



Public Works Department

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

**Monday January 8, 2018 7:00 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

### 1. Roll Call :

**Present:** Chair Steve Price, Members, Mike Srago, Mary Torrusio, Robert Hrubes.  
Also present; Staff Liaison, Stephen Prée.

**Absent:** Cathy Bleier, Yan Linhart.

Also absent: City Council Liaison, Rochelle Pardue- Okimoto.

### 2. Committee Member Announcements:

Mike Srago thanked the City for pruning the street trees on his street.

Stephen Prée announced that the new City Council Liaison is Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto.

### 3. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items:

Robin Mitchell introduced herself as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), she plans to attend this and future UFC meetings as a collaborative partner.

Robert Hrubes asked Ms. Mitchell what she hoped to get out of her time spent with the UFC on behalf of the PRC; Ms. Mitchell responded that the clearest over lap would be matters concerning trees in parks.

### 4. Report from the City Council Liaison. Ms. Pardue-Okimoto was not present.

### 5. Action Items-

A motion to adopt the minutes from the December 11, 2017 meeting as amended was made by Mike Srago, 2nd, Mary Torrusio; adopted unanimously.

### 6. Report from the City Arborist:

Stephen Prée provided a brief pruning and planting update, he shared the Centennial Tree plaque proof for review- modifications were recommended by Mary Torrusio and Yan Linhart. Prée reported on vandalism to Eucalyptus trees in the Hillside Natural Area; he then reported on the 2017-18 [California Climate Investment Grants](#) that are designated to reduce green house gasses and to benefit Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities as identified in the [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Map](#).

Chair Price said that the area surrounding the BART Del Norte station may qualify as an opportunity.

### 7. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update :

- A. Recommend Topics for discussion by a guest speaker from Pacific Gas & Electric- The Committee expressed interest in PG&E's approved tree list, their tree maintenance agreement with telecommunications companies, pruning standards, how residents can anticipate PG&E's tree pruning schedule, cooperative programs with municipalities. Chair Price suggested that the UFC may wish to invite PG&E back for a larger public education event that would be coupled with other tree care and urban forestry components and speakers.
- B. Education and Outreach Planning-
- Arbor Week – March 7-14 ( an annual event is required of Tree Cities USA) ; Chair Price asked the committee desired to repeat the planting event in Cerrito Park similar to last year's event. Mike Srago urged the UFC to consider this as a recruitment opportunity. Price asked if activities should be limited to planting. Two potential events emerged from a discussion a.) Planting in Cerrito Vista Park or Poinsett Park with a local school. b.) removing ivy and invasive plants form native trees in Canyon Trail Park in collaboration with the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC). Chair Price volunteered to attend the EQC meeting the following night to extend this invitation and report back to the UFC. The UFC voted to pursue two events.
  - Content of Urban Forestry Page on the City Website- Mary Torrusio reported on findings from her review of the City website and volunteered to assemble a packet of webpage screen shots for distribution to the UFC for written comments for the February meeting. chair Price shared the graphic work, "Stop before you touch City trees", that he is suggesting for the Urban Forest webpage as it relates to authorized or prohibited tree pruning and care. He recommended two pages: 1.) City Trees, 2.) Bad pruning. Some of this content could be placed in the City news letter.

## **8. Old/New Business –none**

- Arbor Week
- Website content
- City Street Tree Planting Opportunities
- Tree Pruning Principals Review

**Adjournment- 9:00**