

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

MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2010
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, Stephen Lamprides, Craig Jones, Mary Johnson, Joe Jones, Terشيا d’Elgin.

[Not Present] –

Guests – Guy Pruess (Skyline/Paradise Hills CPG)

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

3) **Approval of Minutes:** none provided

4) **Chair’s Announcements:**

- a. Chair attended APA conference in New Orleans.
- b. Ideas of topics to discuss with the Mayor: Climate Action Plan grant of \$250k; cost recovery fund; greening of infrastructure
- c. Members are to email Chair with questions for Mayor’s office.

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

- a. The Mayor’s position on Urban Forestry. The Mayor understands the importance of the CFAB and would like to see projects and grant opportunities. His office is focusing on how programs like this can be made self-sustainable and not rely on the general fund and they will work to pursue all viable options. They would like to see examples of cities and programs that we could review and/or copy. Mayor’s rep made a commitment to get trees into the Climate Action Plan.
- b. Urban Forester Position. Potocki reported the following: General Services Department Director, Mario Sierra has determined that ECP is funding 100% of the position but the position was not transferred to ECP. Time can be charged to Street Division for certain activities. Potocki recommended to Sierra that the position be funded through the cost recovery funds generated by the CFAB. Sierra liked the idea but wants the Board to lobby through the City Council and then Sierra could and would support Potocki's proposal. Sierra said that CFAB chair Vicki Estrada needs to meet with the Mayor because the Mayor doesn't view the program as a priority. This is part of the reason Potocki's position was recommended for elimination, the advisory board has not been as pro-active with the council and mayor as in the past.
- c. Arbor Day suggestions. The Mission Hills Regional Park Arbor Day is held in December to coincide with rainy season. A goal should be to produce a tree planting brochure in time for the next one. Other Arbor Day events listed on the SDRFC website.
- d. Tree Planting Goals. Streets Division’s goal is to plant 1800 trees per year. The Mayor’s office should make this goal a priority.

6) Action Item(s):

- a. Motion to determine how to get Tree City USA status re-established. Unanimous approval.

7) Reports: Items *not* already on agenda

- a. Staff Reports
 - Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester. There is still a need for public information about water conservation
 - Ken Healy, Code Compliance Officer. Provided a report for review (attached). Trees are not currently being trimmed by the Street Division unless there is a need to trim for street right of way clearance. Result is that many citizens are either requesting to cut them down or trimming themselves.

8) Referrals to Committees: --none--

- 9) **Public Comment:** Guy Preuss suggests sending all tree removal requests to planning committees.

10) Adjourned at 1:15pm

Community Forest Advisory Board

General Services- Staff Report

Submitted by: Ken Healy

April 14, 2010



Current activities for March and April

- Drew Potocki's Position 80% Underground utilities/ 20% Streets
- Is 20% enough?
- Keep fighting for a solid Urban Forestry Department in San Diego
- Tree trimming budget limited to 8' clearance for pedestrians and 14'6" for vehicles. We are receiving a lot of phone calls and removal permit applications.

Protected Trees

- A total of 131 trees are on the City's protected list. Up from 60 on our last update.
- Ken Healy (Tree Warden) is working with one of the city's IT techs to continually keep the Protected Tree inventory updated (keep those nominations coming in).
- IT is still working on a more user friendly version to nominate trees

Tree Planting Markings & Permits (residential & commercial)

- District 1—0 trees
- District 2—14 trees
- District 3—178 trees
- District 4—12 trees
- District 5—0 trees
- District 6—20 trees
- District 7—20 trees

- District 8---97 trees

Total Trees----341

Cost Schedule and Recovery

This program allows for the city to recover costs associated with damage to trees due to accidents. The following is a summary of investigations for February and March.

- 11 investigations
- 2 determined to be recoverable

Cost recovered amount: \$6000.00

Land Development Code Investigations

This program entails the enforcement of illegal action to tree removal, tree trimming or otherwise non-permitted tree work. The following is a summary of investigations for February and March 2010.

- 6 open investigations

Never hesitate to call me with tree code compliance issues.

Ken Healy
Code Compliance Officer/ Tree Warden.
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