

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 6:30PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

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

Committee members present:

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

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger
Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Others:

San Francisco State University students: Christina Manalansan, Malinda Mather and Dominique Piccinino

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Under "Other Committee Matters" Chair Gutekanst asked to add "Fukushima Reactor 4" to the agenda. MC Salmon 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. Presentation by S.F. State students on Plastic Debris in the Marine Environment.

MC Fieldman introduced three of her students from San Francisco State University: Christina Manalansan, Malinda Mather and Dominique Piccinino. The students would be sharing a presentation on plastic pollution in the marine environment, and had also created an exhibit on this topic that is on display in the Brisbane Library.

The students provided a PowerPoint presentation that covered the history of plastics, from manufacturing out of petroleum, to the proliferation of plastic products that often

end up in the oceans. They stressed that the Pacific Garbage Patch and other plastic debris gyres in the marine environment derive primarily from land based sources and pose serious threats to the survival of wildlife as well as to human health.

Ms. Manalansan, Mather and Piccinino concluded by focusing attention on potential solutions to the problem of plastic pollution, including individual consumer actions, producer responsibility, and public policies such as bag bans. They invited everyone to see their exhibit at the Brisbane Library, and then took questions from Committee members. After a period of discussion, the Committee thanked the students and commended them on their excellent presentation.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chair Gutekanst nominated MC Fieldman for Chair of the Open Space and Ecology Committee. MC Salmon seconded the motion. Ms. Fieldman was elected Chair by a unanimous vote. MC Salmon then nominated Ms. Gutekanst for Vice-Chair, seconded by MC Hayuk. The motion passed unanimously.

5. City Council Matters.

a. Sustainability Goals for the Baylands

Administrative Services Director Schillinger reported on the history of the Sustainability Committee and the initial document drafted by the Committee entitled Sustainability Goals for the Baylands. He noted that it is an aspirational document based on the framework of the 10 One Planet Living principles. The next stages of the process will be to formulate a detailed Action Plan with specific steps to implement the broad goals, including performance indicators and evaluation measures.

Mr. Schillinger noted the City Council had just referred the report to OSEC, the Planning Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission for their input. The Council asked that each advisory board review the Sustainability Goals and submit their comments on the document by July. The Committee decided to dedicate the June OSEC meeting to a thorough review of the Sustainability document, with a focus on issues that may require greater emphasis, such as toxics and remediation.

The Committee recessed for a ten minute break.

b. CEQA and EIR Training

Administrative Services Director Schillinger conveyed that the City Council had approved a contract with a consultant to provide training on CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and the environmental review process. The trainings will serve to educate the public on how to effectively read and comment on the EIR (Environmental Impact Report). There will be one introductory training that all Commission/Committee members are expected to attend (or to watch on video, if necessary). Following this, there will be individualized trainings for each advisory board. The Draft EIR will be released after the completion of all trainings.

6. Other Committee Matters.

a. CAG update

Chair Gutekanst announced that the next meeting of the CAG would take place on May 15 at 7pm in the Community Center. The agenda includes a presentation by Joe LaClair, Chief Planner at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). In addition, there will be a report on tire dumps in the landfill.

b. Habitat Restoration Day report

Management Analyst Pontecorvo expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in this year's Habitat Restoration Day, including members of the Committee, Mountain Watch, community volunteers, and Parks and Recreation staff. Approximately 55 people attended the Earth Day event at Costanos Canyon.

c. Review of updated Work Plan

Management Analyst Pontecorvo reported that staff edited the Open Space and Ecology Work Plan to reflect the Committee's discussion at its April meeting. The Committee reviewed the revisions and approved the updated work plan.

MC Salmon inquired about the Habitat Conservation Plan. Management Analyst Pontecorvo responded that staff is setting up a meeting between City Manager Holstine and HCP subcommittee members Salmon, Gutekanst, and Sweeney. She also announced that the next HCP TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meeting would take place at City Hall on May 10.

c. Recognition of Service by Ray Miller, Peter Stiehler, and Anjana Richards

Chair Gutekanst informed the Committee that she had acquired a used bench to place in the Brisbane Acres in honor of Peter Stiehler's service. She is also working on a scrapbook for Mr. Miller, and would purchase a native plant for Ms. Richards.

d. Fukushima Reactor 4

MC Fieldman explained the danger of Fukushima Reactor 4, and noted that she had submitted a letter to the City Council on this topic. She requested agendaizing a fuller discussion of this matter at the June OSEC meeting.

7. Approval of minutes: April 10, 2012.

MC Hayuk made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012. MC Sweeney seconded. The motion passed with five votes; MC Fieldman abstained.

8. Next meeting date: June 12, 2012

The next meeting date was set for June 12, 2012.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.