

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

MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2009
Civic Center Plaza Building

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

2) **Present:**

Members – Patrick Caughey, Fausto Palafox, Dan Simpson, Jon Becker, Karen Davis, Victoria Heithaus, Stephen Lamprides, Craig Jones, Joe Jones, Tershia d’Elgin.

[Not Present] – Gail Roberts, Mary Johnson,

Guests – Guy Pruess (Skyline/Paradise Hills CPG), Janet O’Day (Mission Hills resident)

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

3) **Approval of June Minutes:** Davis/C. Jones. Approved by all.

4) **Chair’s Announcements:**

- a. Jones and Vicki met with District 7’s office to go through benefits of trees, the lack of trees, and various stormwater issues. Also got support for presenting CFAB to Natural Resources & Culture committee. Scheduled to meet with Districts 3 and 5.

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

- a. Concern about which department is tasked with tracking tree issues. Is there a flow chart of responsibility? Could CFAB update it to make it more logical? Can CFAB talk to departments? Be sure to contact Dave Jarrell, Mario Sierra, and Hasan Yousef.

6) **Action Item(s):**

- a. Tree Nomination – Landmark Palms on Sunset Boulevard from Ft. Stockton Blvd. to Witherby Street. Report by J. O’Day (nomination letter attached). Palms planted according to Kate Session’s specifications and the area was developed by George Marston. Neighbors are concerned about future undergrounding activities threatening palms. Potocki explained why some were removed and replaced with a combination of skyline palms and pedestrian level magnolias (or other tree). Motion to support the request to preserve the trees contingent upon planning group notification. Jones/Caughey. Approved with D’Elgin abstaining.

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

- a. Staff Reports
 - Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester
 - i) Tree inventory not updated in several years
 - ii) To distribute Tree City USA documents.
 - iii) Working with DSD on tree policies, we have succeeded in saving thousands of trees.
 - iv) Street tree selection guide update to add more native trees.



- v) Met with Caltrans regarding 400 year-old oak tree in Sorrento Valley near I-805. Constructing project around the tree and property around the tree will become City property after project is done.
 - vi) No funds for contractual tree trimming this year.
 - vii) Planting 300 trees in Serra Mesa paid for by undergrounding process
 - viii) Tree Nomination form being made interactive
- Michael Marika, Park & Recreation Dept. Arborist – new tree pest attacking tipauana trees.
 - Ken Healy, Code Compliance Officer – Up to speed on protected trees and SAP training; cost recovery and tree planting/marketing activities are on-going. Additional report attached.
- b. Board Member Activities/Issues
- Tershia D’Elgin wrote a letter regarding storm water channel sediment cleanout (attached). She pointed board members to the S.D Master Stormwater Maintenance Program website for more information.
 - Craig Jones met with District 5 offices to discuss large reconstruction of multi-unit property at Pena Drive and Carmel Valley Road. A large portion of the landscaping was to be removed and is not required to be replaced. There is no CEQA review required for this project.
 - Fausto Palafox inquired about who a citizen can go through to pay for park trees? Others answered Stacey LoMedico.
- 8) **Referrals to Committees:** none
- 9) **Public Comment:** G.Preuss reported that the Skyline sidewalk project is complete and four tree grates were installed.
- 10) **Next Meeting:** Second Wednesday of the month, 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., 1200 Third Avenue, Civic Center Plaza Building, 14th Floor
- 11) **Adjourned** at 1:15pm

(CFAB 09-08-12 Minutes.doc)



My name and address:
Janet O'Dea

Landmark tree
Palm tree
Sunset Boulevard from Ft. Stockton Boulevard to Witherby
Estimated Height 80 feet
Estimated width 2.5 feet
Estimated planting date: 1918
Likely from Kate Sessions Nursery

Current photos are attached.
A photo from the historic society shows the trees already planted along Sunset Blvd in a photograph circa 1924.

The area was developed by George Marston and called Mission Hills beginning in 1908. Johnston Rd was renamed the more romantic Sunset Boulevard with that subdivision map filing. Mission Hills covers the north side of Sunset to Witherby Street, and both sides of the street from Ft. Stockton Drive to St. James Place. In 1909, Sara Johnston Cox Miller subdivided the subdivision that begins along the South side of Sunset Boulevard and she called it Inspiration Heights. Markers still survive along Sunset Boulevard to mark the entrance to the subdivision.

Around 1910, Kate Sessions and Alice Rainford gathered petitions to get a streetcar to run through Mission Hills along Ft. Stockton Drive. Kate Sessions is known to have had a business relationship with John Spreckles who owned the street car line. She also had influence and mutual interests with George Marston and worked with him on park boards and with city beautification. It is presumed that Marston and Miller relied upon Kate Session nursery to plant the line of trees along Sunset Blvd. Ms. Session's nursery was indeed in close proximity, only a few blocks away along Palmetto and West Lewis streets. During the petition for the Street car line, Kate Session and Sara Miller disagreed as to the best route as Sara was attempting to have the street car routed along Sunset Boulevard and was distraught that Kate did not share her vision.

