

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 6:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

Brisbane City Hall

50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order:

Hayuk called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Committee members present:

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

Committee members absent:

Keogh

Staff members present:

Management Analyst Muñoz

1. Adoption of the agenda

- Agenda adopted.

2. Oral Communications*

- N/A

3. Presentation by Napallo Gomez-Somer from PG&E on Gas Line Repairs

- Austin Sharp, Customer and Community Outreach at PG&E will be presenting.
- Sharp will discuss the Leak Optimization Program and the distribution system.
- Gas lines are monitored based on Federal and State guidelines, which are checked every year for sensitive areas such as hospitals and schools. Service territories are split in fifths to survey for a five year period.
- New section of pipelines and meters are replaced as needed. Technology has improved the speed and accuracy of this work.
- Paccaro is a new technology that is mounted on a vehicle for leak detection; it sweeps a broad area quickly.
- Leaks were not found in residential Brisbane.
- There is a priority system in fixing leaks.
- Hayuk would like a system wide leakage average that contributes to GHG emissions.
- Brisbane is in the Peninsula division, which is lumped in with South San Francisco to Stanford.
- Ebel and Salmon would like Brisbane specific emission information.
- Paccaro gives data on leaks and helps dictate what lines will need repairs.
- Paccaro covers 600-100 feet where leak indications will be.
- Paccaro has allowed response and repair times to be more efficient.
- When digging in your yard be sure to call 811 before you dig.

- Scott Hart, Local Government relations, PG&E. Several inspections are done regularly. Readings are verified and investigations are done for corrosion. Pressure tests were completed on the line that goes over San Bruno Mountain. Pressure testing is held over a period of time, if it passes an 8 hour test, it is placed back into service. Water is often used for pressure testing. The line over San Bruno Mountain passed the pressure test.
- Next time Brisbane will be surveyed, it will be done with Paccaro and foot verification.
- Gomez-Somer will gather requested information from PG&E and send it to staff.

4. Chair and committee member matters

- Saturday night at 7pm there will be a documentary shown, "The Edge of the Wild" at the Mission Blue Nursery. Refreshments will be served, and the suggested donation is \$15.
- Abney would like to add to the next agenda: discussion of adding more Community Garden Space.
- Hayuk would like to request from staff a map of city owned properties to aid in this discussion.
- This may be discussed as a work plan item next meeting.
- Vladimirova would like to schedule presentations when there are less pressing matters to discuss.
- Ebel has noticed a new species of butterfly, Fieldman said this is a Gulf fritillary butterfly, and this year there are more. Ebel has also noticed a Barn Owl, which is also a rare sighting in this area. Ebel would like to know about a species clearing house, where sightings of species can be reported.
- Hayuk mentioned several agencies such as Fish and Wildlife service, track species migration and academic work.
- Fieldman said there is a bee counting project and asking citizen scientists to identify sightings of different type of bees. Fieldman also mentioned the BioBlitz project, which counts as many species as possible; this data can show patterns of species over time.
- Fieldman said a list can be compiled and possibly posted on the city website.
- Hayuk added that there should be available applications on smart phones.
- Ebel would like an update on letters previously submitted by OSEC to City Council: Lot Coverage, Paving of back yards and Permeable pavements. This was going to be discussed in a previous city council meeting, which has been moved. Staff will follow up.
- Fieldman asked about a trash can being placed on Quarry Rd. Staff will check.
- Staff will check if links to Craigslist or Freecycle can be posted on the city website.

5. Climate Friendly Purchasing Guide review with cost considerations

- This guide is a part of the climate action plan. The purchasing guide will play a part in reducing municipal greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ebel distributed a list of environmentally preferred office items she compiled.
- Vladimirova noted that it appears that the environmentally preferred products mainly cost less than the conventional counterpart.
- Staff will identify preferred suppliers to determine what environmentally friendly products they offer.
- Salmon feels the guide should chose products that have low environmental impact over fiscally responsible product choices.
- Fieldman asked if the city recycles toner cartridges. Staff will find out.
- Ebel asked if this plan was based off of San Mateo County's policy. This plan was based off of the county's policy, with consideration of City of Berkeley's policy as well.
- Ebel would like to add non-chlorine bleach paper and 50% post-consumer content paper. Salmon said this type of paper may not work with the copiers in the city. Hayuk suggests testing samples of paper to see how they fair with the machines.
- Ebel volunteers to work on finding products starting in January, given preferred suppliers.
- Potentially this guide could be shared with local businesses and schools.

