



**City of San Diego**  
**Community Forest Advisory Board**

MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2018

City Administration Building, 202 C Street, Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

2) **Attendees.**

Members – Butch Everett, Chris Drayer, Isabelle Kay, Puja Batra, Rachele Melious, Troy Murphree, Vince Mikulanic, Virginia Wilson, and Anne Fege

City Staff – Brian Widener and Sergio Arias, Transportation and Stormwater; Lesley Henegar, Planning; Katrina Burritt, Park and Recreation; Terre Lien, Development Services; Ashley Rosia and Matthew Harmatz (intern), Sustainability/Economic Development

Council Staff – Ibrahim Ahmed, District 4

Guests – Guy Preuss (Paradise Hills); Jackie Higgins and Jeff-intern, Balboa Park Conservancy; Robin Rivet, arborist

3) **Approval of Minutes.** (No minutes were approved)

4) **Action Items.** Board voted to endorse the City’s application for TreeCityUSA status. Mikulanic made the motion to endorse and Melious made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to endorse. Existing Arbor Day Proclamation needs to be located in order to reapply for status.

5) **Subcommittee Reports.**

- a. The “tree watering task force” developed messages and communication strategies, last summer. Seasonal messages and special conditions (such as winter months without rain) were written but have not been scheduled or promoted by the water agencies. Another meeting of the task force is needed.
- b. Vince Mikulanic gave an update on the subcommittee’s development of alternate and additional language for the City’s code for Street Planting, <http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter06/Ch06Art02Division06.pdf>, applying language from other cities in California. The subcommittee will discuss and propose revisions, then work with Widener, the City Clerk’s office, and other City staff to get Council approval of the code update.
- c. Widener reported that the subcommittee to review and suggest revisions to the website has not met yet. Widener suggests that subcommittee does not need to meet in person or by phone by rather website suggestions can be made through email. Coordination to take place before next meeting.

6) **City Staff Reports**

- a. Widener distributed monthly progress report (table) for the City’s urban forestry program, including trees planted, palms trimmed, shade trees pruned/removed stumps removed, trees inventoried (and empty planting spaces), and service

notifications. For each, the accomplishments are reported for City crews and contractors, and in the future will include Parks, Maintenance Assessment Districts, Business Improvement Districts, street trees planted as conditions of permits (from Development Services), and work done by San Diego Gas & Electric under and near powerlines.

- b. Widener gave an update on the tree planting initiative. 337 trees have been planted to date and Widener is working with both Park & Rec and Community Boards for tree planting efforts. Vince Mikulanis with CM Sherman will be putting on a council district 7 Arbor Day event on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Virginia Wilson talked about the limitations to tree planting in parts of Community Board 2.
- c. The Street Tree Selection Guide is updated and now posted, at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/street-tree-selection-guide.pdf>.
- d. Widener gave an update on the Urban Tree Canopy project. The data is now uploaded to SanGIS, named as TREECANOPY\_2014\_SANDIEGO. The report has not been finalized. There is considerable Board interest in developing applications of the data by professionals and community members, and a sub-committee will be formed. Agencies throughout the region should think about the next LiDAR data collection, including City of San Diego. Next collection should be year 2019.
- e. Widener is finalizing an application to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for tree inventory and planting.
- f. Lesley Henegar shared an issue paper on tree canopy for the Community Plan Update for Mission Valley, and an update on the street tree elements in the Kearney Mesa plan. Both will be discussed further as 5-minute presentations at the March 14 meeting.

## 7) Discussions

- a. Ashley Rosia gave a brief update on the City's Climate Action Plan report, [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/final\\_capannualreport\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/final_capannualreport_pdf.pdf). Rachele Melious attended and provided comments on this report, at the February 8, 2018 meeting of the Environment Committee. The Climate Action Coalition rated local cities in their 2017 report card, <https://www.climateactioncampaign.org/reportcard2017/>, and the City of San Diego got a "gold" for the planning and a "bronze" for implementation. There is considerable Board interest in contributing to the strategy of increasing tree canopy, and a sub-committee will be formed.
- b. Fege reported that a letter was sent on January 17, 2018 to the Mayor and Council, with the Board's recommendations on the FY 2019 budget. The urban forestry program needs were identified by some Councilmembers in their direction to the Mayor, which is assembled and released by the Independent Budget Analyst.
- c. Some Board members are interested in meeting earlier in the day, and Fege will check with the City Clerk's office about the availability of the meeting room in the morning (still on the second Wednesday of each month).

## 8) 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 14, 2018,  
from 11:45 to 1:15 pm.

**Adjourned** at 1:20 p.m.