



# City of San Diego City of San Diego

## Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

#### TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Meeting held at Valencia Park Malcom X Library from 10 am to 11.30 am

- 1.) **Call to Order**
- 2.) **Roll Call**

**Members** - Jim Smith (Chair), Alyssa Way (D6), Vince Mikulanis (D7), Wes Janssen (D4), Chris Tiffany (landscape architect), Morgan Justice Black (D2), Rachele Melious (D5), Ami Young (Artist), Chuck Morgan (nonprofit)

**City Staff**- Brian Widener, Ynez Nevarez, Alandon Joe, Noelle Burke, Olivia Mabee, John Ide, Ayad Youkhana, Chaz Wilson, Erich Kast

**Guests** - Sharon Griswold (community member), Anais and Anne Fege (Kate's Trees), Mike Palat (West Coast Arborists)

#### 3.) **Non-Agenda Public Comment**

- Anais from Kate's Trees – working on Bayside Resident Leadership Academy – focus on urban forestry, trees, locations for planting trees in Linda Vista (in Spanish)
- Anne Fege, Kate's Trees – working in Paradise Hills, with Groundwork San Diego, and others. Importance of local workforce for tree planting/watering, requesting City consider RFP for goods/services tree planting/watering with local vendors. There are nursery issues -> tree quality and nursery availability
- Sharon Griswold – Miyawaki mini forest concept to plant natives. Model after mini forest in LA's Griffith Park
- Climate Community Director at SD Urban Sustainability Coalition – Missing tree canopy in Southeast San Diego, interest in themed pocket parks in Southeast. Facilitates climate ambassador program with youth. Workshop coming up on 5/18 and 5/25, interested in collaborating with CFAB on tree planting.
- Tiana Ortiz – Community Advocate at Bayside in Linda Vista – working on tree planting along Genesee in Linda Vista.
- Imani Robinson – resident of Mountain View, Commission for Arts & Culture, positive feedback on Arbor Day. Wants to make sure trees are planted in areas where they won't be uprooted because of future development pressures. Chollas Creek, arts in the park, encourages City to take advantage of additional grant opportunities.

#### 4.) **Announcements and updates**

- Jim Smith: Great Arbor Day, almost 300 volunteers and the Mayor. Brian Elliott from CD1 recommending that Chair seat isn't separate. Rotating chair seat. Also remove horticultural position or make it a "wild card" seat that could be filled with

horticulturalist, artist, etc. Bringing recommendation to Environment Committee soon. This would reduce seats to 13 from current (15).

- Brian Widener: May 23 Environment Committee presentation about all tree programs. Requesting CFAB support at meeting. Little Italy considering applying for CAL FIRE grant to do tree inventory — Brian encourages groups to reach out to City of SD to see if there is data available before applying for money and duplicating efforts. City of San Diego applying for CAL FIRE grant, requesting funding for LIDAR analysis, update codes/policies and 5-year plan for urban forestry program and public facing map. There are tree issues at Malcolm X Library, both challenges and tree protection successes. WCISA conference held last week in San Diego, Vince was co-chair with Mike Palat of WCISA conference.

#### 5.) **Actions**

- Meeting Minutes: Two edits to minutes. 1) Erich Kast was not in attendance. 2) WCA – hired local groups to do direct engagement with residents *in other communities*. Approved meeting minutes (Morgan made motion, Chuck Morgan seconded motion, all voted in favor)
- Letter of Support for AB 817: (Chris Tiffany motion, Ami Young seconded motion, all voted in favor)

#### 6.) **City Staff Reports**

- LIDAR data processing/canopy cover: Seeking funding for 3<sup>rd</sup> LIDAR analysis. New KPI for City of SD equals 35% tree canopy cover goal. Concern about timing of LIDAR surveys in terms of trees leafing out (keep it consistent with same time of year). Recommend July or August. Canyons/other open spaces — Should they be included?
- Arbor Day recap: 246 volunteers, including 60 kids from the local school. Planted 114 trees. City received Gold Leaf award for last year's 2023 Arbor Day in Mission Bay Park.

#### 7.) **Discussion**

- FY25 Budget update: City budget is recommending \$562k budget reduction, which would impact Free Tree SD (\$362k) and tree maintenance (\$200k). Currently the City has a 13-year pruning cycle for street trees; this budget reduction would move the city to a 16-year street tree pruning cycle. Free Tree SD watering would be impacted, need to find in-house resources with watering truck.
- Presentation from SDGE on tree programs, presented by Morgan Justice-Black.
- Future agenda items: Ami suggested a workforce development presentation.
- Christ Tiffany is working on Landscape code revisions: he met with ASLA to recruit additional participants for a code revision working group (virtual meetings), recommendations due to City of San Diego July 31.

#### 8.) **Adjournment-** 11:32am