



## COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2025

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library

5148 Market St

San Diego, CA 92114

**Members:** Leon Cassel (Horticulturalist), Chris Tiffany (Landscape Architect), Ami Young (Artist), Morgan Justice-Black (D2), Brian Bagnall (D3), Wes Janssen (D4), Michael Ackerman (D7), Frank Buncom IV (Chair, D8), Chuck Morgan (Arborist)

**City Staff:** Brian Widener, Olivia Mabee, Thomas Zlatic, Erich Kast, Annabel Rossi, Daniel Rodriguez, Vanessa Shevlin, John Ide, Noelle Burke, Karen Valdizno-Amps, Ynez Nevarez, Albert Sais, Alandon Joe, Ayad Youkhana

**Guests:** Craig Jones, Emma Diana Smith, Anisah Enciso, Janet O’Dea, Anne Fege, Robert Wrightson

**Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call**

- Not present: Alyssa Way and Jim Smith

**Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment**

- Craig Jones: Would like 1-minute update on Ready, Set, Grow San Diego.
- Anne Fege: Ready, Set, Grow San Diego – Would like more information on community meetings, evaluation criteria for sites, when will evaluations happen.
- Emma Diana Smith: How does community get involved in tree planting?

**Item 3: Announcements (Information)**

- Frank Buncom IV: How can community (CBO) be more involved? Code of conduct – review and sign forms today.
- Brian Widener: Updates for Trees for Communities and Ready, Set, Grow San Diego will happen every 2-3 months – the websites are up-to-date on what is happening with programs – use those as resource. D5 and D9 have vacant seats on the board. Alison Schlick stepped down from the board.

**Item 4: Approval of Minutes (Action)**

- Chuck Morgan motions, Wes Janssen seconds. January 8, 2025 meeting minutes approved unanimously.

**Item 5: Actions**

- Ynez Nevarez presents Conserve-a-Tree application submitted by Janet O’Dea for 33 Mexican fan palms in historic Mission Hills. Urban Forestry does not recommend heritage status.
  - Chuck Morgan: Can we plant trees between the palms? Is there a succession plan in place – should have succession plan and funding.
  - Brian Widener: There is no funding for this currently.
  - Janet O’Dea: These trees were previously approved as heritage trees in 2009. These should be considered historic because they are in a historic district.
  - Brian Widener: City does not have documentation that that these were approved as heritage trees.
  - Anne Fege: Conserve-a-Tree subcommittee should be created to update program and policies to increase transparency.
  - Morgan Justice-Black: We should not ignore the historic district note.
- Michael Ackerman motions, Ami seconds, board votes unanimously to table application approval until next month.

**Item 6: City Staff Updates**

- Brian Widener: We are starting a Community Forest Advisory Board distribution list, so please sign in and write yes if you want to be on the list. This will be managed by the City.
  - Anne Fege (Guest): In support of the distribution list.
- Thomas Zlatic gave updates on sidewalks. Roots damage sidewalks and City evaluates options. There were 347 arborist evaluations in the current fiscal year. Options include reducing sidewalk widths and pruning roots. Report lifted sidewalks to “Get It Done”. Evaluations are based on current priorities. Estimated 80% saved trees with options.
  - Chuck Morgan: We should educate the public about tree mortality and succession planting.
  - Morgan Justice-Black: For pedestrians, would like to see reduced times that sidewalks are closed for repair.
  - Anne Fege (Guest): There is concern from the public about permit fee for sidewalk repair.

**Item 7: Discussion**

- Chris Tiffany: No updates on code.
- Frank Buncom IV: Discussion on CFAB Workplan
  - Morgan Justice-Black: Suggests considering City budget and priorities in the workplans.

- Brian Bagnall: Supports the plan.
- Committees are formed.
  - Community Outreach: Brian Bagnall, Morgan Justice-Black, Frank Buncom IV
  - Tree Health: Ami Young, Chuck Morgan, Leon Cassel, Wes Janssen
  - Tree Codes: Michael Ackerman, Chis Tiffany
- Frank Buncom IV to follow up on bylaws,
- Morgan Justice-Black: Looking for updates on Arbor Day.
  - Brian Widener: Locations being considered by the Mayor.
- Brian Widener: Update on Ready, Set, Grow San Diego – 700 locations have been marked out, goal mark out 2,000 trees, no trees have been planted yet and staff has attended 7-8 community meetings.
- Brian Bagnall gives update on construction, publishing an awareness website about trees.

**Item 8: Adjournment**

- Brian Bagnall motions, Ami Young seconds, board votes unanimously to adjourn meeting at 11:27 a.m.