



COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 13, 2025

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library
5148 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114

Members in Attendance: Leon Cassel (Horticulturist), Chris Tiffany (Landscape Architect), Ami Young (Artist), Jim Smith (D1), Morgan Justice-Black (D2), Wes Janssen (D4), Michael Ackerman (D7), Frank Buncom IV (Chair, D8)

Members Not in Attendance: Alyssa Way (D6)

Staff Liaison: Brian Widener

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Item 2: Announcements and Updates:

- Frank Buncom: Announced Opening for D3 seat.
- Brian Widener: CFAB reel posted to city website. There will be a round table meeting scheduled for city staff, to ensure the word gets out for more participation in tree planting.

Item 3: Non-Agenda Public Comment:

- None

Item 4: Approval of Minutes:

- July meeting minutes approved, passed unanimously.

Item 5: Approval of CFAB bylaws:

- Frank Buncom tabled review until next month. Draft will be emailed out Urban Forestry prior to next month's meeting.

Item 6: City Staff Reports

- John Ide reported on *Trees For Communities*; the six-month inspection is currently underway for newly planted trees. He shared that a total of 2,800 trees have been planted this year, with no additional planting anticipated at this time.
- Amy Nonaka provided an update on *Ready, Set, Grow San Diego*. She stated that approximately 85% of the trees planted are performing well. To date, 2,248 trees have been planted, and

plans are in place to plant an additional 2,700 trees in October. Trees that do not meet quality standards are rejected.

Item 7: Discussion

- **San Diego Urban Forestry Web Map Comments:**
 - Board members recommended including heritage trees on the public-facing map.
 - A suggestion was made to add a comment section and a link to the "Get It Done" app for community feedback.
- **Three-Year Tree Establishment Period:**
 - It was noted that City tree watering practices are aligned with ANSI standards.
 - In City Heights, a tree survivability rate of 74% was observed after three years of establishment.
 - Drought-tolerant tree species are being used in areas that lack irrigation.
- **Tree Cover Analysis:**
 - Jim Smith recommended using A9 flyover (NAIP) imagery for canopy studies instead of more costly LDAR technology. He noted that this method is significantly less expensive and suggested that Dudek could process the data. He asked whether the City could authorize a pilot project using this approach. Jim Smith will collaborate with Frank Buncom to draft a memo to the council proposing this idea.
- **Code Update:**
 - Preliminary code updates have been released for review by the City Planning Dept.

Item 8: Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- No proposed agenda items were brought forward.

Item 9: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.