



Agenda

DATE 2/4/15 TIME 3:59pm
BY Jessie Esparza
FILED BY Alia Gallardo

MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
The Barn at Frenchy's Field
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
10:30 am

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2015
5. Old Business
 - a. Review changes to the Memorials Resolution – Action Item
 - b. Goals and Objectives for 2015
 - c. Report on think Trees Conference
6. New Business
 - a. Matters from the floor
7. Public Comment
8. Date and Time of next meeting
9. Adjourn

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CITY OF SANTA FE
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD

A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

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**MINUTES OF
THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD**

A Subcommittee of Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Municipal Tree Board, a subcommittee of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission, was called to order by Patrick Torres, Chair on this date at approximately 10:30 a.m. at Frenchy's Barn, Corner of Osage and Agua Fria, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Patrick Torres, Chair
Tracy Neal
Sandra Taylor
Katherine O'Brien

Members Absent

Staff Present

Gary Varela, Parks Division
Robert Thompson, Parks Division Director

Others Present

Robert Wood, Water Department
Mary Schruben, Rancho Siringo neighborhood
Elizabeth Martin, recorder for Charmaine Clair

Chair Torres said that Tim Michaels was sent the agenda, but has not been approved by Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) because there was no quorum. He said approval should happen at the next POSAC meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Taylor moved to approve the agenda as published. Mr. Neal seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES- January 14, 2015

Chair Torres said the minutes were sent out this morning and some are still reviewing them.

Mr. Neal moved to table the approval of the January minutes until the next meeting. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review changes to the Memorials Resolution – Action Item

Chair Torres said the resolution has been discussed for several meetings and Bette Booth, chair of POSAC has asked the Board to review the revised resolution.

Chair Torres said the Parks Director has suggested the fees associated with the memorials be removed to avoid having to seek Governing Body approval if changes are made. The draft is from December and Mr. Thompson sent them another resolution he calls the “boiler plate.”

Chair Torres said he compared the two drafts. He said many of the elements on the boiler plate are also in the December version and the two are mostly in sync. He asked the Board to take a minute to compare the two drafts.

A summary of the Board’s discussion of the amendments follows:

Mr. Wood said the draft does not address ongoing maintenance or replacement. He suggested having a policy for a memorial [planting] that dies or if an item is stolen, etc.

Ms. Taylor agreed and said that was addressed in the original version. She said the Parks Division Director has stated several times he will plant trees without irrigation and something should be in place. She added there should also be a database of memorial donors.

Mr. Neal said there should be something stating that memorials will be tracked and maintained and that there is a process for replacement. He said it should be clear to donors that the city knows the locations of the memorials and takes responsibility for their maintenance and care. He added that someone might have donated the three trees he saw in the Railyard Park. The trees were planted without irrigation last year and all three died.

Mr. Varela said the director intends to cut water usage, not let trees die. He explained that the director was saying that if Parks can avoid planting a tree where there is no irrigation, but a donor insists a tree be planted where there is none; that would be the responsibility of the donor.

Mr. Thompson entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Thompson apologized and said he misspoke regarding the resolution: Ms. Booth sent him the boiler plate. The resolution reference to Exhibit A is his synopsis of the original including three different

municipal examples and the Tree Board's work. Mr. Thompson said the significant omission is the irrigation. He said any mark up on Exhibit A will be incorporated and taken back to POSAC.

Mr. Thompson said inventory is a general policy and maintenance is a given. He said in every version for replacement he has seen, the city reserves the right to remove a tree and is not responsible to replace the tree.

Mr. Wood asked about the example of a memorial bench that is removed by vandals. Mr. Thompson replied that Parks would do their best to replace the bench, subject to funding. He said it is the timeframe that would be a question, but Parks has no problem replacing trees.

Chair Torres suggested a statement: "the City Parks Division, to the best of their ability, will replace any memorials that may succumb to any natural or manmade pressures subject to the availability of funding."

Mr. Thompson said that would then become an issue of *when*. He suggested "in a timely manner".

Chair Torres moved to approve language to address ongoing maintenance and replacement: The City Parks Division will do its best to replace any memorials that may succumb to natural or manmade pressures in a timely manner.

Ms. Taylor was concerned about language such as "doing their best" and "in a timely manner".

The members discussed the terminology. Mr. Thompson liked the language and thought POSAC would pass it. Mr. Wood recommended using: "*to the best of their ability*".

Chair Torres amended his motion: The City Parks Division will, to the best of their ability, replace any memorials that may succumb to natural or manmade pressures in a timely manner. Mr. Neal seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority voice vote. Ms. Taylor abstained from the vote.

Chair Torres said the next point is *the process for maintenance*.

Mr. Thompson said he has been encouraged to include the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard for tree planting/post planting maintenance.

