



## TRANSPORTATION

# City of San Diego City of San Diego

## Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Meeting held at Malcolm X Library from 10 am to 11.30 am

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

**Members** Jim Smith, Chuck Morgan, Ami Young, Chris Tiffany, Alyssa May, Frank Buncom IV, Michael Ackerman, Leon Cassel

**City Staff-** Brian Widener, Olivia Mabee, Jonathan Salgado, Erich Kast, Alandon Joe, Noelle Burke, Annabel Rossi, Thomas Zlatic, Ynez Nevarez, John Ide

**Guests** – Anne Fege, Anisah Enciso, Robert Wrightson, Alix Aceituno, Terrell Rackley, Brian Bagnall,

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

- **Anne Fege:** Focused on supporting communities for Ready, Set, Grow Project (reference handout)
- **Anais** – Taught benefits of trees to residents, gave residents an opportunity to provide feedback on tree planting locations (high interest in trees near schools). Also, encourage volunteer engagement to maintain, care for trees.
- **Alix** – Developing urban greening plan as part of TCC grant in SE San Diego. Interest in getting students and administration involved in school planting.
- **Terrell** – Industry standards in terms of tree quality, invested in communities that are part of Ready, Set, Grow SD. Processes to advocate for projects, involve community. Currently a lot of ambiguity, need a lay person who can translate programs to the community and foster community engagement. Tree care/maintenance is key.

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

#### **Brian Widener:**

- Trees for Communities won Climate Equity Award from SD Regional Urban Forestry Council, the award was featured in Mayor Gloria's recent newsletter. There is a pause on Conserve-A-Tree program due to staffing transition and team will revisit it with focus on city-owned/right-of-way only, since City doesn't have jurisdiction on private property trees. Ready, Set, Grow San Diego website to be rolled out by the end of the week. Forestry has filled four new positions this month.

**Jim Smith:** – no updates

5.) **Actions**

- Approval of October Meeting Minutes - Frank – Motion to approve minutes, Chuck Morgan (second). Approved unanimously.
- Nominate and Vote on Next Chair – Vote on bylaws at next meeting, then vote on Chair, Vice Chair (new role), and Secretary

6.) **City Staff Reports**

- December Nights & Kate Sessions Day – Staff kicked off the Ready, Set, Grow San Diego grant with planting 11 trees with 150 volunteers in Linda Vista. Staff tabled at December Nights: Dec 6 + 7.
  - Comment: Tree SD doing Tree Treks in local parks, identifying trees with community members.
- Arbor Day 2025: Goal to plant 100 trees (90 street trees and 10 in parks). District 9 may be the focus for the 2025 event.
- Urban Forestry Budget: Measure E did not pass during November elections. City experiencing budget deficit, hiring freeze in effect. A City priority is public safety and reducing liability and risk. Sidewalk repairs, tree trimming, and response during storm events are important talking points, as well as referencing Climate Action Plan goals.

7.) **Discussion**

- CFAB Vacancies: Currently two vacancies (D3 and D9), but D3 has a candidate that has been nominated just not approved.
- CFAB submitted land development code updates to Brian Elliott (staff for Environment Committee) and have not heard back. Will re-engage.
- CFAB Workplan: 3 areas of focus -> monitor major tree planting programs, encourage community outreach and facilitate regular updates and reporting. Set up three subcommittees focused on community outreach, tree quality, and tree codes/enforcement.
- Vote on workplan in January meeting
- Frank expressed interest in presenting at upcoming mtg on community outreach tactics to engage CBOs.
- Also vote on subcommittee chairs in January (proposed: Chris Tiffany -> codes, Frank Buncom IV -> community outreach, Chuck Morgan -> tree quality)
- CFAB Bylaws – will clean them up and notice them before the next meeting, so we can vote on them.

8.) **Adjournment-** 11:29am