

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

MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2008
City Administration Building

- 1) **Convene:** Vicki Estrada, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. .

- 2) **Present:**
Members – Vicki Estrada, Patrick Caughey, Jon Becker, Karen Davis, Victoria Heithaus, Stephen Lamprides, Craig Jones, Mary Johnson, Joe Jones, Tershia d’Elgin.
[Not Present] – William Tall, Gail Roberts, Dan Simpson,
Guests – Guy Pruess (Skyline/Paradise Hills CPG)
City Staff – Drew Potocki, Velmo Watson, Michael Marika, Tony Gangitano, Jeff Harkness, Alissa Gabriel

- 3) **Approval of Minutes:** August 2008 minutes approved with changes (J.Jones/Becker); July 2008 minutes approved (d’Elgin/Becker).

- 4) **Chair’s Announcements:** Applause to Drew Potocki for the UT article on the myths surrounding eucalyptus trees and fire danger. Article highlighted the value of trees.

- 5) **Discussion Item(s):**
 - a. Draft Brush Management Implementation Guide. Vicki Estrada presented draft document with a request for CFAB chair endorsement. The draft plan will be distributed by Citizens for Responsible Wildfire Risk Reduction this week with or without CFAB support. Planned recipients for the document are Park & Recreation and Fire departments. T.d’Elgin added that currently, brush management guidelines are complicated and leave open space with very little native plants and open to weed invasion. S.Lamprides questioned whether the language is too forceful. Further discussion of focusing on “weed abatement” as a liability; a possible certification program to train professionals in the correct methods of “brush management”; and possible existing guidelines for such training.

 - b. Presentations to Community Planning Groups. Craig Jones has been meeting with district 5 planning groups to present information about CFAB and tree planting efforts. Presentation has been well-received; the CFAB was not known of before. D.Potocki added that free trees are available to residents who are not required to have a tree. V.Estrada would be willing to provide equipment to CFAB technologically challenged members who would like to do the same in their district. The same presentation could be made to regional groups like SANDAG.

- 6) **Action Item(s):**
 - a. Should the CFAB write a letter to SDG&E in support of retaining the Cool Communities Shade Tree Program? Approved (C.Jones/J.Jones)



- b. Time sensitive item: Should the CFAB chair endorse the Draft Brush Management Implementation Guide? Approved (Caughey/ Heithaus)

7) **Reports:** Items *not* already on agenda

- a. Projects Committee – Estrada reported that with council representatives changing, now is not the time to push council offices for support of various projects.
- b. Staff Reports – Staff Reports Provided
 - Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester. i) La Jolla Scripps Park received a \$25k grant for planting additional Mexican fan palms between existing mature palms. ii) Undergrounding video shown on CityAccessTV Sunday and available online. <http://www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding/index.shtml>. The program has a section on tree protection and replacement with a cameo appearance by D.Potocki.
 - Tony Gangitano, Development Services Dept. Senior Planner. CFAB chair is on the list for the General Plan environmental document review.

8) **Referrals to Committees:** none

9) **Public Comment:**

- a. Guy Preuss reported that the Skyline planning group met and discussed Urban Village plans. Noted that tree grates as specified should allow for enlargement of the tree opening to accommodate growth. V.Watson added that there is a growing trend of tree grates being stolen. T. Gangitano noted that code allows the City to require proper grates but enforcement depends on citizen participation. He suggested that all community planning groups should have a landscape sub-committee to discover violations. This should be a discussion item next meeting.
- b. Velmo Watson asked CFAB to consider for next meeting a discussion on communicating with the citizens via water bills.
- c. Craig Jones is meeting with exiting council representative and asked if anyone had suggestions for topics to discuss. Potocki recommended that all CFAB members who are in districts where the representative is exiting should get a regular meeting with CFAB member on that person's calendar so when new council rep is in place, it appears to be an expected item.

10) **Next Meeting:** October 15th (3rd Wednesday this month only!), 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., CAB12A

11) **Adjourned** at 1:15pm