



TRANSPORTATION

City of San Diego City of San Diego

Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 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 Mikulanic (D7), Wes Janssen (D4), Chris Tiffany (landscape architect), Morgan Justice Black (D2), Ami Young (Artist), Chuck Morgan (nonprofit), Frank Buncom(D8)

Not In Attendance: Butch Everett, Rachele Melious

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

Guests - Anisah Enciso and Anne Fege (Kate's Trees), Janet O'Dea, Robert Wrightson (West Coast Arborists)

3. Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Janet O'Dea – Interested in more info on Conserve A Tree. Can future agendas include location of trees being considered during that meeting? Also, phone number associated with program does not work.
- Anne Fege – CalFire grant in 2016 for tree planting, Kate's Trees is doing a tree inventory (condition of trees from 2016 City planting efforts)

4. Announcements and updates

- Brian Widener: Looking at 4 new positions for Ready, Set, Grow grant. Free Tree SD program will not be funded for 2024/25FY. Pruning for shade trees will go from 13 years to 16 years due to budget cuts. Environment Committee presentation in May, well received.
- Jim Smith (chair): New board member being considered (Leon as arborist seat). Environment Committee approved change to CFAB board (still needs to go to full council), reducing number to 13 members, and quorum changes to 7 people.

5. Actions

- Meeting minute edits – remove “rotating chair”, add several guest names who were in attendance, and list CFAB members who were not in attendance.
- Ami – Motion to approve meeting minutes, Chuck Morgan second motion, motion passes with all in favor except Frank Buncom who abstains.

6. City Staff Reports

- **Brian Widener:** Ready, Set, Grow₂ – Working to push 4 new positions through, meeting with Dudek to analyze LIDAR data that was collected in 2021. 5,100 new trees, 600 sidewalk repairs. Considering public facing map.
- CalFIRE/IRA grant application – Applied for \$1.1M grant to fund consolidation of codes & policies, new urban forestry program management plan, software comparison, public facing city-wide map and other items. No tree planting component. Also asked for additional LIDAR fly-over and assessment to analyze data.
- FY24 Budget Update – Cuts made this FY to urban forestry budget that is impacting Trees for Communities. Had \$700k dedicated to trees to communities, asked to give up some (\$212k) for weed abatement. Asked to give another \$870k back, moved watering to City staff. Stopped pruning, tree removals (or gave over to in-house team). Getting \$320k back to support tree watering.
- Conserve-A-Tree applications – Ynez Nevarez runs the program, wants to bring 1-2 each month. City Attorney's office says we don't have any mechanism to protect trees on private property, which is where most of our applications are coming from. So, we no longer are reviewing trees on private property.
- **Anne Fege** – Concern about local nursery stock and recommendation to consider contract growing. Quality control at the nursery
- **Anisah Enciso** – Bayside Resident Leadership Academy – located tree planting sites and mapped them to City consideration. Need additional shade for routes to schools.
- **Chris Tiffany** - Chula Vista has specific requirements for tree acquisition and grounds for rejection
- **Janet O'Dea** – requesting more clear tracking system and public transparency on program. Submitted requests for several street trees in Mission Hills historic district. Created and shared [link](#) to tracker.

7. Discussion

Tree planting protocols – Draft Street Tree Planting Guidelines document presented specific to Free Tree SD. CFAB feedback -> develop something similar that can be shared externally that is specific to City's upcoming programs (Trees for Communities + Ready, Set, Grow). Add language to share the water savings associated with mulch and promote free mulch resources.

Code Revisions – (Chris Tiffany) – Met with a group of stakeholders + subject matter experts to discuss code revisions related to trees. Recommendations will come to CFAB at July meeting so they can be reviewed before submitting to City (deadline July 31, 2025)

FY25 Budget – City of SD 1% tax ballot measure, if passed, can support sidewalk repairs, stormwater, other infrastructure improvements including trees. Potential to restore Free Tree SD if passes.

Future Meeting Topics – Mapping. Desire to form a small committee to discuss community outreach, etc.

8. Adjournment- 11:32am