



TRANSPORTATION

City of San Diego City of San Diego

Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Meeting held at Logan Heights Library from 10 am to 11.30 am

- 1.) **Call to Order – 10:05am**
- 2.) **Roll Call**

Members in attendance - Jim Smith (D1/Chair), Chris Tiffany (Landscape Architect), Chuck Morgan (nonprofit), Ami Young (artist), Morgan Justice Black (D2), Frank Buncom IV (D8), Leon Cassel(arborist), Alyssa Way

City Staff- Brian Widener, Olivia Mabee, Jonathan Salgado, Erich Kast

Guests – Anne Fege, Elizabeth Castelo, Anisah EncisoTerrell Rackley, Steve Davis, Tyana Ortiz, Alix Aceituno, Mike Palat

3.) Non-Agenda Public Comment

- **Steve Davis:** KenTal Trees – Encourages the City of SD to do better collaboration with community organizations as it relates to Ready, Set, Grow SD. Concerns with SDUSD joint use/pocket parks are often neglected. Consider these spaces for Ready, Set, Grow tree planting efforts.
- **Anne Fege** – Concerns with budget for FY25, maintain advocacy around tree budget. Agree with need for trees in schools joint-use parks. Community groups in non-DACs who also care about trees, encourage you to broaden reach of grant to “low canopy communities” that may be outside of the grant area. Encourage CFAB to adopt smaller working groups to get more done.
- **Emma Smith** – Discussed data from a tree field survey, regarding trees planted in the last 8 years and possible results. A suggestion was made to consider contracts with Urban Corps or CA Conservation Corps to maintain trees. Also, encourage volunteer engagement to maintain, care for trees.
- **Terrell Rackley** – Importance of community being engaged and civic reaction to things like January flooding. Eager to hear about opportunities for tree maintenance as it relates to Ready, Set, Grow SD.

- **Tyana Ortiz** – Implement more community participation in projects. Working alongside highly dedicated Linda Vista residents and have been very involved in early stages of tree project, including tree survey. Community involvement should be documented.
- **Alix Aceituno** – Urban Collaborative Project – TCC Grant, will be developing urban greening plan for Southeast SD. Would like to use that plan to integrate into Ready, Set, Grow SD tree planting.

4.) **Announcements and updates**

- **Brian Widener:**
 - Olivia Mabee has sent social media highlights/links last month to CFAB members.
 - The Urban Forestry Program is finishing up priority area #1 planting for Trees for Communities, moving onto San Ysidro next week. Still working through contracts to implement concrete removal for new tree wells and the expansion of existing spaces
- **Jim Smith:**
 - New code of Conduct for Boards & Commissions has been released and will be shared with CFAB
 - Looking for new board chair for 2025, as he will be stepping down at the end of the calendar year
 - Amendments to CFAB section of municipal code to restructure and decrease the number of positions/seats was implemented and approved by City Council. Removed the board chair seat and made 4 flexible seats (instead of 5) with horticulturalist/nursery, arborist, landscape architect, artist and nonprofit seat. There are 13 positions now instead of 15.

5.) **Actions**

- Motion to approve the June meeting minutes (Frank Buncom), Ami Young (second) – passes unanimously.
- Motion to approve the July meeting minutes (Morgan Justice-Black), Chuck Morgan(second) – passes unanimously.

6.) **City Staff Reports**

- **Trees for Communities:**
 - Planted 816 trees to date. Work wrapping up in Priority area 1, but still have 170 sidewalk locations for potential tree wells.
 - San Ysidro – identified 129 tree locations, working to try to partner with Casa Familiar. Many locations are front yards within right-of-way, will take an “opt-in” approach to say “yes” to these trees. Some flexibility to fund some partnerships out of this project.
 - 200 + trees will be planted in Priority area #3 includes Southcrest, Shelltown, Mtn View and Mt Hope.
 - Meetings with community partners continue
 - All funds for this project must be spent by end of 2028 (includes 3 years of watering)
 - CFAB member feedback: pair tree species with water needs and consider drought tolerant species in areas that won’t receive irrigation after 3 year supplemental

watering. Part of “maintenance of trees” in severe drought years should include supplemental watering.

- Watering schedule: 1x/week in first year, 2x/month in 2nd year, 1x/month in 3rd year is standard, may supplement as needed with weather conditions.

- **Ready, Set, Grow:**

- Clock has started on grant, project ends March 2029. Need to plant 5,000+ trees as part of the grant.
- Implementation has begun on the 2021 LIDAR data to see what tree canopy cover is for City of SD. Vendor has until Dec 2024 to have initial numbers. (Citywide, by council district and potentially other areas). Data will be compared against 2014 data.
- Conversations between Cal Poly and City of SD continue regarding other remote sensing opportunities and methods to measure tree canopy cover over time
- 4 new positions funded by grant. Setting up interviews for arborist position, hope to fill by end-of-year. Tree trimmer position to be filled in December. Project Officer I and Project Officer II still working through the interview process
- Public Comment: consider working with Bayside Community Center on this effort, look at GIS mapping data that they have gathered through walking surveys with community residents.
- Public Comment: Community engagement of utmost importance. Concerned that many comments from community and industry feel that trees are not going to survive.
- Public Comment: Concerns with not enough watering planned. Job description potentially a barrier. Better promotion of job description.
- Public Comment: Engage and utilize District offices to promote tree planting efforts
- Public Comment: TCC grant criteria was to be shovel ready. Interest in D9 seat.
- Public Comment: Number of emails on the importance of community engagement and equity. Tree watering contracts should be awarded to diverse businesses in these communities. Plant quality nursery stock.

- **Kate Sessions Day**

- Friday Nov 8, 8am – 11am, planting 11 trees in Linda Vista Community Park.
- Looking for community champion to honor at event.
- Event will kick off Ready, Set, Grow San Diego grant program

- **SD Urban Forestry Code -> applied for CalFire grant to support city code/policy updates, did not receive the grant. District 1 supportive of code/policy updates.**

7.) **Discussion**

- Land Development Code Updates – submitted the code revision suggestions via the official City of SD portal, they are reviewing them now.

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