



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

MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2018

North Park Community Center, 4044 Idaho Street, San Diego, CA

- 1) **Call to Order** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.
- 2) **Attendees.**
  - Members – Chris Drayer, Rachele Melious, Troy Murphree, Virginia Wilson, Muriel King, Charlene Pulsonetti, Vince Mikulanis, Butch Everett, Cheryl Lough, and Anne Fege
  - City Staff – Brian Widener, Sergio Arias, Christine Stontz, Christina Fernandez, Transportation and Stormwater; Lesley Henegar, Planning; Terre Lien, Daniel Neri, Development Services; Ashley Rosia, Matthew Harmatz, Economic Development
  - Guests – Janay Kruger, Trees 1000, Dorothy Abeyta, Davey Resource Group, and Mike Palat, SDRUFC/West Coast Arborists
- 3) **Approval of Minutes.** March 14, 2018 (corrections made) and April 11, 2018 minutes were approved.
- 4) **Announcements and Updates.** Brian Widener announced that today’s meeting location was chosen to highlight tree planting around North Park Community Center. There was media coverage in the Union Tribune and Times of San Diego regarding Urban Forestry funding, although no mention of Citywide urban forestry efforts beyond street trees. Christine Stontz was introduced as the new arborist in the Department of Transportation and Stormwater.
- 5) **Actions**
  - a. The Board approved a letter to the Mayor and Council, advising against the proposed budget cuts for shade tree pruning and tree planting initiative, and asking that at least two professional staff be added.
- 6) **Subcommittee Reports**
  - a. Municipal Code and Council Policy – Vince Mikulanis gave an update. Proposed amendments to current Street Tree Protection and Planting code and a draft staff report will be presented at a future CFAB meeting. Brian will move these through the City’s code revision process, for future Council approval.
  - b. Website review –Widener is working with the Communications Dept. to update half of the Urban Forestry website.
  - c. Tree Canopy data maps, data analysis, and report - The June 6 meeting of the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council will be an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment workshop. Ashley Rosia-Tremonti and Brian Widener have been working with Performance and Analytics to map the data. There is now a tree canopy cover story map, that will be shared with the public in the near future.
  - d. Tree Watering Taskforce – More action is needed. Suggestions were made for a water rebate idea that could be implemented by the City’s Water Department, and a water reminder link on the urban forestry website.

**7) City Staff Reports**

- a. Widener shared the Citywide Urban Forestry Program Tracking report.
- b. City contractors are continuing to plant trees in FY18 through the end of June, in both street and park locations - Widener
- c. This year's Arbor Day was presented by Friends of Balboa Park in partnership with Park and Recreation. Widener, Fege, Magen Shaw and Mike Palat attended. Widener suggested a larger more inclusive event for next year and proposed an Arbor Day sub-committee.
- d. Fege reported on the FY19 budget process. Letters and emails have been sent by Board and community members to the Mayor and Councilmembers. Board members gave statements at the May 2 budget hearing on Sustainability, and the May 3 budget hearing for Transportation and Stormwater.
- e. Widener is still drafting the final grant proposal for tree inventory and planting, to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), due May 30.
- f. Lesley Henegar is reaching out to all 48 Community Planning groups, and will give seven presentations in May. There is high interest in tree planting by private citizens.

**8) Other Reports**

- a. Mike Palat reported that Tree San Diego is working with the City of Chula Vista on their Treejuvenation project, which is utilizing urban wood from removal of mature trees.

**9) Discussion**

- a. Butch Everett will bring formal proposal for removal of three Heritage Trees on Alta Vista, to the June meeting.
- b. Muriel King will give a presentation on urban forestry on the next two Saturdays at Skyline Hills Library.

**10) Next Regular Meeting** – The Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month, and the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 2018. It will be held at the City Administration Building, 202 C Street, Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Meeting adjourned at 1.15pm.**