

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

MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2009
Civic Center Plaza Building

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

2) **Present:**

Members – Patrick Caughey, Fausto Palafox, Gail Roberts, Dan Simpson, Jon Becker, Karen Davis, Victoria Heithaus, Craig Jones, Mary Johnson, Joe Jones, Tershia d’Elgin.

[Not Present] – Stephen Lamprides

Guests – Vince Mikulanis, Sam Lopez, Ty Sterns, JoEllen Jacoby

City Staff – Drew Potocki, Michael Marika, Ken Healy, Tony Gangitano, Alissa Gabriel, Jeff Harkness

3) **Approval of August and September Minutes:** Approved by all [Davis/Roberts]

4) **Chair’s Announcements:**

5) **Discussion Item(s):**

- a. Water Conservation update from JoEllen Jacoby, City Water Department.
Basic statistics: 2600 investigations and 13.6% usage reduction since July 1.

The City wants water users to cut wasteful watering. They do not recommend that anyone stop watering trees. Sprinkler hours are to be expanded in cases where it is not feasible to water everything early or late. Sprinklers are not to be on during “rain events.” Watering ordinance to be amended at City Council to allow: vegetation restoration, boat washing, watering potted plants and vegetables any day of the week, and turf establishment at parks.

Questions: How do we encourage brush managed areas to be replanted? Who are the biggest water wasters? Can we educate customers about tree watering in their monthly bills?

- b. Urban Corps grants status report from Sam Lopez.
Received a \$350K CalTrans grant for transportation related area to return impacted spaces to their natural state. Current focus on Chollas Creek, Alverado Creek, and Radio Canyon Drive.

Green Streets grant for Barrio Logan and San Ysidro areas for residential landscaping and rehabilitation.

In conjunction with National Service Day on October 24th, the California ReLeaf program received a grant to plant 100 trees using corps member for labor.

Pursuing a new grant idea to apply tree-care educational stickers on tree stakes.
Information could be how to care for a street tree or what the benefits of trees are.



Urban Corps is building a new eco-center at their headquarters building complete with a roof-top garden to be used as an educational opportunity for groups of all ages. Funds come from a CalFire grant.

6) **Action Item(s):** no actions taken

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

a. Staff Reports

- Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester
 - i) Provided the industry & CFAB accepted definition of “urban forestry” for CFAB comparison to what was presented to CFAB by Street Division DD at previous month meeting.
 - ii) Recommended CFAB request analysis for the Urban Forest fund and restoration of such fund.
 - iii) Recommend CFAB look into idea of city adopting a fee for tree removal permits.
 - iv) Big Ash Giveaway. Partnering with SDRUFC for \$200,000 grant to plant 1,000 trees in one day.
- Michael Marika, Park & Recreation Dept. Arborist
- Ken Healy, Code Compliance Officer – September: 33 trees changed to protected status on GIS mapping system; 2 hours per week dedicated to Preservation program; 0 trees planted; 8 damage investigations; 4 recoverable actions; \$11,247 in cost recovery demand; 4 investigations of non-permitted tree work.
- Tony Gangitano, Development Services Dept. Senior Planner
 - i) NCC webpage – enforcement of the landscape regulations is not being done due to lack of priority, unless it is in conjunction with other higher priority violations.
 - ii) DSD budget cuts will affect Landscape Review Staff. DSD is re-organizing- Tony will report results next month.

- b. Board Member Reports: Vicky Heithaus, Mary Johnson and Tershia d'Elgin announced that they met with their council members and staff in behalf of the Urban Forest Program, and they appealed to other CFAB members to do likewise, as soon as possible.

8) **Referrals to Committees:** none

9) **Public Comment:** none

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