

Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting
May 10, 2006
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
City Administration Bldg. -12th Floor, Closed Session Room

Minutes

- 1) **Call to Order** at 12:07 without a quorum
- 2) **Introductions** - *Members present were: Jon Becker, Mike Singleton, Mary Johnson, Tershia d'Elgin, Drew Potocki, Tony Gangitano, Mona Favorite-Hill, Luis Generoso, Velmo Watson, and Maureen Hall. Guests were: Lisa Adams, Urban Corp; Gus Brown, Streets Division; Guy Preuss, Skyline Paradise Hills Planning Committee; Kathy-Evans Calderwood, CHAPC & PAC City Heights.*
- 3) **Approval of the April Minutes** – *Unable to approve without a quorum*
- 4) **Chair's Announcements and Update** – *None*
- 5) **Discussion Items**
 - a. *Preview of CPC Presentations – Mona Favorite Hill – Mona will have a PowerPoint running during the CPC meeting. She will give out the “What is CFAB Brochure”. Is there anyone from the Board willing to draft a letter for CPC to sign to endorse CFAB? Mike Singleton drafted the statement for Mona to type up. It was also suggested to add a slide to the PowerPoint asking for endorsement of CFAB and asking them to vote for the endorsement so it will be in the minutes. Drew suggested a feedback form be given to them to give back to us about any concerns about trees in their district. He also suggested for Mona to ask them the following questions: How could CFAB help them in their community efforts? Would they like CFAB to make a presentation to their planning group? The Conserve-A-Tree Form will also be passed out.*

Mona talked to Old Mission Rotary about the tree program. They were concerned with trees blocking signage and the ability to build and expand businesses. She also thanked Lisa for all her help on Earth Day. Mona is also putting together a school presentation with talking trees.
 - b. *Rewriting Tree Removal Guidelines for the Park & Rec Board – Maureen – Mike Singleton will ask Ginny from the P&R Board to have one of the board members attend the next CFAB meeting. The P&R Board Tree Removal Guidelines were written in 2001. CFAB would like a new policy written bringing it up to date with the Tree Protection Policy. CFAB would also like the P&R Board to look at mitigation replacements. Trees considered non-native don't require a tree removal process. Tree Mitigation is on a case by case basis. Jeff Harkness and Josh Garcia serve on the DSD/MSCP Plant Board. They are looking at finding natives and naturalized vs. non-natives. This will take a while. When everything is found there will be changes*

in the landscape standards. It was suggested that Mike S. check with P&R Open Space Division (David Monroe) to see what their tree planting process is before talking to the P&R Board. Mike S. should also check with Jeff Harkness and Josh Garcia.

- c. *Follow-up on answers to Mike Singleton's questions from last meeting on tree removals - Drew Potocki – SDG&E has been requested to answer CPUC's questions about why SDG&E is spending so much money in trimming trees and not being more aggressive in tree removals.*

Drew recommended that the CFAB's Planning Committee meet to talk about Policy 200-5. Invite someone from SDG&E to this committee meeting.

Drew provided basic responses to Mike Singleton's concerns, but re-emphasized that the City is limited by the current City policies as written. Drew recommends the policy sub-committee go over the policies and recommend revisions. On question 8 Mike would need to ask SDG&E this question. SDG&E admits there were several problems with their noticing. SDG&E only has to notify adjacent property owners. They will now start noticing Community Planning Groups as well.

Drew noted that there are no longer CFAB sub-committee meetings. CFAB may want to think about working on a push to get more members to serve on sub-committees to talk about tree issues and policy reviews. The City's hands are tied by policy and things can't be changed till policies are changed.

