



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee
Monday September 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/97043572002?pwd=a2N5UURTSDFEK2F2NzMxMGNmakhCUT09>

Meeting ID: 970 4357 2002 Passcode 195250
or dial in: 1-408-638-0968

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Robin Mitchell, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes; Members, Cathy Bleier, Jennifer Kaczor, Yan Linhart.

Also present: Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public: Melissa Feudi, Sue Duncan.

Absent: Catherine (Cassie) Hughes. Also absent: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Sue Duncan briefly described a fire hazard report that she had been sent by Jerry Kent, retired Assistant General Manager, East Bay Regional Parks District, and requested it be forwarded to the UFC members.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:

Chair Mitchell reported on her attendance to the second Santa Clara County Regional Urban Forest Collaboration webinar including a presentation of interest on third party carbon credits by the [City Forest Credits organization](#), and she announced an upcoming 'Learn at Lunch' webinar from the Sacramento Valley Urban Forests Council. Staff Liaison Prée recommended changing the meeting agenda sequence to accommodate the City Clerk's presentation prior to all remaining agenda items.

4. ADVISORY BODY TRAINING: The Brown Act, Roles and Responsibilities-

City Clerk, Holly Charley presented an overview and answered questions.

5. ACTION ITEMS-

- A. Adopt the minutes from the August 9 UFC Meeting. Motion: Linhart, 2nd Hrubes, Ayes: 5, Noes: 0 Abstentions: 0.
- B. Adopt a revised UFC meeting calendar. Motion: Bleier, 2nd Kaczor Ayes: 4, Noes: 0 Abstentions: 1.
- C. Recommend to City Council the appointment of Melissa Feudi to the UFC. Motion: Bleier, 2nd Hrubes. Ayes: 5, Noes: 0 Abstentions: 0.

6. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS- Prée informed the Committee that he is recommending to City Council at their September 15 meeting, the award of a contract, to A Plus Tree Inc. in the amount of \$71,585 for the 2021 HNA Fire Fuel Reduction project.

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

- A. **Urban Forestry Grants-** Ad-hoc committee members Chair Mitchell, Vice Chair Hrubes, and Jennifer Kaczor gave a summary of their findings to date: Hrubes said the California Fire Foundation grants were not a good fit for UFC opportunities. Kaczor found that El Cerrito is ineligible for most Cal Fire Grants because it does not qualify as a “Disadvantaged Community” under the Cal Enviro-screen 3.0 criteria; Coastal Conservancy Grants are a more likely fit for potential HNA work (EBRPD received an award for work in Wildcat Canyon). Bleier added that the Coastal Conservancy grants may be open and rolling. Mitchell suggested that the Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance may be an opportunity for collaborative grants. Member of the public Duncan said the “Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program” FEMA grants may be applicable and may be currently under review by City staff. Mitchel said that an HNA Management Plan should be the priority. Bleier added that Coastal Conservancy may be a good opportunity for this specific (HNA) project of large-scale work. The ad-hoc subcommittee will meet again and present more on this topic for discussion in future meetings.
- B. **Update Work Plan-** Following a discussion, the Committee determined it would be most productive to form an ad-hoc subcommittee to make Work Plan recommendations to the UFC; Bleier and Feudi volunteered. Prée will distribute draft Work Plan for UFC comment by 9/24 then distribute to the ad-hoc subcommittee for review. The Committee agreed to move TCUSA Growth Awards out of the Work Plan discussion to a future agenda item. Discussion: Bleier recommended the UFC improve its reminder communications. Mitchell volunteered to send a “To Do List “ shortly after each meeting.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Grant funding
- City Forest Credits
- Santa Clara Valley Forestry Alliance
- HNA Planning
- Tree City USA Growth Awards
- Tree Board University

9. NEXT MONTH’S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- EQC meeting – Chair Mitchell will attend
- PRC meeting – Cancelled

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

Robin Mitchell, 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 September 13, 2021, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison

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