Mr. Neal said he is not familiar with ANSI standards for maintenance.

Mr. Thompson said they include the dam for watering; the mulch layer; staking a tree, etc. and the maintenance of those. The standards include a watering regimen and vegetation management. He said Parks will purchase the ANSI Standards and Best Management Practices.

Mr. Neal said his concern is that the standards may not be specific enough to cover the variability of planting and maintenance in this area. He said on the other hand if too specific, he sometimes

disagrees. Mr. Neal said the situation might call for something different to be done. He said the ability to adapt how things are done, not only species of the plant but the local situation, is really important. Mr. Neal suggested the Board consider the ANSI standards and modifying them for Santa Fe.

Mr. Wood said the A 300 ANSI committee has regional representatives. Their phrases are designed so they can be changed based on the knowledge and skill of the person doing the application. Mr. Neal replied if the ANSI standards are flexible enough to allow for local interpretation, he would support the idea.

The Board discussed language to include the ANSI standards in the resolution.

Chair Torres moved to approve an amendment to the language of Exhibit A: Live memorials will be managed following A-300 ANSI standards and Best Management Practices, to be reviewed and modified as needed by qualified entities determined by the Parks Division and Municipal Tree Board or other qualified bodies. Mr. Neal seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Torres said the third point is the *process for tracking or inventory*.

Mr. Thompson said that is a goal of the Board and is proposed by the Director to initiate the inventory.

Chair Torres moved to amend language in Exhibit A for tracking or inventory: The inventory of such donations will become part of the permanent inventory of the Parks Division.

Ms. O'Brien asked if items would be earmarked as a memorial donation.

Chair Torres amended his motion to: The inventory and details of such donations will become part of the permanent inventory of the Parks Division.

Ms. Taylor asked about the two donations made last month. Mr. Thompson replied Parks is waiting on the resolution; the trees have not been planted. He said Parks is waiting for bud break, but will pursue tree inventory training within the master plan of POSAC.

The Board discussed the *inventory process*.

Chair Torres moved to approve an amendment to the inventory process language: The inventory and details of such donations will become part of the inventory of the Parks Division. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority voice vote. Ms. Taylor abstained from the vote.

Chair Torres said the Board needs to decide the proper place to insert the amendments. He suggested the tracking and the process for replacement be inserted under Part Two.

The Board discussed the placement of the amendments and agreed it would be between the Determination and Appeals process. Chair Torres renumbered the items and said this will remain as an

exhibit as guidelines and will be attached to the resolution. Chair Torres clarified the location of the amendments as 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 and that 2.6 will now be the Appeals Process.

Mr. Neal moved that the Board accept the Exhibit A guidelines as amended to present to POSAC. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Goals and Objectives for 2015

Chair Torres said he incorporated the discussion from the last meeting into the Board's Goals and Objectives and the changes are in red.

Mr. Neal said on 3A, he thought the Tree Board University has a section on Fundraising.

Ms. Taylor said she was asked to contact the Santa Fe Community Foundation. She said the Foundation will have a seminar in September on fundraising, but did not seem applicable to this group. She said also they work only with nonprofits. She provided their website address: santafecf.org.

Mr. Thompson said if there was a tree advocacy group within the city, it might an honorable pursuit to establish a 501c3 to support fundraising and planting trees throughout the city. Mr. Wood added that will also makes it easier to apply for grants.

Chair Torres said he would incorporate Mr. Thompson's recommendation.

c. Report on Think Trees Conference

Mr. Neal said a big take away for him was about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and that once the pest is in Santa Fe, they will probably wipe out most of the ash trees unless protected. He said it was good to hear that unlike back East where the EABs are continuous, the communities in New Mexico are so separated and under the Borers power to disperse would probably take a long time for them to get here.

He said it is likely someone will bring infested ash for firewood and get the pest into New Mexico. He agrees that a critical approach to delaying the EAB in New Mexico is an educational program. The program should explain why people should not bring firewood into the state and how to identify ash wood and how to control firewood brought into the state.

Mr. Wood suggested working in cooperation with the US Forest Service, New Mexico to develop a program that works for the entire state, rather than just Santa Fe.

Mr. Thompson said this was noted [at the conference] as the third nationwide epidemic of pests affecting an entire genus/species. He said prevention is imperative.

Mr. Neal said the point was made that sometimes you can find species that are not native to North America that are resistant, such as with Dutch elm disease. Bringing in Asian ash does not seem practical because it has succumbed to the native ash pests. He said the city should discourage the planting of ash and encourage planting of other species.

Ms. Taylor asked if anyone is aware of the green industry discouraging the sale of ash trees.

Mr. Neal said nurseries are way behind the curve. He suggested working with local nurseries as much as possible to educate them and then go to the major growers.

