



City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
Meeting held by videoconference call

1. **Call to Order** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 am

2. **Attendees**

Members – Ami Young, Anne Fege, Jim Smith, Morgan Justice-Black, Rachele Melious, Troy Murphree, Vince Mikulanis, and Muriel King

City Staff – Brian Widener and John Ide, Transportation Department

3. **Approval of Minutes** The minutes of October 12, 2022 were approved.

4. **Announcements and Updates** (none)

5. **Non-Agenda Public Comment** (none)

6. **City Staff Reports**

- a. Widener gave an overview of the urban forestry program, including pruning and trimming cycles, number of street and park trees, species diversity, tree planting and watering, grant and San Diego Gas & Electric support for tree planting, storm tree clearing, and budget projections. Requirements are met for TreeCity USA and include an annual Arbor Day event.
- b. There are large Ficus trees in Golden Hill (24th and E streets) where a sidewalk had been replaced, tree roots pruned, and a root barrier installed in 2005. One was removed in September when branches fell on and damaged a car (no occupants). A Tree Risk Assessment Report was prepared by a Certified Arborist for the remaining 6 trees; damage varied by tree and most of them will be pruned to reduce canopy. Troy Murphree commented that notification of adjacent property owners/residents prior to any tree removal is important for public understanding and trust.
- c. Two additional Horticulturalists (urban foresters) were approved in the FY23 budget, and recruitment is underway. Rachel Melious commented on the lack of flexibility in the qualifications for these positions, especially as there are no local degree programs/classes to qualify for Horticulturalist. Classes are scattered across community and four-year colleges. Widener reported that the tree trimmer positions are currently all filled.

7. **Discussion**

- a. Fege encouraged members to learn more about current and past urban forestry efforts, to become more effective advisors and advocates for the urban forestry program. Key documents have been uploaded to a GoogleFolder, including the Urban Forestry Five-year Program, Climate Action Plan pages relating to trees, presentations at the Environment Committee, and some reports about the City's programs.
- b. Melious announced the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council (SDRUFC) awards event on December 7, and invited members to submit nominations of local innovative and effective urban forestry projects in several categories.
- c. Agenda items for the next several meetings were suggested, and they included public notices about tree benefits and watering (to increase free street tree requests), public service

announcements and other communication efforts, encouraging residents to plant yard trees, outreach for tree watering in drought, selection and suitability of tree species, mapping trees and identifying planting places, Climate Action Plan equity and implementation, and reminders about Roberts' rules for these meetings.

7. **Actions** (none)

8. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be 10:00-11:30 am on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 by videoconference. Agenda will be posted at <https://www.sandiego.gov/trees/cfab>.