- d. *Letter to Mayor Sanders reference the possible disbanding of CFAB – Tershia d'Elgin – Tershia wrote up a letter of support for CFAB, cc'ing each Council Person, and adding the PowerPoint and Flower Slide showing how much trees benefits the community. Board members added their ideas to the letter. The letter has since been typed and sent to Mayor Sanders. The letter will be given to each Board Member at June's meeting.*
- e. *SDG&E Easement Question Follow-up – Maureen – No one in the city is in charge of SDG&E easements. Many SDG&E easements have a clause about tree trimming outside of the main easement, but that would be limited to some pre-determined width. So a copy of the deed obtained from the County would be best to determine that. What the Board would need to do if they have a complaint is to go to the county, get a copy of the easement for that area, then interpret what the restrictions or stipulations of the easement are. If they are outside of it then SDG&E is in violation. If they are in violation then report to Neighborhood Code Compliance Department (NCCD), the City Attorney's Office or the Office of the District Attorney. Nobody oversees the SDG&E easements on city property. NCCD said they would only look into it if someone lodged a complaint and that before they would look into it they would have to have the actual easement in hand. Though If SDG&E is cutting down trees in an easement, the Board can request that information be provided to them regarding their practices and procedures for doing this. NCCD said they would also*

question the responsible authority that oversees and authorizes the cutting down of trees that are not located in SDG&E easements. What gives them the right to do this and under what situations? NCCD says the Board can also contact the Public Utilities Commission (they believe that they are located in Sacramento) regarding any regulatory questions concerning SDG&E. Though NCCD wants to stipulate that they believe that SDG&E can cut further if there is a "future growth danger" or some such.

NCCD, though, normally does not get involved with the civil agreements related to what is usually the 10 foot easement used by SDG&E, phone and cable companies on private property. The specifics, if any, regarding these agreements are usually recorded on the property owner's deed. SDG&E usually sends notices to property owners if their survey of vegetation requires pruning and/or removal of trees that are trunked outside of the easement.

SDG&E easements usually have specific language that is also placed on the subdivision map. In general, yes they can cut the trees down - for specific cases NCCD needs an address to review the easement language.

6) Quick Business – *Kathy Evans-Calderwood asked if CFAB would be willing to endorse undergrounding of utilities with condo conversions. These undergroundings eliminate lines that will cause trees to have to be cut down. Undergrounding surcharges pay for tree plantings.*

The new CDF/American Forests City Green software and report is out that lists the tree loss of the Cedar Fire. The City's GIS Manager has the software. You can view the report online at www.amfor.org.

Drew reported on the new YWCA project at the old Kate Session's nursery in Pacific Beach. Three large trees including one with a Kate Session's plaque were due to be removed. Two did get cut down (a Ficus and a Eucalyptus), but the large Tipu stayed. Some of the Tipu did have to be trimmed. They will plant a grove of Tipu's to make up for the lost tree.

Air space needs to be put into the Landscape Regulations. Right now just trees and roots are in their, but by putting in air space as well no building can intrude on the air space.

The large tree in SDSU at the Aztec Union may be removed for the new Union design. This is State land and there is nothing CFAB can do about it.

- 7) Reports** – Items *not* already on agenda -
- a. Education & Outreach Committee – *See Mona's report above*
 - b. Planning Committee – *No Report*
 - c. Implementation Committee – *No Report*

d. Finance Committee – *No Report*

e. Staff Reports

- i) Michael Marika, Park and Recreation Dept. Arborist – *No Report*
- ii) Drew Potocki, Street Division Urban Forester – *Drew has already given his report above*
- iii) Velmo Watson, Code Compliance Officer – *No Report*
- iv) Mona Favorite-Hill, General Services, Senior Public Information Officer – *See Mona's report above*
- v) Tony Gangitano, Development Services Dept., Senior Planner – *No Report*
- vi) Luis Generoso, Staff Representative to CFAB – *No CDBG grants were given for FY07 by the Mayor for tree planting. Staff has asked for reconsideration but have not heard anything as of yet.*

8) Referrals to Committees – *None*

9) Public Comment – *None, Kathy Evans-Calderwood already gave public comment during Drew's report.*

10) Next Regular Meeting – June 14, 2006, 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

11) Adjourned at 1:35 p.m.