



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

The public may observe/participate in Committee meetings using remote public comment options or attending in person. Committee members shall attend in person unless remote participation is permitted by law. The Committee may take action on any item listed in the agenda.

TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

IN PERSON

Location: 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005, Community Meeting Room

Masking is not required but according to the California Department of Public Health guidelines, people at higher risk for severe illness should consider masking. To help maintain public health and safety, we respectfully request that people not attend in-person if they are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 or are otherwise ill and likely contagious (e.g., respiratory illnesses).

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may observe/participate in the Committee Meeting by logging into the Zoom Webinar listed below. Committee Meetings can also be viewed live and/or on-demand via the City's YouTube Channel, www.youtube.com/brisbaneca, or on Comcast Channel 27. Archived videos can be replayed on the City's website, <http://brisbaneca.org/meetings>. Please be advised that if there are technological difficulties, the meeting will nevertheless continue. The agenda materials may be viewed online at www.brisbaneca.org at least 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting, and at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting.

Remote Public Comments:

Remote meeting participants may address the Committee. We also encourage you to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Aside from commenting while in the Zoom Webinar, the following email will be also monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be noted for the record during Oral Communications or during an agenda item.

Email: aetherton@brisbaneca.org

Join Zoom Meeting: www.brisbaneca.org/osec-zoom

Meeting ID: 976 4295 0160

Call In Number: 669.900.9128

Note: Callers dial *9 to "raise hand" and dial *6 to mute/unmute.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Adrienne Etherton at aetherton@brisbaneca.org or (415) 508-2118. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

- A. Consider any request of a committee member to attend the meeting remotely under the “Emergency Circumstances” of AB 2449

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of July 24, 2024

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Presentation on 2019 & 2021 Community Emissions Inventories
- D. Consider recommendation to City Council regarding Brisbane Acres re-zoning

STAFF UPDATES

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

CALENDAR ITEMS

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2024

ADJOURN



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:32 PM

ROLL CALL

- A. Consider any request of a committee member to attend the meeting remotely under the “Emergency Circumstances” of AB 2449

Committee members present: Becker, Ebel, Fieldman (arrived 6:36), Nunan, Rogers, Salmon

Staff members present: Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Fellow, Chase

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Salmon moved to adopt the agenda and Nunan seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salmon noted a San Bruno Mountain Watch Maker event on Saturday. Fieldman announced that she would be resigning after the August meeting; fellow members shared that they were sorry to see her go and thanked her for her service.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Chris Florkowski noted there were many questions on the Residents of Brisbane Facebook page and suggested quarterly presentations from Scavenger on waste sorting. Becker noted that Scavenger staff presents to OSEC annually in the fall, and Etherton noted that the Sort Smart feature on Scavenger’s website is a great resource.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of May 22, 2024 – Salmon moved to approve the minutes and Nunan seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Presentation on Reach Codes – Etherton reported that the reach codes presented had passed unanimously at the City Council meeting on July 18. The code is three parts: repeal of unenforceable all-electric requirements due to legal rulings; replacement with a more traditional “performance based” reach code which allows natural gas but sets a higher efficiency standard which is easier to achieve with all-electric buildings and requires pre-wiring for future conversion of any gas equipment installed; and electric vehicle requirements which were slightly updated in response to the state’s intervening code which went into effect on July 1.
- D. Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Salmon nominated Nunan as Chair, Becker seconded; Nunan nominated Salmon as Vice Chair, Becker seconded. Becker moved to approve the ticket as proposed and was unanimously approved.

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- library display updated with dark skies content in mid-June; litter for next display ~ late Aug
- coordinating with other staff on details of trash grabber check-out program, will likely host at multiple city sites and our Day in the Park booth
- PCE grant for pool application submitted June 21st, expecting news by Fri; PG&E/CPUC review also under way as of July 1st; working through some hurdles on PG&E new service
- Bayshore EV stations will have a PG&E subcontractor on site tomorrow running conduit but we're still waiting on energization/completion date, hopefully in August or Sept latest
- Also some back and forth on CALeVIP reporting for DCFC at City Hall trying to close it out
- Attended, along with Alejandra, the CA Climate & Energy Collaborative's Annual Forum & the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition meeting in Palm Springs June 24-26
- Working on CalRecycle Annual Report and Building Efficiency Program reporting to CA Energy Commission, both due Aug 1st
- BayREN single family program and Home Energy Advisor to sunset by Oct 31st or when incentives run out
- SunShares group solar + storage purchasing program will open Sept 1st

Kinser:

- Reported discussing with Code Enforcement officer who is using an app to identify plants for invasive species regulation; may invite him to a future meeting to further discuss enforcement actions
- Construction underway to address drainage issues on Crocker Trail
- Had planned to put out to bid the walkway at Alvarado to San Benito; Council wanted to consider public art so it may not move forward until the spring, but it does have to be built by next summer for grant funds

Chase:

- Working on benchmarking compliance: 99 reports received, 85 in compliance of 100 buildings in program. Have been doing more targeted phone call outreach for Beyond requirements; audit reports are coming in with 15 buildings in compliance and 9 more in the process of getting their audits.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND REORGANIZATION

Will hold off on reorganization until new member Anthony Walker is seated; no known date for that yet. Committee members encouraged that to happen before their next meeting if possible. Members noted during updates where they were willing to step off a subcommittee so Walker had an idea of opportunities before he joined the group.

