



City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Central Library, 330 Park Blvd., 9th Floor, San Diego, CA, 92101

1. **Call to Order** – Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, February 12, 2020.

2. **Attendees**

Members – Virginia Wilson, Chris Drayer, Muriel King, Rachele Melious, Vince Mikulanis, Puja Batra, Troy Murphree, Butch Everett, Tomas Herrera-Mishler, and Anne Fege

City Staff – Brian Widener, Sergio Arias, and John Ide; Transportation and Stormwater; Eric Kast, Parks; Leslie Henegar, Planning

Guests – University Heights residents Kristin Harms, Judy Schroeder, Mary Beth Chruden, Sol Schumer, Gary Bell, and Jeffrey Taylor; Pacific Beach residents Laurel Ehrenfreund and Peter Arcidiacono

3. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of November 13 and December 11 were approved.

4. **Announcements and Updates**

- a. Anne Fege summarized the Councilmember priorities for FY 2021 budget, listed in the Independent Budget Analyst report. Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 recommended increases up to \$1.7 million for urban forestry and some for managing trees in parks.
- b. Brian Widener announced the City’s designation as a TreeCity USA for ten years.

5. **Discussion**

- a. Fege outlined issues relating to tree protection. Kristen Harms and other University Heights residents submitted a nomination to designate some historic trees on the Normal School property of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Street trees can be evaluated and considered by the City; trees on the school property have to be nominated by the property owner, which is SDUSD District.
- b. Laurel Ehrenfreund showed photos and described the issues relating to a large Brisbane box tree and a planned sidewalk installation, in Pacific Beach. She is hoping for our support in saving the tree.

6. **City Staff Reports**

- a. Widener presented the monthly report of urban forestry activities since July. There is a backlog of 1,090 of requests for “free trees” to be planted on street easements.
- b. Widener reported that the City plans to temporally suspend fees for a set number of sidewalk repair permits, required for work undertaken by residents.
- c. San Diego Gas & Electric is to plant trees to replace those removed, in utility line clearing and undergrounding lines, and there are some unassigned tree “credits” to be worked out with the utility.

7. **Actions** (none)

8. **Public Comment** (none)