

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 17, 2019

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:

Since 2006, staff has been preparing an annual Report of Accomplishments to highlight the Open Space and Ecology 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 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES

None.


Deputy Director of Public Works


Sustainability Management Analyst


Director of Public Works/City Engineer


City Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 2018 Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

2018 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 2018.

Climate Action Plan

The OSEC Climate Action Plan subcommittee, Fieldman, Ebel and Dykes, worked with staff on a monthly basis to continue implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP) and begin working on an updated CAP for 2030.

- A. Climate Action Plan – Over the summer, the committee and staff began working with the County RICAPS (Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite) program consultants on an update to the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for 2030. The plan is expected to be completed and brought to Council later in 2019.
- B. Building Energy Ordinance – The subcommittee and staff have been exploring a Building Energy Saving Ordinance since it was recommended for inclusion in the 2015 CAP, including researching other agencies’ ordinances and developing an ordinance framework and narrowing the focus to commercial buildings where the greatest opportunity for emissions reductions lies. In May, staff applied for \$200,000 from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Climate Protection Grant Program for a two-year “Comprehensive Commercial Building Efficiency Program” which was subsequently awarded. Staff released an RFP for the first phase of the project, a Building and Transparency Ordinance, and expects to award the contract in January. Consultants will assist with community outreach, development of the ordinance and the adoption process, which aims to conclude in September 2019. After adoption, a second RFP for implementation (phase two) will be posted.
- C. Sustainable Purchasing – Sustainable Purchasing language was incorporated into the city’s Procurement Policy to be brought to Council in early 2019, and the existing Environmentally-Friendly Purchasing Guide was updated with additional requirements and resources for a revised Sustainable Purchasing Guide to be attached as an appendix. Further efforts related to paper reduction and transition to 100% recycled paper are underway.
- D. Green Business Certification and Lunch & Learn – Subcommittee and staff, including summer intern and local resident Julia Deschaumes, have been working through the checklist towards Green Business Certification for City Hall. Many items overlap with other ongoing initiatives, such as the Sustainable Purchasing and paper efforts just noted. The checklist spurred a City Hall lighting audit, provided at no charge through the San Mateo County Energy Watch Program. Staff is working to implement lighting upgrades, funded through rebates and PG&E on-bill financing. In addition, staff coordinated with Green Business Program Coordinators to host a Lunch & Learn for

the program on September 6 with about a dozen participants, and facilitated a presentation by the coordinator to a Chamber Board meeting.

- E. Staff Training – Subcommittee and staff worked intermittently on training for City employees focused on the importance of making behavioral changes in the workplace to slow the impacts of consumption on the environment and meet CAP goals. Elements of this training will serve educational purposes related to the Green Business Certification. Staff is working towards hosting the training in early 2019.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

In 2016, the city was awarded a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to install an EV charger as part of their *Charge Fast!* Program. Staff worked with Judy Ng of the Brisbane Village Shopping Center, PG&E and contractors in 2017 and early 2018 to install a ChargePoint DC Fast Charger. The station opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting on February 14. The city subsidized the cost to bring awareness of the station and incentivize usage towards the BAAQMD requirement of 75,000 kWh dispensed in three years. At the time of writing this report, just shy of 8 months after opening, the station has dispensed approximately 50,000 kWh in 4600 sessions.

On a related note, city staff shared resources with residents of Altamar regarding bringing Level 2 EV Charging to their parking areas and has met with Altamar HOA Board Members and Planning staff to facilitate a project. Staff will continue to look for locations and funding to bring additional EV charging to Brisbane, as inquiries have continued and local demand is rising.

Habitat Restoration Days

- A. Costaños Canyon – The committee suggested a planting day for Costaños Canyon following successful removal of invasive ivy in the Canyon in 2017. An event organized by Public Works and Recreation Department staff was held on February 3 with nearly 40 volunteers. Over 400 native plants purchased at the San Bruno Mountain Watch Mission Blue Nursery were planted near the entrance to the canyon.
- B. Monarch Drive – On April 21, the annual Earth Day Habitat Restoration Day was held. Around 30 volunteers removed broom and fennel near Monarch Dr. and Mission Blue Dr. Recology and South San Francisco Scavenger sponsored the event including the purchase of t-shirts and gardening gloves for volunteers. Public Works and Recreation Department planned and staffed the event. San Bruno Mountain Watch provided tools, additional gloves, a history of the habitat value of the area, and local knowledge.
- C. Upper Sierra Point Canyon – On July 14 a couple dozen volunteers worked to remove ivy from Upper Sierra Point Canyon. The event was co-organized by Public Works and the Recreation Department and supported by Recology, SSF Scavenger and San Bruno Mountain Watch.
- D. Coastal Cleanup Day – OSEC supported the volunteer event along Harney Way near the bay shoreline on September 15. Again, a team from Public Works and Recreation planned and staffed the event. Around 20 volunteers participated, receiving tee shirts and gloves courtesy of sponsors Recology and SSF Scavenger. The group cleared an

excessive amount of trash, significantly improving the marshy site, and was subsequently treated to burgers and veggie burgers by the Lions Club.

