



COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2025

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library

5148 Market St

San Diego, CA 92114

Members: Leon Cassel (Horticulturalist), Chris Tiffany (Landscape Architect), Jim Smith (D1), Morgan Justice Black (D2), Brian Bagnall (D3), Wes Janssen (D4), Michael Ackerman (D7), Frank Buncom IV (Chair, D8), Chuck Morgan (Nonprofit)

City Staff: Brian Widener, Olivia Mabee, John Ide, Amy Nonaka, Vanessa Shevlin, Annabel Rossi, Ayad Youkhana, Albert Sais Jr., Lesley Henegar, Anthony Santacroce

Guests: Eric Page, Terrell Rackley, Robert Wrightson, Anisah Enciso, Janet O'Dea, Anne Fege, Drew Sitton, Elizabeth Castelo, Tanisha-Jean Martin, Jessica McGee

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

- Not present: Alyssa Way and Ami Young

Item 2: Announcements and Updates

- Discussion about a meeting Morgan attended with mobility, climate and sustainability and wants board to consider a joint meeting on May 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
- Board chair would like to welcome presentations from CFAB members.
- Brian Widener – Teams are working hard to keep public safe. City has dedicated webpages for Trees for Communities and Ready, Set, Grow San Diego with accurate information.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes (Action)

- Chuck Morgan motions, Michael Ackerman seconds. February 12, 2025 meeting minutes approve unanimously.

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Anne Fege: Will welcome corrections to their website. Staff participated in monthly meetings, and they consider it a model for Urban Forestry. Would like informal meetings with community groups about projects.

- Janet O'Dea: Went to conference in Las Vegas and saw documentary about healing powers of trees and forests. Would like to share the trailer with anyone who asks.
- Terrell Rackley: Wants to know how to work more collaboratively. Three attempts at previous meetings from community members to share things and it was lukewarm how it was received so they did not return. Would behoove everyone in the room for transparency and CBOs to communicate.

Item 5: Approval of CFAB workplan, including goals for the year (Action)

- Morgan moves to approve as printed, Brian Bagnall seconds. CFAB Workplan passed unanimously.

Item 6: Conserve A Tree Application for Mission Hills (Action)

- Discussion about cost of maintenance, palm weevil, fire risk, suggestions for interplanting and considerations for the benefits of palms beyond environmental impact.
- City has no current plans to remove the palms and has commitment to a healthy urban forest and public safety.
- **Action:** Michael Ackerman motions, Chuck seconds to vote on recommending the application to be approved by the Urban Forestry Program. Motions passes 6-3.
- Public Comment
 - Janet O'Dea: There is a cost but there is also a benefit. Maps brought in to show a boundary.

Item 7: Announcements (Information)

- Duplicate agenda item.

Item 8: City Staff Reports

- Update from Amy Nonaka on Arbor Day 2025 efforts. CFAB members are encouraged to attend.
- Update from John Ide on Trees for Communities and Ready, Set, Grow San Diego.
- Discussion about evaluations of trees after 3-year watering period and loss of newly planted trees. Suggestions to carefully consider what species we are planting.
- Public Comment
 - Anisah Enciso – Concern about attendance numbers at tree stewardship workshop. Suggestions for reaching community members. Requesting materials for Tina at South Bay Sustainable Communities.
 - Tanisha-Jean Martin: Has climate ambassadors who are willing to help. Requesting more collaboration with non-profits.

- Elizabeth Castelo: Did tree walk for 25 trees and only 5 were alive. Reiterated the importance of tree maintenance.
- Anne Fege: States that tree placement is most impactful decision. Requesting more Zoom meetings.
- Terrell Rackley: No opposition to funneling communication directly through the city and is requesting education for residents.

Item 9: Discussion

- Frank will send emails regarding subcommittees.
- Chris would like further discussion on tree requirements for new housing.
- Tree canopy analysis expected soon.

Item 9: Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Suggestion for new discussion topics.
- Board chair reads additional public comment submitted via webform.

Item 9: Adjournment

- Brian Bagnall motions, Chuck Morgan seconds. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.