

City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2015

City Administration Building, 12th Floor Conference Room

1) **Convene.** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

2) **Attendees.**

Members –Chris Drayer, Erin McConkey, Rachelle Melious, Robin Rivet, Steve Lamprides, Troy Murphree, Vince Mikulanic, Anne Fege

Guests – Mike Kravkar (Golden Hill); Guy Preuss (Skyline/Paradise Hills); Mike Palat, San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council

City Staff –Kristy Reeser, Nathan Pattern and Sergio Aries, Transportation/Streets Division

3) **Approval of Minutes.** None.

4) Action Items.

Mike Kravkar presented nominations for Protected Trees on his property for a *Magnolia grandiflora* and an *Araucaria heterophylla* (star pine), as Heritage Trees. Motion was made and passed (7 in favor, one abstained) to recommend designation. Under Council Policy 900-18 (http://docs.sandiego.gov/councilpolicies/cpd_900-19.pdf), the designation is made by the City's Urban Forester or Park Arborist, and the Board asked that a formal letter of designation be sent to the property owner.

5) **City Staff Reports**

- a. Sergio Aries was introduced by Department Head Kristy Reeser as the new Horticulturalist/Urban Forester.
- b. The City has interviewed applicants for the Urban Forestry Manager (Planning) positions.
- c. Kristy Reeser gave an update on the completed Citywide Sidewalk Assessment, with copies of the April 17, 2015 report to the Infrastructure Committee (Report No. 15-045). About 5000 miles of sidewalks were walked and conditions recorded; There were 78,000 locations with damaged sidewalks, potential tripping hazards, and missing sidewalks. About 7,600 locations had deficiencies attributed to trees. The crews recorded 132,000 palms, 78,000 shade trees, and 1,200 tree wells without trees. Funding of \$5.4 million has been appropriated over two years. Retention or replacement of trees will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- d. Concern was expressed about root-pruning contractors being subs to concrete contractors, as that may favor tree removal to expedite sidewalk replacement. There are many grates girdling trees, and these may be replaced by decomposed granite (DG) or other surfaces. The City of Seattle has completed a Streets and Sidewalks Operations Plan that could provide insights into how the City of San Diego can manage these assets, <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treesandsidewalks.htm>. Reeser confirmed that the City is committed to enhancing trees, through the goals in the Climate Action Plan, the

Green Streets approaches, and the General Plan. This Board requests review of the specifications/drawings for the sidewalk replacement contracts, understanding of the process to decide tree retention and replacement, and the scope of work for the sidewalk replacement contractors.

6) Discussion Items

- a. The draft tree watering table and text were reviewed, and it was recommended that three one-page flyers be prepared: for established trees (highest priority), for newly-planted trees, and for trees in lawns that are removed under the “turf replacement program.”
- b. There is “missing” data in the tree inventory database, as only a few of the Protected Trees are identified, and the need to locate an archived version of the database and/or the paper nomination forms. Other discussion focused on revising the nomination form and process to include contacting adjacent property owners and a map. Robin and Erin will bring suggestions for a revised form to the August meeting.

6) Public Comment:

No public comments were given.

7) Agenda items for next meeting

Recommendation that revised Street Tree Selection Guide be accepted by the City and posted on the Urban Forestry webpage.

Approval of minutes for April 8 and June 10 meetings (no quorum at May 13 meeting).

8) Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.