Adopt-a-Spot Trash Pickup Stations

In June, Regulatory Compliance Manager Keegan Black presented to OSEC on trash hot spots. The group discussed additional strategies to combat persistent litter locations and conceived an Adopt-a-Spot Station program, which staff is working to implement. The program will put trash receptacles, dispensers with bags, and a sign at six pilot locations around town. Signs will encourage patrons to “Be Seen Keepin’ it Clean” and “Keep Brisbane Beautiful” with imagery of a person putting trash into a bag to indicate that everyone can play a role in preventing or cleaning up litter. Installation is expected to be complete within a few weeks.

BAWSCA Landscape Education Classes

Staff worked with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to offer two free landscape education courses. An Edible Landscaping class was held on April 18 and a Greywater Laundry to Landscape class with a robust crowd was held on September 26.

Day in the Park

OSEC staffed an educational booth at the 32nd Annual Day in the Park festival on October 6. The designated subcommittee of Salmon, Rogers and Treyz worked with staff to prepare displays, handouts and an art activity. OSEC member Dykes created a solar panel display, with support from Public Works staff, to promote the SunShares group solar purchasing program. In addition to SunShares, booth materials promoted the HomeIntel energy efficiency program and provided free energy-saving smart power strips to those that signed up for the program at the booth. (Staff plans to resume a similar promotion in 2019, as approximately 25 smart power strips provided by HomeIntel are still available.) Kids of all ages enjoyed creating “planet flags” displaying eco-friendly images and messages with stencils, cloth and markers, which were hung on a clothes drying “tree” for display.

Policy Recommendations

- A. In January, the City Attorney and OSEC discussed recording a Declaration of Restriction as Open Space on city-owned Brisbane Acres, with OSEC recommending Council consider the Declaration.
- B. In February, Mayor Conway, with 230+ other mayors from around the country, signed on to a Climate Mayors letter opposing the repeal of the EPA Clean Power Plan.
- C. In April, Council Liaisons attended the OSEC meeting for a discussion of the 2018 Work Plan and OSEC re-submitted four letters the committee had put forth in recent years regarding the Levinson and Peking Handicraft properties, requesting not including fully-enclosed residential courtyards in the Brisbane Acres in lot coverage calculations, requesting requiring part of open area on residential sites be reserved for landscaping versus impervious surfacing, and asking that the tree removal ordinance consider shade value and environmental benefits of trees. Council subsequently directed Planning Staff to review the tree removal ordinance. Staff has been working with a subcommittee of

two planning commissioners and one OSEC member to revise the ordinance and expects a revision to move forward in early 2019.

- D. In August, OSEC discussed and recommended a \$1,000 City contribution to the Green Climate Fund. Staff will bring forward the recommendation in early 2019.

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

On Point Land Management's Vegetation Management Plan was approved over the summer and work is underway. Additional funding from the prior year's budget allowed for removal of invasive ivy in Costaños Canyon and on and around trees in Lower Sierra Point Canyon.

Invasive Plants

OSEC member Fieldman and staff prepared a letter to local nurseries about the problems caused by invasive plant species and encouraged discontinuation of their sale. The letter was sent in April, after committee review, to 28 nurseries along with copies of the OSEC Invasive Plants brochure. An Invasive Species Ordinance Subcommittee of Ebel and Salmon, with staff member Sage, met in August. Subsequently, Sage and Salmon began attending the County Weed Management Area meetings where they are gaining useful resources and contacts.

280 South Hill Funds

OSEC member Hayuk (term ended early 2018) participated in meetings with a Park and Recreation Commissioner and recommended Firth Canyon trail and Crocker Trail for use of funds.

Tree Removals

The Public Works Director sent letters to multiple local (primarily commercial) property owners encouraging the removal of dead Monterey pine trees on their properties.

Streetlight Upgrades

The committee and staff have been working on conversion of decorative streetlights in the Northeast Ridge to LEDs.

Sign Board Replacement

A subcommittee of OSEC member Dykes and Ankenbruck and Park and Recreation Commissioners met in June and December to review options for replacing city signboards. The current signboards use costly paper and printing methods, and resulting signs are neither reusable nor recyclable.

