

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

May 11, 2016

City Administration Building, Committee Room

1) **Convene.** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2) **Attendees.**

Members – Chris Drayer, Rachele Melious, Steve Lamprides, Troy Murphree, Anne Fege

Guests – Guy Preuss (Skyline/Paradise Hills), Corey Bassett (District 6), Kim Walker (District 1), Stephanie Reed (District 2), Mike Palat (SD Regional Urban Forests Council)

City Staff – Jeremy Barrick

3) **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting will be reviewed and approved at the June 8 meeting.

4) **Action Items.** None.

5) **City Staff Reports.**

- a) The FY 2017 budget hearings were held last week. Rachele Melious gave statements on the Transportation-Streets and the Public Works budgets on May 5; Troy Murphree addressed the Development Services budget on May 9; and Anne Fege provided comments on the Planning and Park-Recreation budgets on May 9.
- b) Jeremy Barrick reported that the Tree Planting contract has not yet been awarded. City staff have identified tree planting locations in Southeast, in the area from I-5 to I-15, Market to Imperial Avenues.
- c) Barrick outlined requirements for the Tree Inventory contract, which has not yet been announced. Data will be collected on mobile phones, and will be the first data entered for trees in the Enterprise Asset Management system. In a separate effort, an inventory of trees in Balboa Park has been funded, and that data will also be entered in the system. Two hundred permanent plots will be established in the City as part of the inventory project, and as part of the USDA Forest Service urban inventory program.
- d) Barrick reported that City staff in various departments have been talking about the need for arboriculture expertise in sidewalk and other public works projects, particularly early in the design phase and in the construction monitoring. At the June meeting, the Board will consider approving a letter to the Mayor and Council about the importance of arborist(s) to be involved in City projects. Examples of tree retention and protection in sidewalk projects are featured in the 2015 reports from the Seattle Department of Transportation, posted at [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/TreeSidewalksOperationsPlan\\_final215.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/TreeSidewalksOperationsPlan_final215.pdf) and [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/TreeSidewalksAppendices\\_final215.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/TreeSidewalksAppendices_final215.pdf).

- e) Inspections and compliance checks are occurring rarely in the City. According to statements at the budget hearings, only 26 tree-related complaints have been received this year, insufficient to justify the arborist skills in Development Services (as the tree warden had done until about three years ago, now the position is unfilled). Most development permits incorporate trees in the landscaping design, and years later many of those trees are missing, have been topped, or are otherwise unhealthy and not providing the shade and livability that were intended. Many are topped at 13 feet so that landscape contractors (rather than tree professionals and tree climbing equipment) to maintain them. At the June meeting, the Board will consider approving a letter to the Mayor and Council about the imperative of inspections and code compliance for public trees in the City.

**6) Discussion.**

- a) Barrick, Tree San Diego board members, and others are discussing a “Stewardship” program to inform, engage, educate, and empower community members to plant and care for trees. CFAB members provided suggestions on how each of these elements could be addressed in a City program. Consideration can be made for establishing an initiative, affirming Mayor Faulconer’s support for trees, and branding the tree care and planting program.

**7) Other Reports**

- a) Mike Palat, San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council, invited CFAB members and others to attend their meeting on Watering Trees, Wednesday, June 1, 11:00 to 1:30, at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park.
- b) CFAB member Chris Drayer’s garden is included in the Horticultural Society garden tour on Saturday, May 14.

**8) Public Comment**

None.

**9) Next Regular Meeting – Second Wednesday of the month, June 8, 2016.**

Agenda items include update on the CalFire grant, review and approval of letters to the Mayor and Council on arborist advice in Public Works and code compliance, and roles expected of individual CFAB members to carry out the Board’s responsibilities.

**10) Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**