

## **Open Space & Ecology Committee Meeting**

Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 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, Keogh, and Salmon

### **Committee members absent:**

- Vladimirova

### **Staff members present:**

Deputy Director of Public Works Kinser

Management Analyst Escoffier

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

- Agenda adopted.

#### **2. Oral communications**

-N/A

#### **3. Presentation of the vegetation management plan by Fred Smith, former City staff for OSEC, for approval**

- Smith went over the vegetation management plan for 2016.

- The main ridge of the mountain has some fennel and broom that has been removed and sprouts will be treated.

- Invasive native brush has started to encroach on grass land, brush will be cut and stumps will be treated. This technique uses less herbicide.

- On city lots some pine trees will be removed.

- Lot 98 was recently acquired and will be treated.

- Salmon asked how the Scabiosa will be removed. Smith said either by hand or spray treatment.

- Keogh asked about the time frame for treatment. Kinser said last year it was roughly six months after the plan was approved.

- Fieldman asked if anyone is monitoring the effects of vegetation management. Smith said the contractors report observations every year. Field visits and volunteers elude staff to other issues on the mountain. Kinser added this year the contractors will do mapping.

- Salmon asked if there will be replanting after removal of brush. Smith said no, the understory plants and grasses will recover.

- Hayuk asked about lot 98 treatment. Smith said the broom in the area is being worked on to prevent further spreading from nearby private property.
- Ebel made a statement that broom and Scabiosa are invasive species and broom is often sold at plant nurseries. Keogh suggests outreach to ask people not to plant broom.
- In upper Paul Ave. acacia trees have been removed and eucalyptus sprouts are being treated.
- Lot 40 a raptor nesting survey may be done to verify that there are no active nests prior to treatment.
- Michelle Chan from Lipman Middle School asked if there are requirements to remove broom from private property. Kinser said residents receive notices from the fire department.
- Fieldman would like to move forward with an invasive plant ordinance.
- Salmon asked what could be done with more funding. Smith replied the funding has been significantly increased from previous years and they are reaching capacity for the amount of work they can do.
- Salmon asked about treatment for the ivy that is overgrowing in canyons. Smith said next year this can be looked at for the next vegetation management plan.
- The vegetation management plan is approved.

**4. Community Garden Space Presentation from Mark Slichter of Callendar Associates re: pilot turf replacement study to replant four City parcels with low water demand native plantings**

- Randy Breault gave the background that City Council asked for funds to conduct a tree study. After the study was complete, there were funds left over. Up to 25% of Brisbane's water use comes from irrigation as a fixed account. Breault thought to do a study on city owned parcels in Crocker Industrial Park and the central part of town on the landscapes to determine potential water savings. After the study is complete it will be presented to City Council.
- Slichter started with background information. In January there was a meeting with city staff and San Bruno Mountain Watch, a draft plan was developed in this meeting.
- Turf was popular in the past. Costs of implementation and water savings will be estimated with replacing turf with water saving landscapes.
- The study sites are: North Hill pump station (88 North Hill), Crocker Industrial Park entrance, City Hall, and Brisbane Park. Design will be a mix of conventional and contemporary, with consideration of energy and water conservation.
- Nate Ritchie spoke about site details. At City Hall the turf areas may be replaced, proposed plants will go along with the bioswale. All plants are low water use and incorporate some natives recommended from San Bruno Mountain Watch.
- At Brisbane Park turf in areas that are not highly used may be replaced and plants around the Christmas tree. Keogh mentioned that the Christmas tree may be replaced. Salmon added there is a lot of foot traffic around the tree, especially during the holidays when people take photos around the tree. Salmon also added that the water table at the park is high and appropriate plants should be chosen.
- Breault asked about replacing the Christmas tree. Salmon gave the background, that former OSEC member Sweeney suggested planting a younger tree next to the current Christmas tree to become established and shielded.

- Industrial park entrance: turf by the signage will be replaced. A variation of texture, color and height will be used.
- North hill pump station: Turf will be replaced with plants that homeowners can incorporate into their own landscape. This will be a learning opportunity for the community to come look at the plants, which plants will be labeled for identification. Signs may be added about local ecology and water savings.
- Ebel suggests all landscape areas should consist of 50% minimum native plants. Calflora could also be a good website to look at the changed status over time of invasive species. Salmon would like native plants to be native to San Bruno Mountain, not just native to California. Breault added this is why San Bruno Mountain Watch has been involved to help assist in choosing the appropriate plants.
- Salmon recommends taking microclimates and soil moisture into consideration at the different sites.

## **5. Approval of the minutes**

- Ebel would like to add minutes about what was said about multiunit complexes with regards to composting, since community members were asking her questions. It was suggested that Ebel refer the community members with questions to South San Francisco Scavenger.
- Spelling correction from pale to pail.
- The Bay Natives Nursery is not limited to San Bruno Mountain natives.
- Change meets to meats.
- Minutes adopted as amended.

