



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee
Monday October 11, 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; Members, Cathy Bleier, Catherine (Cassie) Hughes, Jennifer Kaczor, Yan Linhart.

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

Absent: Vice Chair Robert Hrubes. Also absent: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: there were none.

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

Cassie Hughes inquired about the status of the Tree City USA sign installation (Prée said that locations are currently under review by Engineering staff; he will report back on the installation schedule). Chair Mitchell reported on her attendance to a State of California Natural Resources webinar involving funding for climate change mitigation projects.

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Staff liaison Prée reported on recent City tree pruning work on San Pablo Ave. south (theater district), in Creekside Park, on the Ohlone Greenway from Hill St. south to Gladys St.; on September 21 City Council awarded \$71,585 contract to A Plus Tree for the majority of the 2021 Natural Areas Fire Fuels Reduction Project; City Manager approval of the 2021-2022 City tree maintenance contract to West Coast Arborists for \$160,300 authorized by previous City Council Resolution.

5. ACTION ITEMS-

Adopt the minutes from the September 13, 2021, UFC meeting. Motion: Hughes, 2nd Linhart, Ayes: 5, Noes: 0 Abstentions: 0.

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

- A. Urban Forestry Grants- the ad-hoc subcommittee reported on the two Cal Fire grants they had researched in a meeting with Prée and West Coast Arborists; one

of the grants would pay for the removal of 100 dead, diseased or hazardous trees (not in the City's natural areas), the re-planting of two trees (from a specific species list) for each one removed, and the refinement of the City's Urban Forest Management plan to add specific components such as plant health care, urban wood utilization, tree risk assessment programs and tree care for birds. The second grant required planting trees from a fixed list of 65 species including certain Eucalyptus species (not Blue Gum). Both grants required partnering with a community group to administer certain activities for which the group would receive a stipend. Discussion- UFC members found the species list troubling as so many of the trees are from distant continents. The lack of a ready Community Group was determined to be an obstacle. Members agreed that neither of these grants were a good fit and that the ad-hoc subcommittee would seek other grant opportunities. The cultivation of a suitable Community Group was advised.

- B. Santa Clara Urban Forestry Alliance - deferred
- C. Update Work Plan- Discussion regarding the current work plan draft noted the abundance of tasks; whether the Priorities and On-Going Activities sections are warranted and suggested revisions to the goals section. Cassie Hughes volunteered to work with Cathy Bleier and Melissa Feudi to further refine the work plan in an ad-hoc subcommittee.
- D. Tree Board University- A discussion of whether to continue this as an agenda item was concluded in the affirmative. Prée will send an email reminder to the UFC to review Course Four.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Cathy Bleier gave a brief update on her research into carbon credits for urban forestry. Measuring UF project carbon offsets and selling to a regulated agency may not pencil-out economically but said that her discussion with Cal Fire indicated that they may be looking at how carbon offset programs could be used in the future. Cathy plans to speak further with the CA Air Resources Board.

- Carbon sequestration
- Community Group connections
- Grant funding
- City Forest Credits
- Tree City USA Growth Awards
- Tree Board University

8. NEXT MONTH'S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- EQC meeting – Chair Mitchell will attend

- PRC meeting – Cancelled

9. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:10 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 October 11, 2021, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison