

Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting
February 8, 2006
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
City Administration Bldg. -12th Floor, Closed Session Room

Minutes

- 1) **Called to Order** at 11:55 a.m. with a quorum
- 2) **Introductions** - Members present were: Craig Jones (acting chair), Jon Becker, Mike Singleton, Jolaine Harris, Mary Johnson, Tershia d'Elgin, Drew Potocki, Mona Favorite Hill, Mike Marika, Luis Generoso, and Maureen Hall. Guests present were: Vicki Estrada, Lisa Adams (Urban Corp), Kelly Butler (Urban Corp), Hasan Yousef (Street Division), Jeff Harkness (Park and Recreation), Guy Preuss (Skyline Paradise Hills Planning Committee), and Kathy Evans-Calderwood (CHAPC and City Heights Redevelopment PAC)
- 3) **Approval of the January Minutes** – Approved as is
- 4) **Chair's Announcements and Update** – Vicki Estrada introduced herself. Nancy Hughes sent a letter to the Mayor recommending Vicki as the new CFAB Chair.

There is a possibility that CFAB, along with other City boards and commissions, could be dissolved. Send a letter to your councilperson to make sure the Board continues. Make sure you point out how CFAB saves the City money.

Drew spoke with Nancy and Nancy has sent a letter recommending Vicki as the new chairperson. Nancy also said for the Board to attend their council meetings where trees are an issue and meet with your council representatives and let them know that this Board is important to the City Council and to the City as a whole. The Council continues to acknowledge that this Board is important to the City, and will make sure through the Mayor's office that this Board continues. This Board saves the City money by recommending what trees are planted in the right-of-way, resulting in reduction of sidewalk problems, reduction of trip and falls, reduction of urban runoff going into the bay. The Board has saved the City millions of dollars. Those savings can be used for trimming the trees in the right of way that we wouldn't have been able to trim before. The Board has other City departments coming together to the table now (Development Services, Park and Recreation, General Services Streets Division). These departments are coming together to work together, to press your mission, to look at City policies and activities, and City codes, to see how the Board can help them work better. We are the 7th largest city in the nation, every other City before us has this kind of Board to handle these kinds of issues, it is about time San Diego had the same. Even cities smaller than us have this kind of Board. The article that came out last week is the second part of the study done by American Forest's after the Cedar Fire. That is a lead-in to the Council members demonstrating how important this Board is. The Council members will make the decision to keep or get rid of the Board. Council has the right to veto the Mayor, and

the priorities of the people are the priorities the Mayor and Council are expected to continue.

Craig wants to put what Drew said above in writing for the Board to send to all the Council Offices and the Mayor's office adding the San Diego Daily Transcript Article. City staff will write the letter. The letter should say not just keep the Board, but talk about appointments and keeping City staff funding and future revenue sources, pointing out how the CFI is grant and tax based. The letter could also ask how the Board could help the City in continuing a revenue stream towards Urban Forestry.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to create a letter to go to the Mayor and Council by the Board as a whole, but not take the place of the Board members contacting their Council People individually. Discussion – Put the letter together and send out via email. Don't underemphasize, point out how trees improve the quality of life. Send the letter out with ACTION NEEDED in the subject.

March 15th is the Love It Or Leaf It Conference here in San Diego. This is a worthwhile conference to go to and recruit new members for CFAB.

Craig suggested that CFAB should go to all Community Planning Groups with a traveling show about CFAB. Start at CPC and then go to the CPG's.

A motion was made and passed for Mona to go to CPC with our display unit. Mona is agreeable. At the CPC meeting the presidents can ask for individual presentations to their CPG's. Drew and Mona will put together a PowerPoint presentation. Mona is to report back at the March meeting what kind of presentation can be put together.

The Board would like a follow-up to the chair appointment at next month's meeting.

5) Discussion Items

- a. *Tree protection Nominations –Drew Potocki – More nominations are coming in than anticipated. There are 3,000 locations as of now. Velmo is being trained about how to deal with protection after the nominations.*

Drew's computer program will show which trees are protected. That program will be shared with other departments such as DSD to make sure that no tree removals can happen on protected trees.

Drew is working with PFT about grants for Tree Town.

There will be another press release issued, probably by the end of this week, to alert the public that forms for tree protection will be on-line.

*Remember: Private property trees have to be nominated **by the property owner.***

- b. SDG&E Tree Removals/Contract Revisitation – Tershia d’Elgin – *Jeff Harkness and Paul Kilburg from Park and Recreation are working with Tershia on this. In Tershia’s opinion, some cases the removals are warranted, but some are removed just for convenience. If trees are removed SDG&E have to get approval, but for clearance trimming no approval is needed.*

Tershia asked what can we do to re-negotiate with SDG&E to get clarification with Streets and Park and Recreation before tree removal permits are issued.

Of the canyon trees talked about last month, 4,500 are being trimmed and only 100 are being removed. It was asked how is SDG&E replacing what is coming down? Canyons and Park and Recreation can’t go out and maintain newly planted trees. This Board needs to facilitate how the tree removal and trimmings are done. But there are policies that limit this.

Drew, Mike and Jeff will give us a list of current written policies at next month’s meeting. Drew will also give us the funding stream status on the Tree Smart Program.

6) Quick Business – None

7) Reports – Items not already on agenda - None

- a. Education & Outreach Committee - *None*
- b. Planning Committee - *None*
- c. Implementation Committee - *None*
- d. Finance Committee - *None*
- e. Staff Reports
 - i) Michael Marika, Park and Recreation Dept. Arborist - *Tree planting for Nancy will be in Morley Field. Tershia will email everyone a list of dates. Please respond ASAP to Tershia.*
 - ii) Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester – *Arbor Day is coming up. Drew will send out information on several upcoming events.*

Pomerado Road and Semillon have 80 new trees planted to replace burned trees. The California Garden Club began its Patriotic Tree Program and donated a \$300 check to plant a significant tree to thank the firemen that fought the Cedar Fire.

SDRUFUC will still hold the EarthDay event at Balboa Park that Dan Carney and the City of San Diego was originally going to head up.

- iii) Velmo Watson, Code Compliance Officer – *No Report*

iv) Mona Favorite-Hill, General Services, Senior Public Information Officer –
No Report

v) Tony Gangitano, Development Services Dept., Senior Planner – *No Report*

vi) Luis Generoso, Staff Representative to CFAB – *No Report*

8) Referrals to Committees – *None*

9) Public Comment – *None*

10) Next Regular Meeting – March 8, 2006, 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

11) Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.