



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee

Monday June 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

<https://zoom.us/j/97594764917?pwd=cG1FUU9kSUFqK0I3VG5ZUWpgeURjQT09>

Meeting ID: 975 9476 4917 Passcode: 768852
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Robin Mitchell; Members, Cathy Bleier, Jennifer Kaczor.

Not Present: Vice Chair Robert Hrubes, Yan Linhart

Also present: Staff Liaison Stephen Prée, members of the public: Britta Bradshaw, Theodore Brauer, Melissa Feudi, Cassie Hughes, Sandra.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Melissa Feudi expressed her interest in joining the UFC.

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

Chair Mitchell attended the Fire Safe Marin Conservation League Fire & Environmental Working Group where the presentation included native, fire resistant landscape plants.

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS-

Mayor Pro-Tem Quinto extended an invitation to everyone to attend the June 15 City Council meeting; he reported on the results of the State Auditor's analysis of the City and said that he wants to hear from residents about the City budget. He wants to be sure that the City continues to support its Tree City USA status and the urban forestry program. Staff Liaison Prée reported that PG&E had notified him of their plans to remove several large caliper Coast Live Oak trees in the Moeser Lane electrical transmission corridor. Also, he reported that a resident had contacted him regarding their desire to see more Eucalyptus trees removed from the natural areas and their desire to pool private funds together to achieve that goal; Prée invited the resident to provide public comment in an upcoming UFC meeting.

5. PRESENTATION: 100K Trees for Humanity-

Founder and Chief Planting Officer, Amos White presented an overview of this program that aims to plant 100,000 trees in Alameda to help mitigate climate change.

His

presentation included ideas on mobilizing the community to increase urban tree canopy. He described the multiple benefits of trees and worldwide environmental applications

and

the Alameda County Urban Greenbelt Initiative to plant trees from West Oakland to Fremont.

Discussion: Cathy Bleier asked about outreach methods and soliciting community participation. Mr. White said that 100K Trees had developed an App that maps tree locations and notifies people when to water their trees. Regarding municipal funding for tree planting, Mr. White said that Cities need to rigorously consider the urban forest as a living green infrastructure.

6. ACTION ITEMS-

- A. Motion to adopt the minutes from the May 10 UFC meeting: Bleier; 2nd Kaczor; unanimous.
- B. Motion to recommend to City Council the appointment of Cassie Hughes to the UFC: Bleier; 2nd Kaczor; unanimous.

7. DISCUSSION- Tree Board University- Chair Mitchell provided a description of TBU and Chapter Two. Prée asked how many attendees had completed both chapters.

Discussion: Jen Kaczor emphasized the importance of the job description and goals to help new committee members get oriented. Theo Brauer said that effective communication within the committee and with stakeholders is key to community participation. Cassie Hughes suggested that knowing individual members backgrounds and what they hoped to do with the UFC would be a valuable resource for new members. Chair Mitchell said this emphasizes the need for a good work plan. The committee concluded that all members should be prepared to give a brief report on their background and skills as they relate to the UFC, and what they hope to accomplish /contribute with the UFC. Kaczor recommended that TBU Chapter Three could follow these member reports on the next meeting agenda.

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

- A. Earth Day 2021 – Chair Mitchell reported that the EQC had agreed to help promote the Bringing Back the Native’s Virtual Garden Tour as part of Covid limited Earth Day activities; it was a success and Doug Tallamy gave a compelling presentation; Jennifer Kaczor said that she had attended the first day.
- B. Grant Funding / Tree Fund- general urban forest budget discussion, Chair Mitchell requested a formal presentation on the budget. Bleier asked about hazard pruning budgets vs. routine pruning and asked if Public Works director Yvetteh Ortiz could give a budget presentation to the UFC.
- C. Hillside Natural Area Planning- Chair Mitchell wants to make a formal request to be involved in the HNA planning process and understand how it could be financed.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- UFC members related backgrounds & aspirations
- Work Plan
- Tree Board University Chapter Three
- Grant Funding / Tree Fund
- HNA Planning

10. NEXT MONTH'S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- EQC meeting – July 13: Robin Mitchell
- PRC meeting – June 23: Jennifer Kaczor

11. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:17 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 June 14, 2021, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison