



City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 13, 2018
City Administrative Building, 202 C Street, Committee Room, 12th
Floor

1. **Call to Order** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:55am

2. **Attendees**

Members – Chris Drayer, Rachele Melious, Troy Murphree, Vince Mikulanis, Butch Everett, Puja Batra, Tomas Herrera-Mishler, and Anne Fege

City Staff – Brian Widener, Sergio Arias, Christine Stontz, Transportation and Stormwater; Terre Lien, Development Services

Guests – Guy Preuss; Barry Pulver; Lissette Velarde

3. **Approval of Minutes.** May 9, 2018, minutes were approved.

4. **Announcements and Updates.**

- a. Brian Widener reminded CFAB members that oaths can be taken and renewed at the Clerk's office.
- b. Anne Fege and Tomás Herrera-Mishler discussed educational and outreach opportunities through the Old Globe Theatre in conjunction with *The Lorax* production this summer.
- c. Widener reviewed the Brown Act, which guides advisory board meetings. Such meetings should be posted at least 72 hours in advance, be available online, and follow specified procedures for inquiries and voting.
- d. Troy Murphree suggested the creation of educational PSAs. Widener to bring this idea up with the Communications Dept. and local Ad Council.
- e. Preliminary plans for Citywide Arbor Day were outlined. Tomás Herrera-Mishler suggested the date of Nov. 8 to honor Kate Session's birthday. Tomás Herrera-Mishler, Rachele Melious, and Vince Mikulanis are the subcommittee for this project; the location and date of this event is to be an action point in the August meeting.
- f. Widener announced that there will not be a July meeting of CFAB.

5. **Actions**

- a. Regarding the removal of three Preservation Grove trees at 5220 Alta Vista, Widener recommends removing three trees. The Board motioned the removal of three trees at 5220 Alta Vista Street. Final decision will be made by the City Forester.
- b. Rachele Melious gave an update as to tree watering messages to the City Water Dept.; she is following the department through social media platforms.

6. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Municipal Code and Council Policy—Vince Mikulanis, Anne Fege, and Brian Widener discussed the proposed amendments to the current Street Tree Protection and Planting code. The goal is to amend existing municipal code for street trees, and municipal code for park trees should be addressed at a future date. Widener to update CFAB at August meeting.
- b. Website Review—Widener is working with the Communications Dept. to update the City Urban Forestry website. Fege mentioned www.sdrufc.com that can be easily updated with urban forestry messages including tree watering.
- c. Tree Canopy Data Analyses, Report, Mapping—Puja Batra gave an update. She has been

working with spatial data from UCSD and believes that this information is a good summary snapshot. Concerns include data format and platform accessibility.

7. City Staff Reports

- a. Widener shared the Citywide Urban Forestry Program Tracking Report. Over 1,400 trees have been planted in streets and parks in the last fiscal year.
- b. The tree trimming budget for FY19 was approved by City Council and signed by the Mayor this week. The planting budget for FY19 has been reduced, and supply may not be able to keep up with the community's demand for new trees.
- c. Widener stated that the final draft of the CALFIRE grant was submitted at the end of May. He is waiting for a decision. The city was unable to apply for Tree City USA for last calendar year, the City will apply for calendar year 2019.

8. Discussion

- a. Widener has revised the items of Phase I of the 5-year plan. Fege will plan a separate meeting to review the spreadsheet of action plan items and proposed revisions.
- b. Tree planting on private property has recently involved the launch of the new Trees1000 nonprofit organization, the Planning Department efforts to reach out to local communities, and a recent discussion between CFAB members and SDG&E to renew the utility company's efforts for tree planting on private property.

9. Public Comment

- a. Guy Preuss mentioned the land development code and its requirement that street trees be planted near bus stops.
- b. Rachele Melious reviewed the health aspect of trees. To be most effective at reducing particulate matter, trees should be located near roadways.
- c. Tomás Herrera-Mishler shared the facts that the annual ecological benefits from Balboa Park trees equate to \$1,484,263.31.

10. **Next Meeting** – The Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month. The Board will not be meeting in July. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 8, 2018. It will be held at the regular meeting location, City Administration Building, 202 C Street, Committee Room, 12th Floor.