

**City of San Diego**  
**Community Forest Advisory Board**

MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2009  
Civic Center Plaza Building

1) **Convene:** Vicki Estrada, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11: 50 a.m.

2) **Present:**

Members – Patrick Caughey, Fausto Palafox, Simpson Simpson, Becker Becker, Karen Davis, Victoria Heithaus, Stephen Lamprides, Craig Jones, Joe Jones.

[Not Present] – Gail Roberts, Mary Johnson, Tershia d’Elgin.

Guests – Guy Pruess (Skyline/Paradise Hills CPG), Tyler Overton (Urban Corps of San Diego)

City Staff – Drew Potocki, Michael Marika, Ken Healy, Tony Gangitano, Alissa Gabriel

3) a. **Approval of February Minutes:** Approved [Becker/Simpson].

b. **Approval of March Minutes:** Approved [J.Jones/Davis].

4) **Chair’s Announcements:**

a. Estrada attended APA conference in Minneapolis

b. Estrada also went to several community planning group meetings to give CFAB presentation. All had a good turn out with positive responses.

c. Several Paradise Hill commercial area trees been removed with no apparent plans to replace them. Guy Preuss filled in the details and Estrada agreed to write a letter to the appropriate department(s).

5) **Discussion Item(s):**

a. Adopt a Street Tree Program. Still in the conceptual stage but Potocki is looking for feedback about the basic idea of private firms adopting and caring for significant trees in San Diego.

b. Introduction of Ken Healy, new tree warden for the City of San Diego.

6) **Action Item(s):**

a. Approve Mission Statement. Approved unanimously [Caughey/Palafox].

The City of San Diego recognizes that a healthy urban forest supplies environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits that contribute to the quality of life of its residents.

The mission of the Community Forest Advisory Board is to provide stewardship and advocacy for policies, practices and partnerships essential for the protection, preservation and improvement of San Diego's urban forest.

7) **Reports:** Items *not* already on agenda

a. Mission Statement Committee – Special thanks to all who participated to synthesize all ideas into one: Simpson, Johnson, and Heithaus.



b. Staff Reports

- Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester.
  - i) Budget requested for \$2mil includes maintenance. Tree recovery funds are not available as the scope is general funded. Steve volunteered to write letter to Mayor requesting a separate urban forestry fund.
  - ii) Arbor Day with Chollas Groundworks – 50 5-gallon sycamores planted, mayor attended for an hour, largest CFAB turnout ever.
  - iii) Art in the Garden event in May.
  - iv) Request for CFAB presentation at Council Committee meeting.
- Michael Marika, Park & Recreation Dept. Arborist. Evans Hotels donated 15 48” box figs for the Crown Point area of Mission Bay park.
- Ken Healy, Code Compliance Officer. Starting to get the feel of the job by working on cost recovery and marking spots for tree planting.
- Tony Gangitano, Development Services Dept. Senior Planner.
  - i) DSD landscape inspection procedures have been changed to add additional inspectors.
  - ii) Gangitano has been compiling a summary of DSD online information for CFAB members to access.
  - iii) City Council approved the Code Compliance priority list with landscape having less than a low priority, a no action status. This was due to budget reduction in services. Landscape violations that are part of other priority actions will still be processed. This does not include public right-of-way landscaping.
  - iv) Landscape changes related to the state water bill will be incorporated into the landscape standards this summer and the Landscape Regulations 7th code update is in the beginning of the code update process. Gangitano will give progress reports to CFAB each month.

8) **Referrals to Committees:** Formation of subcommittee for the review of City’s Street Tree Guide and Master Plan. Simpson, Caughy, and Palafox nominated.

9) **Public Comment:** Guy Preuss asked what the City is doing about water conservation.

10) **Next Meeting:** Second Wednesday of the month, 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., 1200 Third Avenue, Civic Center Plaza Building, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

11) **Adjourned** at 1:05pm