



City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2017

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

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

2) **Attendees.**

Members – Chris Drayer, Puja Batra, Rachele Melious, Troy Murphree, Virginia Wilson, and Anne Fege

City Staff – Brian Widener, Sergio Arias, and Kristy Reeser, Transportation and Stormwater; Melissa Garcia and Lesley Henegar, Planning; Ed Drobnicki and Magen Shaw, Park and Recreation; and Brian Elliott, staff for Councilmember Ward.

Guests –Guy Preuss (Paradise Hills); Robin Rivet, arborist and former CFAB member; David Chang, Tree San Diego; and Mike Palat, West Coast Arborists.

3) **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes were approved for the February 8, April 4, July 9, and September 13 meetings.

4) **Action Items.** None

5) **City Staff Reports**

- a. Kristy Reeser, Deputy Director, Transportation and Stormwater, introduced Brian Widener, the new City Forester. He was Senior Forester and manager of the Trees and Sidewalks program in New York City. Widener grew up in Santa Rosa, got a forestry degree from Northern Arizona University, worked in several national parks, and was a community forester in New Jersey.
- b. Melissa Garcia gave an update on the Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis program (Urban FIA). The USDA Forest Service crews are currently establishing permanent plots and collecting data in the City.
- c. The City allocated \$400,000 for tree planting in FY2018, which will fund about 2,000 trees planted by contractors (Urban Corps and Atlas Tree Service). Widener, Arias and the City's communications staff are working together to develop an outreach and implementation plan for this initiative. They will require tree watering agreements, and will give property owners some choice, based on street tree lists in community plans and the street tree selection list.

The Channel 10 news story and interview with Arias in May

(<http://www.10news.com/news/get-a-tree-for-free-in-city-of-san-diego>), about the Mayor's allocation of an additional \$100K for tree planting Mayor's tree planting, generated hundreds of requests for trees to be planted. About 100 trees have been planted to date in FY 2018, mostly requested by individual property owners.

- d. Magen Shaw described current Balboa Park tree-related projects, including tree inventory (conducted by Davey Resources), tree planting of 500 trees (with grant from CalFire), and tree steward training (by Tree San Diego).

6) Discussion

- a. Actions were discussed, to increase CFAB leadership for the Board function, "Act as a general information resource and promote volunteerism." The Board will focus on the FY 2018 tree planting initiative for this. Actions could include attending community planning group and town council meetings; giving presentations; sharing information and sponsoring training on tree care practices; and working with local groups to plant trees.
- b. Some CFAB members are working with community groups in their districts. Chris Drayer posted tree care information on Nextdoor Neighbor (social media). Virginia Wilson canvassed blocks in Ocean Beach to get watering agreements. She has established a strong relationship with Conrad Weir, Councilmember Zapf's staff, and regularly offers information about trees or meetings in the two-minute public comment time at community planning group meetings. Puja Batra has been using the tree benefits calculator in her communications about tree care and planting.
- c. Brian Elliott (staff for Councilmember Ward) is interested in contributing to the tree planting initiative, identifying blocks and other locations for trees, and working on the FY 2019 budget.
- d. Leslie Henegar shared a recent publication by The Nature Conservancy, "Funding Trees for Health," which draws from health care costs and tree canopy cover, and suggests ways to invest in trees.

7) Other Reports

- a. Tree San Diego is doing training for Tree Steward Watering and for canvassing neighborhoods to identify tree planting sites and get watering agreements.
- b. San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council invites applications for awards by October 30, to be presented at their December 5 meeting.
- c. The California Rare Fruit Growers holds their annual meeting on October 25, 7-9 pm at Casa del Prado, Room 101.
- d. Mike Palat announced that West Coast Arborists will be removing 100 large invasive palms by helicopter, from riparian areas off Pomerado Road in Scripps Ranch (in canyons maintained by Maintenance Assessment Districts).

8) Public Comment

- a. Guy Preuss offered additional information about the Developer Impact Fund that is being considered for revision. Changes would allow contributions "equivalent to" park investments, for non-park items. Community Planners Committee recommended against the revisions. It is scheduled for Council agenda this fall.

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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 November 8, 2017, from 11:45 to 1:15 pm.

Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.