Priority Conservation Area Grant

A subcommittee of OSEC members Salmon and Ankenbruck, OSEC staff, and a board member and staff from San Bruno Mountain Watch met on July 12 to brainstorm ideas for a PCA Grant application and is awaiting a call for projects from the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Education and Outreach

- A. “Sort Your Rubbish” Videos – OSEC has long desired to create educational videos about sustainability issues, including proper waste sorting, and the City’s hiring of two summer interns focused on sustainability and video projects provided an excellent opportunity. Staff supported the intern-led project that resulted in the creation of four short videos, and one “mash-up”, focused on the four waste streams. Videos were shared on the city’s website (brisbaneca.org/videos-sort-your-rubbish-series) and received excellent engagement on the city’s social media channels. At a subsequent OSEC meeting, South San Francisco Scavenger reported that Brisbane’s 2017 waste diversion rate was 79%; the state’s goal for jurisdictions is 75%.
- B. Meatless Mondays – Another project of the Education & Outreach subcommittee comprised of Fieldman, Treyz and Rogers with staff member Etherton is the series of Meatless Mondays articles which has been running in the City’s weekly email blast since August 31. Each week features a climate-related fact along with a meatless recipe suggestion and encouragement to make climate-friendly food choices easier.
- C. Earth Day Banners – The City displayed 32 Earth Day banners created in 2017 along Visitacion Avenue in April in celebration of Earth Day and Month.

Platinum Spotlight Beacon Award for Agency GHG Reductions

In May, staff applied for recognition of Brisbane’s municipal greenhouse gas reductions of 32% from 2005 to 2015; Mayor Conway and CM Holstine accepted the award at a ceremony in September. This was the third Beacon Award the City has received from the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. Previous awards include a 2015 overall Gold Level Beacon Award, recognizing significant accomplishments in all five award areas (Agency Energy Savings, Agency Natural Gas Savings, Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions, and Sustainability Best Practices), and a 2016 Platinum Spotlight Award for Sustainability Best Practices.

The following projects performed by staff in 2018 were reported to OSEC and received their full support for their consideration and mitigation of environmental impacts.

- A. City Hall Solar – Over the summer, a long-awaited solar photovoltaic system was installed on the roof of City Hall. The 150kW system is expected to provide approximately 85% of the facility’s annual electrical needs.
- B. San Mateo County Energy Watch Grant – In late 2017, the City was awarded a \$20,000 grant for municipal energy efficiency projects. The bulk of the program was focused on incorporating energy efficiency considerations into the early design phase of the Glen Park Pump Station (GPPS) upgrade. System-wide pump efficiency tests were performed along with review of the existing GPPS and informed a technical memo with a number of suggestions that will be incorporated into the further design and ultimately construction of the station. The grant also supported an energy audit of Mission Blue Center; limited opportunities for improvement were identified but the city did convert 23 exterior lights to LED bulbs as a result.
- C. Zero Net Energy Study – The Bay Area Renewable Energy Network (BayREN) offers free technical assistance to local governments to evaluate Zero Net Energy feasibility for new

building projects or retrofits. With the Community Pool boilers scheduled to be replaced and repairs to the solar thermal system required, staff determined this was a good opportunity to review system specifications for energy efficiency and renewable sources. Consultants recommended a blended system of repaired solar thermal, new electric heat pump water heaters, and strategic maintenance of existing gas boilers for backup during the coldest months to significantly reduce fossil fuel use and ongoing energy costs. Consultants are now reviewing City Hall, with particular focus on the feasibility and costs of energy storage for load shifting and resiliency. The aforementioned solar installation and lighting upgrade benefit these considerations.

- D. Waste Bins – Staff utilized CalRecycle grant funds to purchase quad-sort waste bins (landfill, paper, recycle, compost) for the Harbormaster’s Office, Community Pool Office, Fire Station, City Hall Large Conference Room and Park and Rec Conference Room, and Police Break Room. In addition, tri-sort outdoor bins (landfill, recycle, compost) were purchased for the pool deck. Staff performed informal waste training for two shifts of fire personnel and is working with Pool and Police staff to reach their employees as well.
- E. Sandbag Return Program – In 2017, OSEC requested and staff implemented a sandbag return program at the end of the rainy season to reduce the trash and stormwater pollution resulting from sandbags breaking down in place. Because of its prior success, the program was repeated in 2018 and is expected to continue in future years.
- F. Compost Giveaway – Staff worked with South San Francisco Scavenger in 2018 to provide a compost giveaway at no cost to residents or the city. SSF Scavenger arranged for finished compost product to be back-hauled as a “thank you” to residents for their waste reduction efforts. The pile was available for self-service beginning May 20, and Public Works staff arranged for Davey Tree to leave wood chips from local tree trimming as well. Staff is looking into the feasibility of locating the compost at the Community Garden next spring, after receiving inquiries from their members.
- G. CPD (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) – Staff submitted city emissions and climate actions to CDP, a global carbon reporting organization, over the summer. The extensive reporting covers GHG emissions inventories, planning and adaptation efforts.