

City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 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, Steve Lamprides, Rachele Melious, Vince Mikulanic, Troy Murphree, and Anne Fege

Guests –Guy Preuss (Paradise Hills); Virginia Wilson, Corey Bassett, Puja Batra and Butch Everett (nominees for CFAB); Ron Matranga, Atlas Tree Company; Charles Scott, Michael Baker Co.; Tom Wilson; Rita Caldwell; and Jackie Higgins, Balboa Park Conservancy

City Staff – Alyssa Muto, Melissa Garcia, and Lesley Henegar, Planning; Sergio Arias, Transportation/Streets

3) **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes were approved for the January 11 meeting.

4) **Action Items.**

a. None

5) **City Staff Reports.**

- a. The City Council unanimously approved the Urban Forestry Program Five-Year Plan (Plan), on January 24. Ten spoke in support of approving the Plan, citing tree benefits, management challenges and opportunities. Alyssa Muto thanked the Board for contributing to this Plan.
- b. City staff are working across departments on the Phase 1 action items outlined in the Plan. They meet regularly in an urban forestry coordination group.
- c. Lesley Henegar gave an update on the CalFire grant-funded planting and tree inventory projects. For the Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis-FIA, the USDA Forest Service (USFS) will establish and measure 200 permanent plots, funded cooperatively by the City and USFS. Muto reported that the field-based Tree Inventory procurement was released on February 2 but is temporarily suspended to restructure it as a “Notice to Bid.”
- d. Muto reported that the City Forester position description has been modified to focus on operational responsibilities rather than planning (Urban Forestry Program Manager). This position and key staff will be located in the Transportation and Stormwater Department, and the reorganization requested in the FY 2018 budget.
- e. Muto reported that the code compliance officer (tree warden) will remain in Development Services, and the position posted for a Horticulturalist, by the end of February.

6) Discussion

- a. There are opportunities for the Board to participate throughout the Community plan update process. At the next Board meeting, Planning staff will give an overview of the community planning process and discuss roles that the Board and individual Board members (representing districts) could take.
- b. Results from the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment will be packaged in a presentation that Planners and Board members can present to Community Planning Groups, local professionals groups, and others.

7) Other Reports

- a. The SD Regional Urban Forests Council has revised their website, now at <http://sdrufc.com/>. The Council will plant trees at San Elijo State Beach on April 22. The Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) will hold an annual conference on May 8-11 at Paradise Point Hotel in Mission Bay.
- b. Jackie Higgins reported that the Balboa Park Conservancy is working with Parks staff and Tree San Diego to conduct a tree inventory in Balboa Park, which has been funded by grants to the Conservancy.

8) Public Comment

- a. Guy Preuss mentioned that the revised permits for “Companion Housing” (“granny flats”) may eliminate requirements for trees.
- b. Preuss also noted that the designation and improvement of school playing fields as joint use parks do not seem to have shade trees as design elements or requirements (Park and Recreation, with SD Unified School District).

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

10) Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.