Mr. Neal asked if the city has crews that do the pruning. Mr. Varela replied that Parks does do some, but the major pruning is through contract because the city does not have the capability.

Mr. Thompson said the city is moving to craftsman care of park elements and will establish citywide turf, mowing and sanitation crews. He said he added an aerial platform truck to the budget and there will be training certifications, etc.

The members and Mr. Thompson discussed the irrigation of trees and alternative trees.

Mr. Wood said some people will think if Parks is forming a crew to maintain trees that the crew can maintain street trees. He said he tried to get a definition of *street tree*, but that depends on the section of town and whether the resident or the city is responsible for the tree. He said if Parks is expected to handle that area of trees, they do not have the people or the equipment.

Mr. Thompson said that is the only new funding received by Parks (inaudible...). He said Parks was funded to mow medians and he would have that conversation with the Finance Office. He talked about how nursing trees that are stressed is rarely productive.

Mr. Wood said his street tree comments are something the Board could decide to make a goal or objective and recommend funding for in the future for the Parks Division.

Ms. O'Brien said for her, the talk by Tim Buchanan at Think Trees regarding establishing an urban forest in Ft. Collins was inspirational; even though it is a different environment politically, etc. The importance of the tree inventory was emphasized. Fort Collins has a strong maintenance program and emphasized the importance of having a large selection of genus/species of trees. She suggested the Board might review the list [of acceptable trees].

Mr. Wood said the discussion on the basics of pruning trees stood out to him at the conference. He said the pruning information would be helpful to get out to the public on when pruning can be done. He said that was as important as a few years ago when Dr. Irving spoke on planting trees and making sure there is adequate soil preparation and room for roots.

Mr. Thompson asked if the state arborist has been exposed to the Cornell University structural soils and tree well planting. He said that leads into the Land Use and Planning Department and the ordinance that governs the appropriate species, soil preparation and planting. He said it is all covered under the ANSI standards. He suggested that would be a great objective for the Board to guide the city in a landscape ordinance that is specific to tree planting.

Mr. Varela said he thought the Think Trees presentation on EAB was interesting in that the city does not need to panic; they need to stop selling the tree. He also found the tree pruning interesting.

Mr. Wood and Mr. Thompson discussed trees from nurseries and the structural problems.

Mr. Thompson said he was impressed at Think Trees by the caliber of professionals in the audience.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Matters from the Floor

Chair Torres said if there are any issues they should be taken up at the next meeting.

Mr. Thompson confirmed that Ms. Booth had forwarded Mr. Michael's resume.

Chair Torres said Barbara Lopez with Parks requested a set date for the Municipal Tree Board meetings.

Mr. Thompson added that Ms. Lopez will reserve the building [Frenchy's barn], but the dates can be changed.

The Board discussed the meeting dates and decided on the third Thursday of the month.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Schruben said regarding the maintenance of street trees; her neighborhood just experienced confusion because of a rezoning and lot split. She said the Streets Department has an amendment that the owner has to dedicate an easement on each side of the street and increased the street to 37 feet and includes a 5 foot sidewalk and 5 feet of trees.

She said her neighborhood association will appeal to City Council. The association has received a favorable approval from the Planning Commission. The discussion with Mr. Romero is that the city will enforce the 10 foot easement and 5 feet of sidewalks and 5 feet of trees and owners will be responsible for maintaining that.

Ms. Schruben said the neighborhood owners are on existing wells with old lines and have no ability to tap into public water. She said the neighbors are asking what they would use to water the trees and who will pay for that. She said Mr. Romero said the owners are responsible and his policy is to have 10 foot tree-scapes everywhere. She said her neighborhood does not intend to put in tree-scapes, because they cannot afford the maintenance or the water for the trees.

She said there were also other problems with the rezoning. One neighbor was asked to take down his stone/adobe wall to allow the easement. She said the neighbor said he will not remove the wall; he put up the wall with his children and his father.

She explained the rezoning was a lot split to split off an area on a one acre lot to build a home for the daughter of the property owner.

Ms. Schruben asked the Board's thoughts about partnering with neighborhood associations on the tree inventory.

Mr. Thompson said it appears to be caused by the property owner. He said in the Ft. Collins presentation it was emphasized that mandating wider tree planting contributed to their street tree success. He offered to talk to John Romero.

Mr. Thompson said the only way it will work for tree inventory is the neighborhood associations.


8. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

The Committee decided the next meeting would be March 19th at 10:30 at Frenchy's.

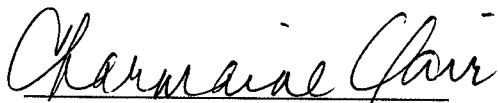
9. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved by:


Patrick Torres, Chair

Submitted by:


Charmaine Clair, Stenographer