## **6. Chair and committee member matters**

- Salmon mentioned that a staff member and a committee member attend the Open Space Conference each year. Keogh will go to the conference.
- Ebel asked about the flood management planning maps. An email was sent to Fieldman to answer her question. Kinser clarified that this was an administrative change and did not change how planning is done.
- Ebel asked about Title 24 training, this was discussed in the CAP meeting.

## **7. Subcommittee reports**

### **a. Habitat Restoration Days**

- Salmon announced that Earth Day will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9am-1pm on Monarch Drive between Mission Blue Drive and North Hill Drive.
- Escoffier reported that the site activity permit has been approved. Escoffier is also coordinating with San Bruno Mountain Watch staff to develop a plan for the day.
- Keogh asked if corporate volunteers will join. Escoffier will contact them.
- Salmon asked to post the event in the Luminary and the Star.
- Committee members will be assigned to make sure volunteers disinfect their shoes before doing work.

- Kinser discussed the estimate for Shelterbelt to do restoration work on Firth Canyon. Equipment cannot access the canyon, so it will require handwork. The estimated cost is \$63,000. Salmon feels that the canyon should be restored and the work that is required is beyond the scope of a volunteer work day.
- Staff will bring this estimate to the budget hearings to ask to fund this special project. Keogh suggests after the professional work is complete; volunteers can maintain the canyon.

**b. Bike to Work day**

- Bike to work day is May 12.
- Salmon will provide AAA maps. Staff will provide an easel.
- Ebel will volunteer.

**c. Christmas tree**

- Ebel recommends placing the new tree to the south east of the old tree to prevent wind damage.
- Salmon has not contacted Sweeney.

**d. CAP subcommittee**

- Based on Santa Clara's tool kit, Ebel put together a similar tool kit.
- Ebel gave the update that the toolkit will contain rebates and coupons, instead of giving away items.
- Ebel will put together user guides.
- Salmon recommends having this toolkit at the Community Festival.
- Ebel asked where should the tool box be checked out from and who will restock it.
- Escoffier recommends that the Green Team at Lipman can restock the toolkit.
- Salmon would like this announced in the Star.
- Fieldman gave the update that training for city staff was discussed. Fieldman found a training that was given at Fort Lauderdale which was a good example, but may be too extensive. Fieldman feels that city staff should be trained in climate basics.
- Escoffier and Ebel worked on the purchasing guide. Ebel will send Escoffier links about reusable pens and highlighters.
- Flags on Visitacion Ave. were discussed for Earth Day. Salmon recommends children doing the artwork on pillow cases; Fieldman suggests doing this at the OSEC booth.
- Students going door-to-door to discuss energy savings and rebates were discussed. If students were to go door-to-door, they would need parents or chaperones. Fieldman suggests finding out about insurance requirements etc. Ebel will contact the school.
- Kinser mentioned public transit information being placed on the website.
- Fieldman asked about involving the County to assist on items in the Climate Action Plan. Kinser gave the update that the working group for C/CAG has had a change in staff and some items have lost steam. Staff has mentioned items several times. Fieldman would like to discuss this at the next CAP meeting.

**e. Draft Letter to City Council re: Baylands land use recommendation and adequacy of the EIR for said land use**

- Ebel and Fieldman have been working on the letter based off of the One Planet Principles from the Sustainability Framework.
- Fieldman asked for feedback on the letter. Keogh suggests spelling out the acronyms for the first time it is used.
- OSEC members agreed to have a special meeting to approve the letter on April 6.

**f. Community Garden Space outreach**

- Keogh reached out to Tyler Coon to discuss the expansion of the community garden.
- Coon thought the location was good. The area may be impermeable. Ebel asked if this was an old rail line, arsenic contamination could be an issue. Salmon suggests having the site tested.
- Abney suggests incorporating the extra plots into the orchard. Ebel mentioned there may be an issue with complying with ADA guidelines.
- Ebel mentioned that Vladimirova in a previous meeting mentioned that the proposed site would be good for people that live at the Ridge. Ebel said she spoke to a community member and they suggested that having a garden near the Mission Blue Center could be better.
- Abney added the proposed site has dumping issues and wildlife. Kinser said it will be somewhat protected with a fence, and hopefully dumping will be discouraged if a garden is placed there.
- Keogh has the wait list, she will contact people on the list to ask if they would be willing to walk or drive to South Hill to have a plot if a second community garden would be there.

**8. Staff updates: The Climate Reality Leadership Corps presentation**

- Escoffier gave the update that the presentation has been moved to April.
- Kinser added to fill out the survey for the Bike Pedestrian Master Plan.
- BES toured City Hall. Staff quizzed kids on sorting solid wastes in the kitchen.

**9. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.