



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee

January 13, 2020

Hillside Room
El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Torrusio called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL– Present: Chair Mary Torrusio, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes, Members Cathy Bleier, Robin Mitchell.

Absent:, Yan Linhart. Also absent: Council Liaison Janet Abelson
Also present: Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public, Sandra Sprague, Marlene George, Sue Duncan, Paul Duncan, Dave Weinstein (member of the El Cerrito E.Q.C.).

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS –

- Dave Weinstein invited all to attend the Trail Trekkers Annual Meeting on January 19 featuring a presentation by Dr. Ann Riley: Restoring Unlikely Urban Environments.
- Sue Duncan recommended reading the El Cerrito / Kensington Wildfire Action Plan 2019 Appendix on fire hardening- available on the Diablo Fire-safe Council Website: http://www.diablofiresafe.org/veg_removal.html and recommended reading the E.C.F.D. & P.D. Wildfire Action mailer. She said that Make El Cerrito Fire Safe had been approved by Firewise, an education and outreach organization, part of National Fire Protection Association <https://www.nfpa.org/>
- Marlene George said that she has met with City Councilmembers regarding the creation of a resolution that would make wildfire prevention a City priority and she asked for the UFC's support.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS- Robin Mitchell said that she spoke with City Council members regarding extending UFC term limits and made the specific request to reinstate members Price and Srago. She also recommended a Sierra Club article on misguided forest management.

4. **COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** - Staff Liaison Prée reported on recent urban forestry activities including that he had submitted the Tree City USA application.

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

- Approval of the December 9, 2019 meeting minutes: **Moved / Second:** Mitchell / Hrubes; unanimous.
- Recommendation adopt the 2020 UFC meeting calendar **Moved / Second:** Mitchell / Bleier; unanimous.

6. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR AND WORK PLAN UPDATE:**

- A. 2019/2021 Work Plan update-City Council Presentation January 21: Chair Torrusio reviewed the presentation and received UFC feedback. Bleier recommended including requests for City support to the urban forestry program. Discussion: complications of including fire prone species in the City tree list; additional City tree planting; future Tree Care Corps work parties. Weinstein said that the EQC would partner and support the UFC in these last two efforts.
- B. Volunteer tree care corps development- Price reported on ad-hoc subcommittee (Mitchell, Price, Prée) planning progress and draft workshop agenda. Discussion: date and time of workshop: **Motion** UFC to authorize the ad-hoc subcommittee to host a tree care workshop as planned either March 14 or March 15, 10:00 -12:30: Mitchell; **Second:** Hrubes; unanimous.
- C. Community wildfire prevention- Cathy Bleier reported that the ad-hoc subcommittee (Bleier, Hrubes, Srago) is recommending a listening session with the public regarding the UFC's role in wildfire mitigation work. Discussion: structuring the public meeting: speakers, facilitator, cost, part of a bigger plan? Public Comment: Marlene George – the proposed resolution would include a public safety committee, strategic planning to develop wildfire mitigation strategy (like the City's affordable housing strategy session). Discussion: send UFC members to Make El Cerrito Firesafe meetings; invite fire ecologist and/or Dr. Joe McBride to speak at a future UFC meeting; expand ad-hoc subcommittee to include residents not on the UFC.
- D. City tree planting opportunities- Tabled due to time constraints.

7. **NEXT MONTH'S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS**

- Chair Torrusio will attend the EQC meeting February 11
- Cathy Bleier will attend the PRC meeting on February 26

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


- Dr Joe McBride
- Tree care corps
- Arbor Week planning
- Earth Day participation
- Tree planting opportunities

9. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Torrusio adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



Mary Torrusio, Chair or Robert Hrubes, Vice Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of January 13, 2020 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.



Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison