



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee

July 8, 2019

Staff Liaison
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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 7:04

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Mary Torrusio; Vice-Chair Robert Hrubes; Members Cathy Bleier, Steve Price. Also present: members of the public Robin Mitchell, Mark Mendell; Staff Liaison Stephen Prée. **Absent:** Yan Linhart, Michael Srago. Also absent Council Liaison Quinto.
2. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – Robin Mitchell reported that she has submitted her application to become a member of the UFC. A discussion of the process for committee appointment followed.
3. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS-** Steve Price announced an upcoming meeting of the NorCal Science Writers featuring Scott Shepard of the U.C. Berkeley Fire Science Lab on July 10.
Robert Hrubes inquired why the Council Liaison does not attend the UFC meetings more frequently. A discussion followed regarding City Council resolution 2013-68 which limits the Council Liaison's participation to attend meetings only quarterly. Cathy Bleier observed that Mr. Quinto last attended in April.
4. **COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** - Council Liaison Quinto was not present. Staff Liaison Prée read from City Clerk Holly Charléty's email summarizing the new minutes/agendas format and the Council Liaison's role in response to UFC questions posed in the June meeting. Cathy Bleier read aloud the Council resolution enabling the UFC (Tree Committee); Price asked what the committee's advisory role is, if Council attends only quarterly and the minutes record action only. Hrubes commented that the enabling resolution implies interaction with Council and that current interaction is minimal. Bleier said that the UFC has the option to attend and comment during City Council and other board, committee and commission meetings. Committee members further discussed creating new opportunities for increased interaction with City Council and other boards, committees and commissions including signing-up for their emailing lists.


Prée summarized recent City urban forest activities including planting 12 new

street trees; approved funding for a fire fuel reduction project in the Hillside Natural Area- Prée will serve as project manager, the work scope includes removal of dead and fallen trees and limbs throughout the HNA and Motorcycle Hill. He told the committee of PG&E's recent notification to the City of the utility company's plan to remove several mature Coast Live Oak trees from the Moeser Lane electric transmission corridor; a discussion followed regarding possible UFC action to improve tree and habitat conservation efforts by the City and the utility.

5. **ACTION ITEMS** – Approval of the June 10 meeting minutes: **Moved / Second:** Vice Chair Hrubes / Price; unanimous.
6. **PRESENTATION: DEVELOPING INFORMATION RESOURCES ON STREET TREES FOR EL CERRITO RESIDENTS - Mark Mendell**
Mr. Mendell gave a slide show presentation (attached) and described his volunteer project aimed at helping residents better understand how to have street trees planted in the City. He reviewed the City tree list, and the City tree inventory; he suggested additions to the format of the tree list including adding links to descriptive websites, revising tree ratings to limit the number of listed species, and the creation of short tree lists for specific circumstances ,e.g. under overhead utilities.
The Committee discussed updating the City tree inventory, creating an online tree list database for easier attribute sorting, availability of grants to fund such revisions, and creating short site -specific-lists.
7. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR AND WORK PLAN UPDATE-** deferred to next meeting due to the late hour.
8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
 - Recommend to Council the appointment of Robin Mitchell to the UFC
 - 2019/2021 Work Plan- discussion of modifications to Work Plan template
 - Future outreach opportunities
9. **ADJOURNMENT-** Chair Torrusio adjourned the meeting at 9:07 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 July 8, 2019 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.


Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison