



COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, April 9, 2025

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library

5148 Market St

San Diego, CA 92114

Members in Attendance: Alyssa Way (D6), 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 (Non-Profit)

Board Liasons: Brian Widener, City Forester; Olivia Mabee, Community Engagement Specialist

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

- Not present: Leon Cassel, Ami Young

Item 2: Announcements and Updates

- Frank: Finally able to talk to someone from City of Seattle urban forestry regarding their citywide tree map – setting up call soon to learn more. Brian Widener is cc'd on the emails.
- Brian Widener: Agenda is light this time around.
 - Working on getting another bucket truck for our tree maintenance crew -- there is a need for new equipment. The more trees we plant, the more need for additional maintenance staff and new equipment.
 - Free Tree SD has no funding but are still taking requests for waitlist.
 - Tree maintenance & watering has been cut for the remainder of the current fiscal year. It is scheduled to resume under the next fiscal year.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

- Morgan Justice Black sent edits via email (spelling errors on names, Chuck is non-profit seat not arborist).
- Brian Bagnall motions, Jim seconds to approve with spelling changes

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Janet O'Dea: Watering must be prioritized.
- Anisah Encisco: Educate community on tree maintenance and watering. Encouraging City to work with Bayside Community Center for tree planting in the Linda Vista community.
- Emma Smith: Concern about current tree watering schedule for new trees.
- Anne Fege: Sad that feedback from Kate Sessions Commitment is not welcomed by the City. Suggests more community outreach with schools, community meetings.

Item 5: Acceptance of Conserve A Tree protection of Mission Hills fan palms

- As of 4.9.2025, the City of San Diego will put 33 fan palms along Sunset Blvd. into protection status, in accordance to Council Policy 900-19.

Item 6: City Staff Reports

- Amy Nonaka: Update on Arbor Day at Colina Del Sol Park. CFAB chair is invited to speak at Arbor Day.
- John Ide: Gives update on tree map, has Trees for Communities trees, will eventually have Ready, Set, Grow San Diego trees, then the whole city. Asks for feedback from CFAB members.
- Morgan Justice-Black: Mentioned aligning advocacy with City priorities – would like an advocacy prioritization so CFAB can help be the voice.

Item 7: Discussion

- Chris Tiffany: The City Planning Dept. is reviewing all recommendations and will respond when there is an update. City Forester, Brian, will check in on their review process.
- Brian Bagnall: Gives short update on community outreach. Emma Smith presents "Our Happy Tree Walks SD" – using the "Seek App"
- Chuck Morgan would like clarification from the City Forester on City standards for planting.

Item 8: Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meeting

- Discussion about cost/benefit analysis of preservation of trees vs. tree planting.

Item 9: Adjournment