staff will be invited to a future meeting to go over the language for the ordinance. Then the recommendation can go to council and the planning commission.
- The language of the amended ordinance should be clear and not open to interpretation.

## **14. Update on PACE.**

- Fieldman gave an update. PACE stands for Property Accessed Clean Energy. It is a financing strategy funded by bonds, allowing home owners to take loans against their property tax.
- The FHFA suspended funding for this due to the economic downfall and foreclosure on homes.
- Muñoz added that there is financing available for residential and commercial projects.
- California FIRST website is up and accepting applications for commercial and multifamily units. - PACE may be incorporated in the Energy Action Plan for the City.

#### **15. Update on Park Rental agreement.**

- This item was about amending the park rental agreement to include not hanging objects or placing nails in trees of Community Park.
- The Park and Recreation commission decided against amending the rental agreement. The agreement could possibly be amended for new planted trees and not mature trees.
- Salmon may go to a future Parks and Recreation commission meeting to discuss this item.

#### **16. Approval of the minutes.**

- Minutes will be approved next meeting.

#### **17. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM