

# City of Brisbane

## Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karen Kinser, Deputy Director of Public Works

VIA: Randy Breault, Director of Public Works/City Engineer via Clay Holstine, City Manager

DATE: Meeting of January 5, 2017

SUBJECT: Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

CITY COUNCIL GOALS: To develop plans and pursue opportunities to preserve open space (7) and natural resources (8).

PURPOSE: To keep the City Council informed about the activities of the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the attached report.

### BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:

In 2006, the Open Space and Ecology Committee prepared its first Report of Accomplishments to highlight the Committee's achievements. Its purpose is to encapsulate actions and activities to track the Committee's progress and convey its work to the City Council and the public. This report covers initiatives and accomplishments that have taken place in 2016.

### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES

None.



Deputy Director of Public Works



Director of Public Works/City Engineer



City Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 2016 Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

2016 OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1998, the City Council established the Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) as an advisory body to recommend policies and programs related to preservation of open space, resource conservation, and sustainability. The Committee has worked on a wide array of ecological issues generally following an annual work plan. Below is a summary of the work the Committee has undertaken during calendar year 2016.

Sustainability Best Practices Platinum Beacon Spotlight Award

OSEC staff participated in the Institute for Local Governments Beacon Award program again this year and was awarded a platinum Beacon Spotlight Award for having numerous additional best practices in sustainability beyond those submitted in the prior year to receive a gold award.

Lipman Middle School Science Fair Award

Committee member Vladimirova volunteered to judge the annual science fair projects of the Lipman Middle School students. Vladimirova reviewed 110 projects and awarded certificates to three students for projects having the best ecological subject matter.

Invasive Species Articles

As a part of the Education and Outreach subcommittee, committee member Ebel and staff wrote articles to be featured in the Star. The articles are intended to bring awareness to the community regarding local invasive species, which are frequently purchased at nurseries and planted at home. Invasive species are a concern, particularly when planted in close proximity to San Bruno Mountain, where the invasive plants can more easily spread to habitat areas.

OSEC library shelf

The OSEC library shelf, developed last year by the Education and Outreach subcommittee of Ebel, Fieldman, and Vladimirova, was continued this year. The goal is to encourage the local community to review books and documentary films having environmental subject matter. OSEC also developed a "library shelf" list, which is housed on the city website. Several committee members donated books and materials to be placed on the shelf in the Brisbane library. Committee members Ebel and Ankenbruck regularly refresh the bookshelf and work with library staff on the display.

Recommended Expansion of Community Garden Space

The committee reviewed potential areas in town for a second garden and considered expansion of the current garden, based upon interest from the community. Staff submitted a request in the CIP budget. The item will be reviewed in the next budget cycle as a capital improvement project.

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan subcommittee, Fieldman Ebel, worked with staff on a monthly basis to continue implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan.

- A. DIY energy audit and water audit toolkit. The toolkit is to be checked out by community members and is modeled after a similar Santa Clara County library toolkit. The kit contains tools to measure energy and water use from appliances in the home, as well as user guides and coupons towards the purchase of energy and water savings items for the home, such as CFL light bulbs and faucet aerators.
- B. Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Guide. The Subcommittee worked on refinements to the guide, with regard to the purchase of such items as office supplies and cleaning products and the reduction of solid waste in city facilities.
- C. Public Transit. Public transit services available in Brisbane were marketed to the public via social media sites and the informational page on the city website was updated.
- D. Climate Facts. As a part of the Climate Action Plan subcommittee's goals for education and outreach, Fieldman and staff prepared a "fact" each week. The focus was the impacts of Climate Change to bring local awareness and draw attention to the adopted Climate Action Plan. Climate Facts are posted on the city website, printed occasionally in the Star, and appear in the weekly website blasts and other city social media sites.
- E. Engagement with Lipman students  
An outreach letter was sent to the Lipman principal suggesting potential projects related to climate change that the students could work on with the city. The CAP subcommittee met with an instructor from Lipman and discussed projects and potential involvement. It was determined that habitat restoration days were the most suitable fit for collaboration.

#### Earth Day and Habitat Restoration

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the annual Earth Day Restoration Day was held. A site located near the Ridge off Monarch Drive was chosen. The debris bin on-site was filled with removed broom and licorice plants at day's end. Thirty four volunteers attended the event.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the annual Habitat Restoration Day was held. Sierra Point Canyon was chosen to remove ivy and other non-native, invasive species. Approximately eight volunteers attended.

Committee member Salmon, of the Habitat Restoration Day subcommittee, accepted a donation of artwork from local artist David Schooley to be printed on the t-shirts that are given to volunteers attending the events.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Vladimirova coordinated a restoration day in the Ridge community in cooperation with San Bruno Mountain Watch. Approximately ten volunteers participated.

#### Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day was on May 12<sup>th</sup>; approximately 1,100 commuters rode past Brisbane's two fueling stations. Two OSEC members, Abney and Ebel, volunteered at the fueling stations.

### Policy recommendation letters

- A. OSEC sent a letter to Council asking them to symbolically ban fracking in Brisbane. City Council adopted a resolution to ban fracking and signed a letter to Governor Brown from the statewide coalition, Californians against Fracking, to encourage banning fracking operations in the state.
  
- B. As suggested by Council, OSEC wrote a letter to Council providing their input and recommendations on sustainability and open space policy as it relates to land use on the Baylands. The letter was based on the principles in the Baylands Sustainability Framework. The letter was forwarded to the Planning Commission during their deliberations.

### Vegetation Management Plan for city-owned property in the Brisbane Acres

Former city OSEC staff person Fred Smith presented the annual proposed vegetation management plan to the committee. Smith consults on the vegetation management plan. Smith worked with Shelterbelt Builders Inc., an open land management and restoration company that has performed vegetation management for Brisbane in prior years, to develop a proposal and cost estimate. After reviewing the plan with Smith, OSEC approved the Vegetation Management Plan. When the work was complete for the season, Mark Heath from Shelterbelt Builders presented his work and findings to OSEC at the September 21st meeting.

OSEC made a recommendation that vegetation management work be planned for Firth Canyon, as the need is beyond the scope of volunteer efforts. Staff estimated costs with the assistance of vegetation management contractor Shelterbelt Builders and presented the project to City Council in the FY 16/17 budget. The proposal was approved and restoration work will commence in spring 2017.

### Open Space Conference

Committee member Ankenbruck attended a regional Open Space Conference. The conference took place on May 19th, in Richmond, CA. Ankenbruck reported back on several items that she learned about at the conference such as the danger to raptors from wind turbines, the illegality of the sale of French broom and Scottish broom in California, and the movement to encourage doctors to prescribe outdoor activity instead of medication for certain mental ailments.

### Day in the Park

OSEC manned an educational booth at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Day in the Park festival on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The designated subcommittee for this event consisted of committee members Ankenbruck and Hayuk. At the booth, items such as a Peninsula Clean Energy pamphlet, an invasive species pamphlet, examples of less-toxic cleaning alternatives, and BAWSCA landscape course information was available. Shadow boxes displaying the types of wastes suitable for each type of receptacle (solid waste, recycling and green waste) were displayed. A staff member from South San Francisco Scavenger manned the shadow boxes and bins and educated passers-by on the proper sorting of waste. The DIY toolkit was also debuted to inform community members about the kit and where it will be available for checkout.