

City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2016

City Administration Building, Committee Room

1) **Convene.** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2) **Attendees.**

Members –Chris Drayer, Davin Widgerow, Devon Boutte, Rachele Melious, Robin Rivet, Steve Lamprides, Troy Murphree, Anne Fege

Guests –Guy Preuss (Skyline/Paradise Hills)

City Staff –Lesley Henegar, Jeremy Barrick, and Cody Hooven (Planning); Sergio Arias (Streets Division)

3) **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes of the January 13, 2016 meeting were approved, with corrections in spelling of members' names and addition of Troy Murphree as attendee (moved by Rachele Melious, seconded by Davin Widgerow).

4) **Action Items.** None.

5) **City Staff Reports.**

- a) Jeremy Barrick, Urban Forestry Program Manager, reviewed the schedule for review and approval of the Urban Forest Management/Action Plan. The plan is scheduled to be presented at the Planning Commission on February 25, at the Smart Growth and Land Use Committee on March 9, and the City Council on April 5. Some of these dates may be adjusted, depending on the committee agendas.
- b) Lesley Henegar and Jeremy gave an update on the grant provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to the City. The contract is almost signed with University of Vermont for the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment, and the LiDAR data has been forwarded. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is being drafted for the street tree inventory and the street tree planting. The City is working with the USDA Forest Service to establish 200 fixed permanent urban tree plots, as the first City in California to be part of this national Urban Forest Inventory Assessment.
- c) Jeremy is working with a graphics designer to complete the revised Street Tree Selection Guide. He has met with the engineers and other staff in Public Works, and will participate in some Capital Investment Project (CIP) meetings. There are untapped opportunities to connect trees and urban forestry to community health.
- d) Sergio Arias and Jeremy gave an update on the tree losses and damage resulting from the high winds and storm on January 30-31. There were 570 tree failures, including three Heritage Trees. One Torrey Pine fell on a vehicle and killed the driver. Sergio inspected and recommended approval of two giant Torrey Pines on Saratoga Street in Ocean Beach. Observations made of each fallen tree will be compiled and shared with the Board. Media often focuses on trees falling down, property damage and deaths, and the Board discussed

the positive messages that can incorporate tree care, tree benefits, and other aspects of urban forest management.

- e) Cody Hooven, Sustainability Manager, gave an overview of the implementation activities for the Climate Action Plan. For increasing the tree canopy, the most important investments will be to retain and care for existing trees. There are many opportunities to use education and incentives to protect and plant trees on private property.

6) **Discussion.**

- a) Efforts are continuing to identify candidates for filling vacant Board positions.

7) **Other Reports**

- a) The City of San Diego and Tree San Diego are co-sponsoring the tree-planting event on Saturday, February 27 at Hancock Elementary School in Barrio Logan, to plant trees funded by the grant from CalFire to Tree San Diego. The Mayor is scheduled to attend.

8) **Public Comment**

None.

9) **Next Regular Meeting** – Second Wednesday of the month, March 9, 2016.

Agenda items include review of the Council Policy 900-19, Public Tree Protection, http://docs.sandiego.gov/councilpolicies/cpd_900-19.pdf; observations from tree losses during wind and storm; and update on the CalFire grant.

10) **Adjourned** at 1:15 p.m.