



**Staff Liaison**  
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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**Urban Forest Committee**

**Monday December 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**  
**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6b9301e0d69e58c4c8c1e3fdb398de67>

**Event ID:** 146 760 9071Waterwater  
**Event Password:** JoinECUFC  
**Join by Phone:** 1-408-418-9388  
**Access code:** 146 627 8919

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**CONVENE REGULAR MEETING:** Chair Torrusio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Mary Torrusio, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes, Members Cathy Bleier, Yan Linhart, Robin Mitchell. Also present: Councilmember Abelson, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée, members of the public Dave Weinstein, Sue and Paul Duncan.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were none.

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

Chair Torrusio reported that while she had planned to attend the November PRC meeting, it had been rescheduled without her knowledge.

Robin Mitchell attended the UC Berkeley Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz 2020 Results seminar.

**4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS-**

Prée reported: the 2020 HNA Fuel Reduction Project was now completed and several Monterey Pines had started to exhibit symptoms of Pine Pitch Canker since the project ended; he is working to secure a residential street tree planting contract to plant approximately 20 street trees this winter; unauthorized City tree pruning had been contracted by a business on San Pablo Ave. and the City is exploring enforcement options.

Cathy Bleier asked if the business owner had claimed that they did not know about the ordinance (which prohibits public tree pruning without a permit). Prée: Yes.

Councilmember Abelson joined the meeting late and reported that council has two newly elected members and one reelection with Paul Fadelli who is now Mayor; Ms. Abelson said that she has brought the UFC's term limit question to City Council for discussion in an upcoming meeting. Discussion: could City committees avoid term limits altogether or serve two terms, take a break and return? Prée will investigate the later and report back.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS-

- Consider a motion to adopt minutes from the November 6, 2020 meeting. Motion, Mitchell; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Linhart. Approved unanimously.
- Consider a motion to adopt the 2021 UFC meeting calendar. Motion, Mitchell; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Linhart. Approved unanimously.

**6. SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) BLITZ 2020 RESULTS-** Robin Mitchell reported that she had attended the seminar and found the results of the survey to be of interest. Prée displayed the [SOD MAP](#) results on the screen. Discussion of infected California Bay trees as vector and locations of symptomatic Coast Live Oak trees in El Cerrito. Mitchell said she learned that the SOD infected trees are a fire hazard; Prée said that the recent fuel reduction project included the removal of several infected trees. Mitchell said that the City needs a vegetation management plan to limit the spread of this and other diseases. Discussion: Sue Duncan said that the City Manager had indicated that the cost of a Vegetation Management Plan would be approximately \$100K, Cathy Bleier said that the City has a vegetation management plan from the 1990's that needs to be updated and include current CEQA requirements. Prée said that ECFD had been investigating grant funding for a plan and that in the interim, he would consult with Dr. Mateo Garbelotto and report back to the UFC.

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

- Arbor Week 2021- March 7-14: Chair Torrusio shared several ideas for activities including: on-line demonstrations, virtual tours, CA Arbor Week poster contest, "Ask the Arborist Q & A Session". Discussion regarding "Cool Trees": Yan Linhart suggested residents could nominate trees of interest, Mary said this could include an Instagram account, Robert asked how it be communicated/solicited, Mary- by hashtag. Cathy recounted her experience with a program called "Nature Notes" and demonstrated a simple tree presentation on-screen that she had made along her street.
- UFC Workplan- brief discussion included reference to the EQC process- deferred.
- UFC Recruitment Letter- Cathy's outreach letter to UC students was well received by UFC members, Cathy will correct and send to Prée for final. Dave Weinstein said that Trail Trekkers will promote UFC recruitment.

## 8. NEXT MONTH'S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- EQC meeting – December 8: passed
- PRC meeting – December 23: rescheduled

## 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Arbor Week March 7-14
- Cool Trees
- UFC Recruitments

- Work Plan

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

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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 December 14, 2020 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

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Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison