



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee
Monday November 8, 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 7:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Robin Mitchell, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes; Members, Cathy Bleier, Catherine (Cassie) Hughes, Jennifer Kaczor, Yan Linhart.

Also present: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public: Susan Kuchinskias, Sue Duncan.

Absent: Melissa Feudi.

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Sue Duncan inquired with the Committee if there had been any meetings scheduled regarding the Eucalyptus pathogen that was widely reported in winter 2021. (Prée replied that he was not aware of any meetings or seminars since the April seminar on the potentially related Acacia pathogen.) Susan Kuchinskias reiterated her interest in becoming a UFC member. (Prée thanked Ms. Kuchinskias for her interest and provided the recent City policy update on City Boards, Commissions and Committees membership: eligible to apply after attending 2 of last 3 meetings.)

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

Cathy Bleier informed the Committee of the upcoming Sudden Oak Death (SOD) 2021 survey results seminar on Saturday November 13.

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Quinto provided a City Budget update with positive findings, answered UFC questions, and invited everyone to attend City Council meetings. Staff liaison Prée reported on the City tree planting program and answered questions. The Committee suggested that the City publicize more information on the program.

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

- A. Urban Forestry Grants- Jennifer Kaczor provided a slide show summary of the Coastal Conservancy Grant opportunity and gave examples. Because this is an

ongoing grant it appears to be a good fit; CEQA required to be completed before award but not prior to application (Chair Mitchell). Cal Fire grants are very prescriptive but if we provide an outline of a desired grant work scope, they will suggest an avenue (Prée).

- B. Community Group Connections- Vice Chair Hrubes reported on the City of Richmond Arbor Day event that he attended, the event was organized by Groundwork Richmond; there was “a lot of energy and lots of youth interest”. Discussion: musing on how volunteers can be generated (Bleier); research Groundwork Richmond; schedule Richmond Trees to attend a future UFC meeting; Make El Cerrito Fire Safe is sponsored by The El Cerrito Community Foundation (Public comment: Duncan); HNA management plan with community involvement sessions, create ad-hoc subcommittee for community engagement; add to future agenda (Chair Mitchell).
- C. Update Work Plan- Discussion regarding the work plan process and methods other Committees use to develop their work plans, e.g., EQC. UFC members should send current work plan comments to Prée; hope that members will send or bring comments (Hughes); a work plan activity is not a priority unless a UFC member steps in to lead it (Bleier). Tree City USA growth Awards should align with other work plan goals in order to be considered (Kaczor); general editorial suggestions on work plan draft.
- D. Carbon Sequestration- erroneous agenda item.
- E. Tree Board University- deferred.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- Work Plan
- Forestry Grants
- Community Engagement / Community Group connections
- Tree Board University

7. NEXT MONTH’S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- EQC meeting – Chair Mitchell will attend
- PRC meeting – Jennifer Kaczor

8. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:07 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 November 8, 2021, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison