



City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2017

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

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

2) **Attendees.**

Members – Chris Drayer, Isabelle Kay, Muriel King, Puja Batra, Rachele Melious, Tomas Herrera-Mishler, Troy Murphree, Vince Mikulanic, Virginia Wilson, and Anne Fege

City Staff – Brian Widener, Transportation and Stormwater; Lesley Henegar, Planning; Ed Drobnicki and Magen Shaw, Park and Recreation; Ashley Rosia, Sustainability/Economic Development

Council Staff – Bridget Langfur, District 1-D1, Brian Elliott, D3, Venus Molina-D4, Justin Garver-D5, Sheri Carr-D9

Guests –Guy Preuss (Paradise Hills); Ali Mehraban, Groundwork Chollas Creek; Quinton Grounds; Cheryl Lough (landscape architect); Mike Palat, West Coast Arborists; Katie; and Seth.

3) **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes were approved for the October 11, 2017 meeting.

4) **Action Items.** None

5) **City Staff Reports**

- a. The FY 2018 budget allocated \$400,000 for tree planting in FY2018, which will fund about 2,000 trees planted. To date, 154 have been planted by contractors. City staff are working on an outreach and implementation plan. (Widener)

6) **Discussion**

- a. The tree planting initiative is an unprecedented opportunity for communities to work together to increase tree canopy, gain many health and social benefits, learn how to plant and care for trees, and celebrate trees!
- b. Community and City resources and barriers were identified, for accomplishing the goal of planting and watering 2,000 trees by June 30.
- c. Key strategies and possible actions were identified to invite requests for trees, get watering agreements, and educate the public about tree care. See draft strategy.

7) **Next Regular Meeting**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, and the next meeting will be held at the Balboa Park Recital Hall (please see attached). The next meeting will be December 13, 2017, from 11:45 to 1:15 pm.

Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Draft Strategy for City of San Diego's FY 2018 Tree Planting Initiative

Elements identified at Community Forest Advisory Board meeting on November 8
with Board members and District staff

Draft strategies for goal: **Plant 2,000 trees by June 30, and ensure long-term tree care.**

1. Tree planting locations
 - a. Engage Council staff, City departments, and community groups in working collectively to plant and care for trees.
 - b. Develop and use consistent, clear guidance on how to request trees and submit required tree watering agreements.
 - c. Encourage multi-tree requests from community groups and neighborhood blocks.
2. Tree watering and care
 - a. Provide consistent, clear messages about tree benefits and care.
 - b. Use websites, social media, community presentations, and existing local materials.
 - c. Offer (or require) training to residents and communities who commit to tree care.
3. Tree planting and follow-up
 - a. Confirm site suitability and species to be planted.
 - b. Schedule and oversee tree planting by contractors.
 - c. Enter tree planting data into tree inventory data bases, and make maps available.
 - d. Support community planting efforts, and monitor tree survival and health.

City and Community Resources (identified during the meeting)

- Commitments to trees: Climate Action Plan goal to increase tree canopy, tree lists in community plans, Council funding for tree planting and care
- Media and communications: Mayor's office, Council staff, community meetings and events, "door hangers, social media, websites (www.sandiego.gov/trees, www.sdrufc.com/treecare and www.treesandiego.org)
- Public engagement: community activists organizing tree requests and watering agreements, Tree Steward program, tree care classes, local business promotions, citizens collecting tree data (citizen science), and community service hours
- Community groups: local businesses, business groups, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, breweries, commercial property owners, homeowners' associations, health clinics, churches, schools, youth and Scout groups, environmental groups, garden clubs, tree care professionals, Tree San Diego, and others
- Urban forest management opportunities: attention to tree planting site conditions; new approaches for sidewalk repair; inspections and compliance of trees in development permits; data from tree canopy maps and tree inventories

Barriers and Limitations (identified during the meeting)

- Inconsistent information and unclear processes about how to request and care for trees
- Street tree selection and planting: property owners want to select species; street tree selection list not updated; some trees stay small and provide fewer benefits; poor access to information about where there are trees (and not) and where trees have been planted
- Tree care isn't easy: trees grow into sidewalks and other infrastructure; negative messages about trees; trees planted once then need to be cared "for life"