From the historic photo it appears that the trees were likely planted after the street car line went in. Since the tree is a common tree to create the impressive line of trees on both sides of the street even though there were two different developers, it is hypothesized that Kate Sessions was the common thread that enabled this result.

Please forward this application to preserve the trees along Sunset Boulevard that still stand and add each of these trees to the Tree Protected status list.

Thank you for your consideration of this request

Community Forest Advisory Board

General Services- Staff Report

Submitted by: Ken Healy

July 8, 2009



Cost Recovery for Tree Damage

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 March through June of 2009.

- 20 investigations
- 8 Determined to be recoverable

Cost Recovery Demand Amount: **\$20,721.02**

Tree Planting Markings & Permits (residential)

- District1—5 trees
- District2—8 trees
- District3—119 trees
- District4—129 trees
- District5—0 trees
- District6—92 trees
- District7—27 trees
- District8—45 trees

Total trees for March through June 2009

Total 425

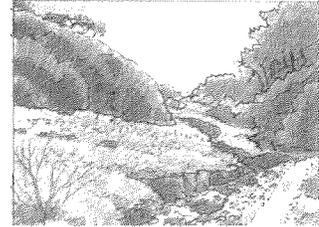
THIRTY-SECOND STREET CANYON TASK FORCE

In partnership with the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation
1235 28th Street ♦ San Diego ♦ California ♦ 92102

Paul Broadway
Laura Burnett, L.A.
Kathi Diamant
Tershia d'Elgin
Judy Foreman
Hester Gillespie
Marc Kratzschmar
Mary Lydon
Laura Mays
Bonnie Poppe
Mary Ann Sandersfeld
John Shih

June 30, 2009

Mr. Terrence Dean
Department of the Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division
South Coast Branch, San Diego Section
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 105
Carlsbad, California 92011



RE: City of San Diego
Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program
Public Notice / Application No.: SPL200801175

Dear Mr. Dean:

Can the City of San Diego possibly obtain a permit to manage storm water infrastructure for the purpose of reducing flood damage without an approved Environmental Impact Report? We hope not, because the City's proposed management overlooks the very causes that make the permit necessary and, professing a lack of mitigation sites within the impacted coastal region, proffers mitigation sites way out in Rancho Jamul.

The City requests a permit to maintain concrete channels and basins, which have filled with sediment where wetland vegetation has established. This sediment derives from the poorly stewarded and highly impacted urban canyons, with which you are very familiar. Coastal canyons are subject to increased rates of erosion due to impermeable hardscape in development, placement of storm water outfalls at the tops of hillsides, and changes in stream flow as a result of roads and other infrastructure, and vegetation clearing for brush management, sewer maintenance and other purposes. Stream courses are rendered even less stable by wastewater infrastructure and access paths, over which the City disallows vegetation adequate to reduce erosion. Increased erosion transports increasing and unaddressed amounts of sediment to the concrete channels. The ensuing loss of wetlands upstream actually results in the very situation the City must now address downstream.

We respectfully request that the permit not be issued until circulation, review and certification of the EIR is completed. The City's suggested approach – mechanical dredging – will of course be thoroughly explained in the EIR. We, however, look forward to an EIR that also examines and addresses the true causes of the sedimentation, as well as explores alternatives to dredging, among which revitalization of substantive wetlands in the coastal area must certainly be an option.

In fact, professional geohydrologists have suggested that removal of the hardened structures in question (concrete channels and sedimentation basins) coupled with wetland restoration might achieve regulatory objectives. A comprehensive EIR would identify a range of potential changes that could simultaneously reduce losses from floods, and allow re-establishment of riparian habitat with the associated benefits in species conservation, water quality, and aesthetics for urban communities. It would also identify areas where development in danger of repeated loss from floods could be removed.

A rigorous analysis of the cost of removing flood-plain development vs. maintenance of flood control structures in perpetuity would also include the ecosystem service costs of lost carbon sequestration, energy, water quality and air quality that will continue unaddressed, if the City is granted permission for dredging. By contrast, the use of hydrologic practices coupled with vegetation management would result in a large increase in the amount of good quality wetland habitat in San Diego, with its accompanying increases in ecosystem service dollars, as well as a reduction in flooding.

Thank you for your consideration of our appeal, Mr. Dean. We look forward to hearing from you about this request.

Yours sincerely,

Tershia d'Elgin
Director
tershia@aol.com
619/239-6120

Cc: U. S. Representative Susan Davis
U.S. Representative Bob Filner
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
City of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders
City of San Diego City Council / Council President Ben Hueso
Peter M. Douglas, California Coastal Commission
Bill Anderson, City of San Diego