

City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2016

City Administration Building, 202 C Street, Committee Room, 12th Floor

DRAFT 11/12/16

1) **Convene.** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

2) **Attendees.**

Members – Steve Lampride, Rachele Melious, Troy Murphree, Vince Mikulanis, Anne Fege

Guests – Virginia Wilson (District 2), Guy Preuss (District 4), Corey Bassett (District 6), and Mike Palat (SD Regional Urban Forests Council)

City Staff – Jeremy Barrick and Lesley Henegar, Planning; Sergio Arias, Transportation and Storm Water Streets Division

3) **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes were approved for the October 12 meeting (Melious moved, Mikulanis seconded).

4) **Action Items.** None

5) **City Staff Reports.**

- a. Jeremy Barrick reported that the Urban Forestry Program Five-year Plan will be presented to the Council’s Environment Committee on Thursday December 8 (2:00 pm), and docketed for Council approval in January.
- b. Jeremy Barrick is preparing a Canopy Cover Implementation Plan with resources and staff identified for meeting the canopy cover goal in the City’s Climate Action Plan. This includes several organization structure options to combine the urban forestry program into one department, with working agreements across departments.
- c. Candidates for the Horticulturalist position are being reviewed, to work on code compliance, tree removal permits, and tree protection.
- d. Jeremy Barrick and Lesley Henegar gave a brief update on tree planting, tree inventory, and urban tree canopy assessment, funded by the grant from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). The trees will be planted with tree tags, “gater” watering bags, and QR codes to document each watering event and other management action.
- e. The tree inventory solicitation is being reviewed by the City Attorney’s office. A cooperative agreement will be signed with the USDA Forest Service “Urban Forest Inventory Analysis” to collect and analyze data on permanent tree plots in the City, one of the first five nationally. The University of Vermont is preparing the final data, maps, report, and presentations for the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment.

- f. Sergio Arias will begin tagging at-risk trees with information that tree may be removed, at least 30 days before removal. Shorter notices will be given if there is imminent risk/danger of tree failure. He reported that about 200 trees will be planted this year, from property owners' requests and their commitments to a watering agreement. Atlas Tree Corporation (city-wide tree care contractor) and Urban Corps are planting the trees.

6) Discussion.

- a. Jeremy Barrick outlined the benefits and content of a Tree Advocacy Handbook and tree advocacy program, such as the one at Casey Trees in Washington, DC. Virginia Wilson, District 2, suggested that public involvement in tree inventories (citizen science) would inspire interest in and advocacy for trees.
- b. Jeremy Barrick is still working with the City's website staff to set up the page, www.sandiego.gov/trees, migrate existing information to that site, and add current forms and resources.
- c. CalFire has released guidelines for the Urban Forestry grant applications, due December 16. Barrick reported that the City is likely to submit two applications, one for Community tree planting, and another for Parks inventory and tree planting.
- d. Anne Fege reported that the applications and background checks have been completed for three nominees, and the Mayor's office is processing four more applicants. They will be docketed for Council approval in two "batches" or perhaps all at one Council meeting. There are no applicants yet for the Artist, Horticulturalist/Nursery, and Non-profit Organization positions, but several community members are interested.

7) Other Reports

- a. For Tree San Diego, Mike Palat reported that Mayor Faulconer and about 100 attended the tree planting event on November 5, planting 17 trees at Southcrest Park. The participants will be added to Tree San Diego's contact list.
- b. Mike Palat described the awards program that San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council is starting this year. The five categories are: (1) Best innovative urban forestry project; (2) Best arbor day event; (3) Best urban forestry educational project; (4) Best regional council representative; and (5) Trees and water award. Nominations need to be sent by November 24 to Corey Bassett, at cbassett@wcainc.com. Awards will be presented at the bi-monthly meeting on Friday, December 16.

8) Public Comment

None.

9) **Next Regular Meeting** – Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, at City Administration Bldg. 202 C Street - 12th Floor, Conference Room A. The next meeting will be December 14, 2016, from 11:45 to 1:15 pm.

10) **Adjourned** at 1:25 p.m.

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