



# Agenda

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD**  
**A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PARC ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**The Barn at Frenchy's Field – 2001 Agua Fria**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 2015**  
**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2015
5. Old Business
  - A. Tree Inventory – Train-the-trainer discussion
6. New Business
  - A. Discussion on Tree Campus USA-Robert Wood
  - B. Potential Board members
  - C. Charge from PARC - What is going to be the urban tree policy in regard to watering trees in the face of climate change?
7. Announcement
8. Public Comment
9. Date and Time of next meeting-
10. Adjourn

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

**A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**AUGUST 11, 2015**

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

**A Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Municipal Tree Board, a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, was called to order by Patrick Torres, chair on this date at approximately 3:00 p.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  
Katherine O'Brien (arrived later)

One/Two vacancies

**Members Absent**

**Staff Present**

Gary Varela, Parks Division

**Others Present**

Mary Schruben, Rancho Siringo Neighborhood Association  
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Under New Business, Item A was postponed.

**Mr. Neal moved to approve the agenda as amended. Chair Torres seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-June 11, 2015**

Page 1, Gayla Bechtol was misspelled.

**Mr. Neal moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2015 as amended. Chair Torres seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Tree Inventory- Train the Trainer Discussion**

Chair Torres said he understands there was frustration regarding the Train the Trainer session and that Ms. Schruben, Mr. Neal and Craig Campbell were there, but no one else showed to conduct the training. He said he was in Montana, but should have called Richard Thompson to confirm the training would still happen. He apologized for not following through.

Mr. Neal said both he and Craig emailed Mr. Thompson several times back and forth during the week to confirm the training. He said Mr. Thompson was aware they would be there.

Mr. Neal said at one point it seemed a priority to get the parks inventory done and they had a lot of previous discussion about inviting people from Master Gardeners, etc. to the tree inventory. He said after what happened he was glad he didn't invite anyone else and is inclined not to invite anyone until they are sure they will follow through and are committed to the inventory.

Ms. Schruben thought they should practice a few more times with the equipment. She suggested they make an effort to finish Ragle [Park] and get that input and see how that turns out. She said they don't want to recruit people to gather data and not know the outcome or how to do it or have the tools. She thought if the work didn't happen by the end of December they should regroup.

Mr. Neal said he is also concerned about timing, because certain trees are difficult to tell what they are when they are not leafed out. He said they don't have a lot more time to finish. Ms. Schruben added it would be great to get it done in September/October and would not be onerous if everyone shows up.

Mr. Neal thought even if they commit to finishing Ragle Park, they would probably have to start next year because they missed a season.

Chair Torres asked if the Board wanted to postpone the conversation or have him talk to Mr. Thompson and call a special meeting.

Mr. Neal and Ms. Schruben both agreed they wanted to meet with Mr. Thompson.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Discussion on Tree Campus USA-Robert Wood- Postponed**

b. Potential Board Members

Mr. Neal said he talked with Craig Campbell who had been interested, but he wasn't sure if he still is after what happened [no one at the training]. He said he will talk to people next month about joining, but he doesn't know many people outside of his field to ask.

Chair Torres said he talked to Tom Dominguez, the new Extension Agent serving Santa Fe County. He suggested Mr. Dominguez consider serving on the Board. He said he will get his resume.

Mr. Neal suggested Chair Torres ask those he knows with the Master Gardeners because they are already involved with trees, etc. and have an interest. He said that also reminds him about his contacts at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and will ask if they can suggest someone.

Ms. Schruben said she is interested, but isn't sure the Board has room for a community person.

Chair Torres said he wasn't sure backgrounds had been defined, but it is always good to have community representation as well. He said he indicated that he is willing to serve through the end of December and if there is enough interest through other sources, is willing to step down earlier. He said he could continue in an ex officio capacity.

Mr. Neal said Ms. Schruben would be valuable because of her community contacts and interest. He said Chair Torres' input is valuable and until the new people are trained, it would be useful if he remained. He said without Ms. Taylor, the chair is the only person with the history and awareness of how the Board should function.

Mr. Varela said he knew a few people who might be interested and it is critical to get the position filled.

c. Charge from PARC - What is the urban tree policy in regard to watering trees in the face of climate change?

Chair Torres said at the last PARC meeting he and Mr. Neal and Ms. O'Brien were reinstated to the Tree Board. He said Chair Booth tasked the Board to talk with Parks staff about the urban tree policy with regard to watering trees in the face of climate change. He said if there is no policy in place the Board can help craft or recommend a policy.

Mr. Varela agreed. He said they need good data to develop a policy and need to gather information, because there are a lot of factors.

Mr. Neal thought they could develop a policy before the tree inventory if they take into account the factors that influence water use, tree species and soil characteristics and categorize the health of the trees. He said then it gets down to developing a policy of which trees Parks will water to save and which to cut down or let die. The policy of the water use should be based on all of the different factors.

Chair Torres suggested the Board dedicate a meeting in the winter to address the policy.

Mr. Neal asked if there were other communities dealing with heat and drought stress that have developed policies, like Arizona or California.

Chair Torres said he didn't know, but he could talk to Mr. Thompson or Jennifer at State Forestry or Joran Viers in Albuquerque.

Ms. Schruben asked that they keep in mind *Carbon Zero by 2040*, the plan to reduce carbon. She said water is on one side of the equation and the other side is how much will the trees that are watered and saved contribute to a balanced carbon footprint. She said there is a lot of information on that and the topic will be the focus of a lot of the initiatives and should be included.

Mr. Neal said he gave a presentation in the past about the state of the urban forest in New Mexico. He said a presentation before his was a woman who talked about the benefits to an urban forest in people's health and in mitigating climate change. He said looking at how to apply the policy of which trees to water or not, some of the factors will have to do with how much a tree mitigates climate change; what it will contribute from cooling, carbon storage, etc.

Mr. Neal asked if Chair Torres planned to attend the ISA Rocky Mountain Conference and was told no.

The Board discussed the conference and the December conference in Tucson on climate change and urban forests. The Chair said they could recommend Mr. Thompson or Parks staff should attend. Ms. Schruben suggested sending the information to the Master Gardeners and Botanical Gardens who might be in a better position to send someone. She asked if there was Quality of Life money left.

Mr. Varela said they used a lot of the money for the Coates contract. He said Parks is putting their own crew together and will have a team of trained arborists that will be under his shop.

*Ms. O'Brien entered the meeting at this time.*

Ms. O'Brien said she was on the Santa Fe Water Coalition when they had the last scare and the big lesson was that everyone wanted to water the grass. She said the priority should be trees, because you can easily replant grass.

Mr. Neal said they learned that when they quit watering lawns in the parks, a lot of the trees died because they were dependent on the lawn being watered. He said they have to look at how to water trees approach that so the trees get enough water, whether the lawn dies or not.

Mr. Varela said in the last decade the new trees put in have their own system because it is more efficient and they can use a lot less water to water a tree than a lawn.

Mr. Neal said watering the older, bigger trees will have to come into the equation when they develop the water use policy.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENT-** There was None

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT-** There was None

**8. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING-** Wednesday, September 16th at 3 p.m.

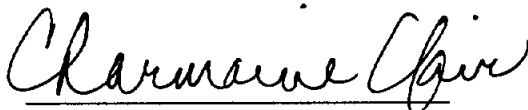
**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.*

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Torres, Chair

Submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer