

Open Space & Ecology Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, February 8, 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 6:33 PM.

Committee members present:

Ebel, Fieldman, Hayuk, Keogh, Salmon and Vladimirova

Committee members absent:

Abney

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. Recycling Program and Food scrap compost updates

- Recycling Manager Barbara Bernardini and Teresa Montgomery from South San Francisco Scavenger introduce themselves.
- Bernardini said there has been a 36% increase in the amount of tons for compost between 2014 and 2015 after adding food scrap pick up.
- The food scrap program started in January 2015; previously yard waste was only collected.
- Bio bags are preferred not to be used. Beneficial bacteria in the digester cannot reach items in the bag when it is tied closed.
- Foods scraps can be placed in waxy milk cartons, dry items can be placed into the pail.
- Animal and human excretions should not go in the green bin; these items carry bacteria that are harmful to the compost.
- Varnished or stained wood should not go into the compost. Wood from pruned trees or bushes can go in the green waste. Furniture can be picked up in bulky item waste.
- When recycling paper and plastic they need to be separate, there is a diverter in the truck to separate paper from plastic. Excessive cardboard can be placed next to the bin and tied together with twine.
- Clothing that cannot be donated to Goodwill should go in the trash.

- The 2015 Diversion report is due in early August; there should be less waste going to the landfill.
- Fieldman asked if there is an incentive program for customers that do not need a regular trash pickup. Bernardini said that there is not currently, but may be discussed.
- Grease from cooked meats can go into the compost.
- Small and large businesses are being added to the food scrap program.
- Lipman has a compost bin, and a bin will be offered to the elementary school. Ebel said the bin at Lipman may not be being used.
- AB 1826 requires businesses to recycle their organic waste, beginning in April 2016 depending on the amount of waste they generate per week.
- Salmon asked how OSEC can help educate the public on composting. Bernardini said word of mouth and community engagement is helpful.
- Hayuk asked if there is an app to help with composting. There is not one that is developed by South San Francisco Scavenger.
- Bernardini said residential food scrap pick up has been the most complex to implement. Scavenger will continue outreach. The next challenge is getting more businesses to participate.
- The digester has been designed to fulfill composting from the current service area.
- Fieldman asked when composting is implemented in schools if outreach is done. Montgomery said she plays games to teach children about what item goes in which cart and show short videos. Salmon recommended to also discuss littering.

4. Community Garden Space

- The proposed site is next to the Dolby parking lot. The previously proposed spot collects water and gets less sunlight.
- This site can fit 18-20 spaces. The estimated cost is \$60K. Before bringing this to council it would be important to determine if this site is desirable to the public. Water will be available at this site, but no sanitary facilities. There is street parking that is used by the businesses, but will be available off business hours. Vladimirova added during business hours there is still parking available.
- Outreach can be done on the Residents of Brisbane Facebook page and an article in the Star.
- Keogh will reach out to a community member to discuss the proposed expansion. Staff will send the Community Garden waitlist to Keogh.
- Salmon would like to add language to the agreement that invasive species will not be planted since the proposed site is close to habitat.

5. Approval of the minutes

- Minutes approved with the following amendments.
- Item 4. The Bay Natives Nursery is not limited to San Bruno Mountain natives.
- Salmon suggested the Ridge for habitat restoration.
- Spelling correction on CREBL.
- Clarification and grammatical changes on staff updates.

6. Chair and committee member matters

- Hayuk attended the Bike Pedestrian Master Plan meeting. Access to trails and transportation were discussed.
- Fieldman asked for an update on the Lot Coverage letter written by OSEC. Salmon referred to the minutes from the last meeting. Kinser confirmed that council has received the letter.
- Fieldman stated that FEMA maps are used for planning guidance. The amendment to the plan reads that flood management plans are to be used. This will be discussed in the planning commission meeting this week. Kinser will look into the amendment.
- Salmon asked if there is an update on the city attorney reporting to city council on city owned acres and open space preservation concerns. There is no update.
- Salmon asked about development in the city owned acres and if OSEC would review the proposed development. Kinser is unaware of proposed developments and will look into it.
- Keogh and Ebel worked on the OSEC library shelf.
- Ebel drafted an invasive species article.

7. Subcommittee reports

a. Habitat restoration day

- Salmon and staff met with Park and Recreation. The chosen days for the restoration days are April 23rd and July 23rd. There is a second meeting to decide on a site this Wednesday.
- An estimate to get professional help on Firth Canyon has not been received.
- Organic t-shirts will be ordered. Artwork was discussed to potentially be an owl, rabbit, butterfly and smelt.

b. Lipman Science Fair

- Vladimirova gave the update: there were 110 projects to review. The first project was about generating clean energy by using kinetic energy from different parts of the body. The second project was about generating solar energy more effectively through rotating solar panels. The third project was about different types of soil that are more susceptible to erosion.

c. Bike to work day

- Ebel and Vladimirova participated last year. Vladimirova said most commuters pass through around 6:30am.
- Ebel will volunteer and map commuter routes. Salmon will provide maps and staff will provide an easel.

8. Staff updates

a. Roundup use on private property

- Kinser gave the update, the EPA relabeled Roundup from a possible to a probable carcinogen. The city does not use Roundup or herbicides, aside from sport treatment for vegetation management in the acres. The city is required by the regional water quality control board to have an integrated pest management plan. Pesticide use on private property is regulated by the County agricultural commissioner. There is no city in the state that has banned using Roundup on private property.

- Vladimirova would like to mail a letter to local business with a list of alternatives to Roundup.
- Kinser read it is part of the city policy to educate residents and businesses on this issue. Kinser added it may be difficult to reach the contractors that do the landscaping.
- Vladimirova will draft the letter and circulate to OSEC and staff.

b. Mattress recycling

- Escoffier gave the update that Fieldman asked about a mattress recycling program. Scavenger is looking into this program; CalRecycle is first reviewing the plan. Once the plan is approved Scavenger can move forward with the plan.

c. Title 24 compliance and training

- Escoffier gave the update staff brought this item to their county meeting, no city expressed concerns or issues with Title 24 compliance.
- Future Title 24 trainings are geared towards staff, although public could attend. There is no specific training that outlines the differences if the old and new codes.
- Escoffier talked with permit review staff about compliance with new codes. Permit review staff are required to stay up to date with new codes for their work and license.
- Ebel expressed that she found some issues with plans that she reviewed.
- Kinser encouraged Ebel to come to the planning counter to discuss with staff.

d. Christmas tree

- Kinser gave the update that replacing the Christmas tree was discussed at the staff level.
- This item may be brought to a council subcommittee if OSEC was interested.
- There is not a lot of space at Community Park to plant a new tree.
- Salmon said it was previously recommended that a new tree would be planted near the old tree and get established before the old tree died.
- Salmon volunteered to contact Sean Sweeney to ask about species recommendations to replace the tree.

e. Presenter at next meeting

- There is a potential presentation next month from the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. OSEC members would like for him to present at the next meeting.

f. Fracking letter

- All City Council members signed on to the letter to ban fracking in California and adopted a resolution.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.