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Etherton reported that there were 15 attendees at the summer habitat restoration event on Saturday; Rogers suggested a focus on the litter cleanup program at Day in the Park, will plan for a subcommittee meeting late Aug. Rogers expressed willingness to step off the subcommittee.

- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Rogers) – Becker recommended a focus on invasives as well since the regulation is now in effect. With Fieldman leaving, Rogers will stay on for continuity.
- PCA Grant (Becker, Ebel, Nunan) – Becker reported that we were not selected to move forward, Etherton added that the feedback from PCA staff was positive, and we were recommended to negotiate a firm price with the landowner and resubmit next year. Will move this subcommittee to inactive and note on the calendar for early 2025 to try to begin negotiations.
- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – covered by reach code presentation. Fieldman’s departure will create an opening on this subcommittee.
- *Open Space Plan Update (Rogers, Salmon) –
 - Salmon mentioned the zoning code updates in response to SB9 and asked if OSEC could make a recommendation to Council opposing the rezoning of the Brisbane Acres parcels; she also noted the sale of City surplus property and asked that the funds received be used for open space acquisition if the sale moves forward – Salmon asked that these issues be agendaized for the August meeting with the committee concurring
 - Members asked about conflict of interest issues to participate on this committee; Kinser read the response from the City Attorney indicating that committee members are not subject to the City’s Conflict of Interest Code, thus the usual issues do not apply; if a member cannot be unbiased they should self-recuse.
 - Nunan will join the subcommittee to work on drafting a letter for the committee to consider next month
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Nunan, Salmon) – Kinser recently presented the issue to the new city manager and he asked for additional information; the City wants the property owner’s agreement for work to be done on their property
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – Becker noted they haven’t met but should discuss outreach about the regulation; Becker will schedule a meeting
 - Fieldman noted hearing from a resident that was upset about the requirement to remove ivy and suggested considering incentives or penalties
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, Ebel, Salmon) –
 - Kinser noted the planning staff asked about compliance with the ordinance for her walkway lighting project
 - Etherton reported that the code enforcement officer has been talking with property owners and had success with some businesses pointing their lighting downwards, and he noted a local resident told him he’s collecting problem properties to report on as soon as the ordinance becomes effective on March 1
 - Etherton will add the Neighbor-to-neighbor letter to the dark skies webpage and be sure to note not to put it in someone else’s mailbox!
- *Tree Issues (Ebel, Salmon) –

- Ebel provided some feedback on the list of issues to discuss with planning staff on the ordinance; Kinser reminded that the subcommittee was to re-watch some past meetings on this issue before meeting—she will resend the list
- Etherton reported the public tree inventory was complete and we are working with GIS staff to see if we can incorporate the data into our systems or we should continue with a PlanIT Geo subscription; hoping to provide a presentation on this to OSEC in the next couple of months
- Becker brought up replacing trees coming down with the right trees for future climate conditions. Chase reported she had done research regarding tree removal and replanting policies in other jurisdictions. Calmes had been working on a new street tree list before her departure and that work also needs to be carried forward.
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – Becker asked if we had heard anything about the Baylands or Quarry EIRs; Etherton said she had heard Quarry might be in fall. No updates on these subcommittees.

CALENDAR ITEMS – Etherton reviewed the calendar, noting that we have several agenda items that will be coming forward in the coming months but are not sure yet the timing/order of them. She added that the Civil Grand Jury had recently released a report about compost/SB1383 that the City has to respond to by Oct 9 so we may cover this with the Scavenger annual report. Also noted that we will have one combined meeting for Nov/Dec due to holidays, Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept 21 and Day in the Park on Oct 5.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – none.

NEXT MEETING: August 28, 2024

ADJOURNED – 7:47 PM

OSEC RESPONSE TO SB9 AND THE ACRES

Dear City Council,

Open space has always had a significant role in the life of the Brisbane community. Residents, workers, and visitors have long recognized the City's unique geography and character with its dramatic location, sheltered by the flanks of San Bruno Mountain, and extending along the San Francisco Bay's shoreline.

The Open Space and Ecology Committee was formed in 2001 to take active steps to do more than simply appreciate nature but to work to permanently protect nature and form a sustainable relationship between the Mountain, the Bay and the City.

The upcoming decision to include the Brisbane Acres to satisfy rezoning for SB9 must be reconsidered.

The Brisbane Acres are primarily wild land habitat. While it may seem feasible to develop up to four housing units per acre parcel, is it reasonable?

- The Brisbane Acres are extremely susceptible to wildfire with very limited access for emergency workers and their vehicles. A fire could quickly spread to all of Brisbane. Additional housing in this interface zone will likely increase homeowners' insurance for all of Brisbane.
- The Brisbane Acres, many of which are extremely steep, has a shallow soil structure and a history of slope instability. This poor slope stability and slide potential can severely impact all downhill structures, especially during heavy rain periods.
- Publicly maintained access ways to the Brisbane Acres are currently sub-standard and inadequate to safely handle current access.
- The cost to our city to provide basic infrastructure access including water, sewer, roadways, and services such as fire and police will present a ongoing monetary burden that will not be recoverable by development fees.
- While our state government is demanding more housing, this development will only serve the highest echelons and do nothing to address the needs of moderate to low-income housing.

Any further development of the Brisbane Acres will forever change the face of Brisbane and the fate of San Bruno Mountain.

As a community, we need to fight back against the State of California mandates of SB9 and protect Brisbane and our open space.

Respectfully, The Open Space & Ecology Committee