

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

Minutes

Wednesday, April 20, 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.
- Salmon would like to discuss Garbage. It will be discussed under Committee member matters.

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

-N/A

#### **3. Presentation from Gary White, a Volunteer Climate Leader with the Climate Reality Leadership Corps**

- The Climate Reality Project was created about 10 years ago, by the Al Gore administration.
- Training is provided large groups to present to the public on climate change.
- White discussed the impacts of fossil fuels on increasing climate.
- Drought impacts: water shortages, decrease in crop yield and food scarcity.
- Climate change impacts natural systems: more frequent storms, increase in natural fires, carbon sequestration by forests, the arctic environment (melting of glaciers), subsidence of land, air quality and loss of species diversity/ increased extinction.
- Industrial accidents lead to greater environmental degradation, such as methane or oil leaks.
- Solutions to climate change issues: renewable energy (e.g. wind and solar).
- The COP21 (Conference of Parties): 194 countries attended. An agreement was reached to keep the temperature below 2 degrees centigrade, curb emissions and take inventory each year to adjust goals.
- International accomplishments: closing of coal plants in Scotland, Fog harvesting in Morocco, Floating solar farm in London etc.

- Climate activism: banning of fracking and fossil fuel stock divestment.
- California has been a leader in climate legislation.
- San Mateo County is taking climate action by adopting Peninsula Clean Energy and the San Mateo Sea Level Rise Initiative.
- Technological advances have aided in combating climate change such as green buildings and solar pavement.
- What can you do to combat climate change: talk about it to your community and take action.
- Ebel asked about energy demand in Scotland. White replied- Fossil plants are not being built, they have several renewable energy farms, and they require fossil fuels as a backup.
- Ebel asked about 15-20% emissions from cement. White said human made carbon is the main concern and much of the planet has been cemented. Fieldman said she has read that carbon emissions from cement are 5%. White said his figure may be beyond California. Salmon asked about the emissions created from cement processing. White said it is an energy intensive process and the materials are likely carbon based.
- White asked about Brisbane's initiatives to combat climate change. Fieldman listed: the Climate Action Plan, Fossil Fuels divestment and enrollment in Peninsula Clean Energy.
- Salmon said the presentation did not address the issue of the growing population. White agreed and said nuclear energy is not included in the presentation materials as well.
- Hayuk mentioned Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) which is a cutting edge technology which does not create waste. White described horizontal turbines on the ocean floor that will be installed at New York Harbor; Hayuk said there is a proposal to install them under the Golden Gate Bridge as well.
- Fieldman mentioned the presentation should mention that GHG emissions will continue to rise if production ceased today. White said he does mention this to non-professional audiences.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes**

- Ebel would like to add details about the second garden location. Ebel will email Escoffier the details.
- Minutes adopted as amended.

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

- Salmon announced that Earth Day is this Saturday from 9am -1pm. Bring gloves and sunscreen. A lunch and t-shirt will be provided.
- Salmon announced there will be a free screening at the Mission Blue ball field of *Edge of the Wild*, which is about the Habitat Conservation Plan and Endangered Species Act.
- Salmon announced May 14 is a native plant sale at the Mission Blue Nursery hosted by SBMW.
- Ebel announced that there is Styrofoam litter offsite from the skate park project.
- Ebel discussed an application she has begun to use called Home Connect, it helps to decrease the need for peak energy and peak energy plants.
- Salmon contacted South San Francisco Scavenger about a question for recycling plastic bags. Scavenger has a collection box at the post office. Salmon was not aware of this box and would like it to be publicized.

- Ebel announced that, Susan Maynard, a community member is enrolling her apartment complex to receive composting services. Ebel would like the committee to consider how to get other complexes enrolled.
- Keogh contacted community members that were on the garden waitlist. Many were in support of a second garden. One question was if given a plot at the new garden, would they be removed from the waitlist for the original location. Napallo Gomez-Somer, community member, offered to assist in building the new garden.

## **6. Review Baylands land use recommendation draft letter for submission to City Council and Planning Commission**

- Fieldman would like to add language about the Baylands with respect to Brisbane as a whole in the introduction.
- Ebel will add more details to the letter and Key Performance Indicators.
- Salmon would like to add food production.
- Under sustainable water Salmon asks if the reference is to the DEIR or FEIR.
- In the zero carbon section, Salmon points out inefficiency is misspelled.
- Salmon asked under zero carbon, is it 13,000 MWh?
- City of Brisbane should be capitalized.
- Salmon added man-made is hyphenated.
- Salmon corrected greenhouse is one word.
- Hayuk adds there should be a point about going beyond net zero energy goals as an aspirational goal.
- A second draft will be circulated by staff. Staff will compile the comments. The final letter will be approved at the next OSEC meeting.

## **7. Discuss recommending Invasive plant ordinance**

- Several members would like to look at what other cities may have done for invasive species ordinances.
- Enforcement in homes will be difficult.
- Fieldman suggests looking at Florida's ordinance.
- Salmon suggests bringing a list of species to focus on to the next meeting.

## **8. Subcommittee reports**

### **a) CAP subcommittee**

- Ebel listed a few items that were discussed at the last meeting: Getting the Green Team involved from Lipman School, Purchasing guide, Staff training on the CAP and climate change, Residential energy conservation ordinance, Building Energy Saving Ordinance, and Green Building Ordinance.
- Kinser gave the update that staff is working on residential and commercial energy ordinances and a group may be formed to develop model ordinances. The energy toolkit was discussed and what items will go in the box.
- Keogh gave the update that she has been in touch with the Green Team faculty and will coordinate with them to get involved. The next CAP subcommittee meeting is May 5<sup>th</sup>; Keogh will invite the Green Team faculty to join.

**b) Bike to work day**

- Salmon brought maps to Ebel for commuters to map out their route. Ebel asked if Salmon is able to find a specific map. Staff will check how many easels are available if the specific map is not found.

**9. Staff updates:**

**a) Alternative meeting dates**

- The Planning Commission would like to use the Community meeting room on May 18, and would like to know if OSEC could switch their meeting date.
- OSEC members are concerned about completing the Baylands letter in time to submit to the Planning Commission and City Council.
- Staff will let OSEC know if the meeting date will change.

**b) Habitat Restoration Day**

- The event will take place 9am-1pm.
- Volunteers will need to disinfect their shoes prior to working on the restoration site.
- Several members discussed new spread of invasive species such as Gorse and Oxalis.

**c) Bike to work month proclamation**

- City Council proclaimed May as bike month on their April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Escoffier will attempt to get local businesses interested in participating in Bike to Shop Day.

**d) PG&E methane challenge**

- Napallo Gomez-Somer shared a press release with staff to forward to OSEC about a partnership with PG&E and the EPA. The methane challenge encourages reduction in GHGs in operations related to oil and gas production beyond regulatory requirements.

**e) Community Garden**

- Kinser gave the update that staff is looking at a different site for the second community garden. There is an issue with ground contamination at the site previously considered along S Hill Dr.

**f) Committee Biographies**

- Escoffier will send out questions to answer for an article in the Star about getting to know your committee members.

**10. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.