- Hayuk mentioned, given it is not brand specific or endorsing a business. Guidance from the city attorney should also be sought out.

6. Discuss approach to implement Climate Action Plan

- Ebel believes a member of the planning commission should sit on the CAP subcommittee.
- Fieldman would like to have a roll out event for the CAP.
- Several OSEC members feel the community is overwhelmed with the FEIR and Parkside Plan, that the roll out should be sometime next year.
- Roll out is potentially next meeting, since the liaisons were going to be present and the video from Day in the Park will be ready to show.
- Fieldman would like to continue education and outreach such as: place banners on Visitacion Ave., post posters, book club, film series and discussion with the Mayor. Fieldman recommends a film "This changes everything" by Klein. Ebel said she is still attempting to get the OSEC book shelf back at the library.
- Fieldman would like a letter from the mayor inviting people to the film and discussion after. Refreshments should also attract community members to attend.
- Ebel suggests OSEC members to bring a suggested item from the CAP to move forward, which requires low engagement.
- Fieldman would like to have climate related facts posted in the weekly Community Engagement posts. Outreach and education subcommittee may write these posts and email them to staff.

7. Subcommittee reports

a. Community Festival

- Salmon mentioned many people participated in being interviewed for the short film.

b. Letter to City Council requesting a statement of opposition to fracking

- Ebel would like to change the word "caustic" for "carcinogenic". Fieldman suggest "toxic".

8. Staff updates:

Lagoon cleanup update

- There were 45 volunteers and 3,633 gallons of solid waste removed.
- Salmon said she removed a lot of trash that day, and is disappointed to see much of the litter has returned. Salmon feels this should be addressed by Public Safety and the Police Department.

Deep root watering

- Moved to next meeting.

Monterey pine removal

- From November 2014 – October 2015, 30 dead and deceased trees have been permitted to be removed, most of them located on Valley Dr.

Brisbane water reductions

- Water reductions requirements are different for Brisbane, since Brisbane is a small water dealer the State gave two options to reduce water use: 1. Reduce water use by 25% or 2. Implement a two day per week irrigation schedule. Brisbane has opted to implement the irrigation schedule.
- The State Water Control Resources Board is comparing water reductions from June 2015 – February 2016 with June 2013- February 2014. For Brisbane: water reductions reach 20.3% between June – September 2015, reductions are greater at 25.3% between June – September 2014.

- The community has been receptive to the water schedule and the city responds to calls reporting water misuse.
- Salmon and Ebel said the lawn during Day in the Park was saturated with water.

Parkside Plan representative

- The representative will attend the October 28th stakeholder meeting.
- Hayuk volunteers to be the representative.
- Ebel suggests that OSEC members attend the Pop-up event this Saturday.

CCA/E update and next meeting

- Community Choice Aggregation is now called Peninsula Clean Energy.
- The feasibility study has been completed and presented to the Board of Supervisors.
- There are 3 basic scenarios in consideration for the amount of renewable energy that will be offered: 1. 35-50%, 2. 50-75% and 3. 100%. In each scenario an individual can opt to get 100% renewable energy at a premium rate. You will automatically be enrolled in this program and can opt out, there will be a fee associated with opting out.
- A Joint Powers Agreement is planned to be adopted by this winter and roll out of the program by August 2016. A new PCA website will launch in a few days that staff can forward to the committee along with a pamphlet.

Tour of the anaerobic digester

- No one was interested in winning the tour at Day in the Park.
- OSEC members would like to go on the tour.
- Staff will contact South San Francisco Scavenger to coordinate a date.

9. Approval of the minutes

- Ebel's suggested changes will be made: adjust language in section 3a, change "may" to "will" and clarify home energy upgrades in 3.1.1 B.
- Minutes approved with amendments.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.