

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Chair Fieldman called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Committee members present:

Court, Ebel, Gutekanst, Hayuk, Salmon, Sweeney, and Chair Fieldman

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Others:

Waymond Wong, Supervisor, San Mateo County Environmental Health Services

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Under "Other Committee Matters" MC Salmon asked to add "Tree Height in Northeast Ridge" to the agenda. MC Gutekanst moved and MC Hayuk seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Oral Communications for items not on the agenda.

There were no public comments under Oral Communications.

**3. Discussion of County Polystyrene Ban Ordinance
with Waymond Wong, San Mateo County Environmental Health Services.**

Chair Fieldman introduced Mr. Waymond Wong, Supervisor with the San Mateo County Environmental Health Services. Mr. Wong explained that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors passed a countywide prohibition on food service ware made of polystyrene ("Styrofoam") that took effect July 1, 2011. The County ordinance applies only to unincorporated portions of San Mateo County. Some cities have adopted the County's ordinance "by reference" while other jurisdictions have passed their own ordinance. He explained that the County health inspectors that work with restaurants provide outreach,

education, and enforcement. After presenting a basic overview of the County's polystyrene ban, Mr. Wong took questions from the Committee.

MC Salmon asked which cities had adopted the ordinance, and how the cost of alternative products compare to polystyrene. Management Analyst Pontecorvo referred to the staff report list of cities that have adopted the ordinance to date. Mr. Wong offered to follow up with information on biodegradable and compostable products and costs. MC Ebel inquired about the option of consumers bringing their own reusable containers. Mr. Wong noted that Environmental Health inspectors are concerned about public health issues such as cross-contamination and food-borne illness.

After a lengthy discussion, Chair Fieldman thanked Mr. Wong for his presentation. Mr Wong remained for the duration of the Committee's deliberations. MC Salmon made a motion to recommend that the Council adopt the County's polystyrene ordinance. MC Ebel stated that she did not feel ready to support the recommendation at this time. She expressed concerns about the lack of biodegradability of many products that claim to be compostable, and the problem of diverting food crops into disposable products. MC Gutekanst and Chair Fieldman acknowledged these concerns but noted that Styrofoam is toxic to wildlife whereas the alternatives are safer.

MC Gutekanst then made a motion to table the discussion for one month, seconded by MC Hayuk. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Fieldman again thanked Mr. Wong for attending the meeting.

4. Follow-up on County Reusable Bag Ordinance.

a. Update and Demonstration of Reusable Bags

Chair Fieldman invited Committee members to demonstrate their favorite reusable bags. MC Ebel shared a bag that she sewed from an old pair of jeans. MC Gutekanst showed three bags. Chair Fieldman demonstrated several bags. MC Salmon described her favorite bag. MC Court also displayed a few of her reusable bags. The Committee discussed the idea of sponsoring a reusable bag contest, and possibly bringing a sewing machine to make bags at the Community Festival.

5 Other Committee Matters.

a. Habitat Restoration Day

Management Analyst Pontecorvo presented the report on Habitat Restoration Day. She informed the Committee that this would be the 10th annual stewardship event sponsored by the Committee in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Committee unanimously favored going forward with the event. MC Salmon recommended returning to Costanos Canyon and the Committee was in agreement. MC Gutekanst and MC Salmon volunteered to serve on the Habitat Restoration Day subcommittee.

b. HCP TAC meeting report

MC Salmon attended the meeting and provided a brief report to the Committee. She also announced the next Mountain Watch plant sale at the Mission Blue Nursery would take place on Saturday March 2 from 9am – 2pm.

c. Sustainability Committee update

Chair Fieldman reported that the Sustainability Committee has met twice since the

beginning of the year. Once the Sustainability Goals for the Baylands document is completed, it will go to the City Council. The Committee will then turn to developing sustainability metrics and Key Performance Indicators.

d. Community Education subcommittee update

MC Salmon reported that the City Council approved the subcommittee's recommendation to show the documentary No Deposit, No Return, as well as an excerpt from another archival video of interviews. The Committee considered various dates and decided on Sunday May 5 at 3:30 pm. Further discussion about the program details and publicity was agendaized for the March meeting.

e. Science Fair

MC Ebel reported on her experience attending the Science Fair for two evenings. She evaluated and scored each project and selected two outstanding ones to be recognized with an Ecology Award. One of the winning projects involved an experiment investigating powering a car with PV, while the other involved a solar hot dog cooker. The Committee thanked MC Ebel for her participation in the Science Fair.

f. CAG update

MC Gutekanst reported that the January 2013 CAG meeting featured two people from the Department of Toxic Substance Control discussing Operations and Maintenance Plans. She noted that the CAG was not scheduled to meet in February.

g. Rat poison

Chair Fieldman agendaized this issue. She informed the Committee that a common rat poison is harming hawks, foxes, and other wildlife that eat the rats. She noted that her senior seminar students at San Francisco State University are studying this issue and would like to make a presentation to the Open Space and Ecology Committee. The Committee agreed to invite the students to share their presentation at the March meeting.

h. DEIR update

Administrative Services Director Schillinger said that there is no set date for the release of the EIR.

i. Tree height in Northeast Ridge

MC Salmon inquired about the Landscape Maintenance Manual for the Northeast Ridge. Administrative Services Director Schillinger reported that City staff had been unable able to locate it and were still in the process of tracking down the document.

6. Approval of minutes: December 11, 2012.

MC Gutekanst made a motion to approve the minutes. MC Ebel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Next meeting date.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday March 13 at 6:30pm.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.