



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee
Monday January 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82540135588?pwd=TG80WnlYcHEwVC9uTUdpV1g0T0Jodz09>

Meeting ID: 825 4013 5588 Passcode: 669 101
or dial in 1-408-638-0968

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Robin Mitchell, Vice Chair Cathy Bleier; members: Catherine (Cassie) Hughes, Robert Hrubes, Susan Kuchinskias, Jennifer Kaczor. Absent: Yan Linhart.
Also present: City Council Liaison Fadelli, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public: Sue Duncan, Scott Tipping, Travis Lowe

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: members of the public introduced themselves to the UFC.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA: there were none.

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS – Council Liaison *Fadelli* announced that Council has reappointed him to the UFC for 2023, he invited the UFC to attend a special City Council meeting on February 4 at the Arlington Park clubhouse, and he inquired with the staff liaison regarding recent storm damage. Staff Liaison *Prée* thanked UFC members *Bleier* and *Hrubes* for their help with the Tree City Growth Awards application, he summarized the storm damage and showed photos of the large Leland Cypress whole tree failure into the Arlington Park pond. He announced the upcoming formation of an advisory task force for the City's Climate Adaptation Action Plan and invited members to consider appointing two UFC representatives. *Bleier* expressed interest and aptitude based on her previous professional work.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

Adopt the minutes from the December 12, 2022, UFC Meeting: Motion:
Kuchinskias; 2nd: *Bleier*, Ayes 6, Noes 0

6. COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE – Chair *Mitchell* said that she had nothing to report because the Climate Adaptation Action Plan status had been discussed earlier in this meeting.

7. **COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION-** *Kaczor* reported, there was no meeting in December.

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

A. Arbor Day 2023 Activities- *Kuchinskas*:

- Pocket Forest: had not received a reply regarding Pocket Forests from Berkeley Unified School District.:
- Sponsor a tree walk with support of Trail Trekkers. Discussion: *Prée* volunteered to lead, details will be reported in February UFC meeting.
- Notable trees list: received 1 nomination to date. Discussion: *Kuchinskas* – create a down-loadable pamphlet; *Mitchell* – would this be tied to the Arbor Week walk? *Bleier*- an Earth Day deadline may be more practical. Several details TBD, how to register, deadline, format, private trees, public nominations, who will receive nominations, etc.- more discussion needed.
- Arbor Day tree planting- UFC to help *Prée* develop ideas for planting with school age children.

B. UFC Orientation- *Bleier* reviewed the orientation document on screen, that she and *Hughes* created; the Committee expressed approval; *Mitchell* recommended that the document be posted on the City's urban forest committee webpage..

C. Urban Forest Management Plan- *Mitchell* said that the ad-hoc subcommittee (*Hrubes, Linhart, Mitchell*) had created an 11 page document based on comments submitted by the UFC recommending specific updates to the Plan. Discussion: *Bleier* said she thinks more discussion is needed regarding specific goals and objectives, she requested that 30 minutes be devoted to discussing this topic in the next UFC meeting. *Mitchell* asked *Prée* to add this to the February agenda.

D. UF Grants- *Mitchell* summarized current grant opportunities, said time is of the essence with significant amount of money currently earmarked. *Hrubes* suggested applying for a grant to update the Urban Forest Management Plan.

A discussion followed regarding Arbor Week tree planting with school aged children in which *Prée* suggested that the UFC develop an annual program, as this is a stated goal of the Tree City USA designation. *Kuchinskas* and public attendee *Travis Lowe* agreed to help with this.

E. Future Speakers- *Hrubes* said he would like to hear from other local urban forest managers.

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –**

- CAAP Advisory Task Force member selection from the UFC
- Arbor Week March 7-14, 2023
- Urban Forest Management Plan Update

- UFC Orientation Packet (Bleier, Hughes)
- Fundraising (Hrubes, Kaczor, Mitchell)
- Tree Inventory Demonstration
- Diversity and Inclusion (Hrubes, Mitchell)
- Richmond Trees /Tree Corps
- Education & Outreach (Hughes, Kuchinskas, Linhart)
- UF Grants (Hrubes, Kaczor, Mitchell)
- Coastal Conservancy Grant HNA Management Plan Updates
- Future Speakers

10. ITEMS FROM TONIGHT’S MEETING THAT REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION:

- a. *ALL*- nominate 2- 5 notable El Cerrito public trees; send to Stephen with photo and location (species preferred but not required)
- b. *ALL*- review attached Urban Forest Management Plan revision summary for discussion at the February 13 meeting
- c. *ALL*- consider who will represent the UFC on the City’s Climate Action Plan task force
- d. *Susan, Yan, Cassie*: communicate with Stephen to find meeting time to plan Arbor Week tree planting project with youth
- e. *Susan* write a draft announcement for various communications to solicit notable tree nominations from residents

11. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of January 9, 2023, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Robin Mitchell, Chair or Cathy Bleier, Vice Chair

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison