



Agenda

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MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD

A Subcommittee of the PARC (Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission)

The Barn at Frenchy's Field

2001 Agua Fria Street

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

3:00 – 4:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 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
7. Announcement
8. Public Comment
9. Date and Time of next meeting-
10. Adjourn

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**SUMMARY OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
September 16, 2015**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
CALL TO ORDER		1
ROLL CALL	QUORUM	1
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	APPROVED	1
APPROVAL OF MINUTES August 11, 2015	APPROVED	2
<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>		
TREE INVENTORY	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	2-5
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>		
DISCUSSION ON TREE CAMPUS USA	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	5-6
POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	6-7
ANNOUNCEMENTS	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	8-9
PUBLIC COMMENT	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	9
DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION NEXT MEETING, 10/27/15	9
ADJOURN	ADJOURNED AT 4:17 PM	9

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
September 16, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Chair Patrick Torres on September 16, 2015, at approximately 3:00 pm, at Frenchy's Barn, Osage and Agua Fria, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Torres, Chair
Katherine O'Brien
Tracy Neal
Vacancy
Vacancy

STAFF PRESENT

Gary Varela, Parks Department
Richard Thompson, Parks Department
Victor Lucero, Parks Department
Bob Wood, Water Conservation Department

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Schruben
Athena Beshur
Linda Shafer
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Neal, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. O'Brien, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. TREE INVENTORY - Train-the-trainer discussion

Chair Torres said we had a situation in July with getting the training going. Before we move on we need to get our ducks in line so no one walks away disappointed. We need to make sure those involved are going to be well engaged and know exactly what to do.

Mr. Thompson said he apologized. He tried to make contact with everyone on Friday but was unable to. We have the data from the first tree survey and it is easy to read. There is not much need for graphic representation. He and Mary have modified the inventory entry sheet and have the kits ready except for the tapes. We have ordered the tapes to complete the kits. We will have everything complete in a matter of weeks and will turn it over to the team leads. It might serve the inventory if we all stick together for awhile and use the same tools, methodology and nomenclature. We have a quadrant of Ragle Park entered into the system.

Mr. Thompson said regarding Russian Olives, he would like to ask for an action item on the agenda, in response to basic exotics. There is a resistance to wholesale removal. He asked the Board to consider a position on this.

Mr. Thompson said we have quadrant maps. If it is ok with you, Mary can do the recording.

Mr. Neal said what you just said about Mary is not clear. Are you and other parks employees going to be working with us on the tree inventory.

Mr. Thompson said he was going to excuse himself and Gary as well and turn the project over to the trainers. We will be the depositories for written information and will produce reports. We will also report to the Governing Body.

Mr. Neal said so are you asking the board to take on the inventory of the parks.

Mr. Thompson said yes with Craig.

Mr. Neal said Craig does not want to do it anymore since last time was a no show.

Mr. Thompson said we would like to see professionals in the community step forward and lead groups of volunteers. Linda Shafer from the Railyard Stewards, who is pursuing a grant, is here and can tell you what she is planning.

Ms. Shafer said we can offer volunteers when you do the inventory at the Railyard Park. Gayla is on her way here and she has more information on the grant. It is based on the Seattle model where they did a tree inventory. We are going to write a grant to get that started. We want measurable outcomes.

Mr. Neal asked would the grant you are applying for be available to help with inventory in the spring.

Ms. Shafer said she was not sure. Maybe February or March depending on the specifics of the project and what we write into it.

Mr. Thompson said it is not parks related. It is a yard and street inventory. It will be a good data set to bounce our data off of. It will be information from untrained data collectors who send in a photo and a location.

Mr. Wood said the Seattle program is Tree Keepers. You can take a picture and add data to it. You have to have a good screener to screen the pictures that come in. It is a four to five year process.

Mr. Thompson said the original concept was train the trainer. We have no one in Parks who can devote enough time to do that. We will have to rely on citizen groups.

Ms. O'Brien asked what is the reason we want to do a City of Santa Fe tree inventory.

Mr. Thompson said trees are good. We have a disconnect between the decision makers and our opinions. The Tree Board is for advocacy and fundraising, not for directing the daily action of the Parks Department. It is a tool to illuminate the conditions in the urban forest. We had \$15,000 in our budget for contract tree work. We had several trees taken down last year and that used the entire \$15,000.

Mr. Thompson said the inventory will help us to determine the bio diversity in the forest. We can learn from the pictures if we need to increase the natives. It will help us to produce a better guide for our tree planting efforts.

Mr. Wood said his original suggestion was to do a maintenance inventory in the parks and in general a canopy cover assessment for the city. They can be joined together.

Mr. Thompson said in the face of climate change, we are advocating for native trees and a greater canopy cover. The tree survey will help us to do that. We can fall

back to a sampling if that your wish. We are open to all suggestions.

Ms. Beshur asked what is it that you are using for the GPS Coordinates.

Mr. Thompson said ariel photographs and maps of quadrants. That is what we use for directing maintenance activities.

Chair Torres asked what are the wishes of the Board.

Mr. Neal said he was not sure where to go from here. It feels like it would be useful to use the volunteers in the Railyard Park and inventory that one first.

Ms. Schruber said she thought Ragle Park should be finished first.

Ms. Shafer said Railyard Park is thirteen acres. Generally, six to eight volunteers show up every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Something could be sent out to advertise what we are going to do and that might get more people to show up.

Mr. Thompson said he liked the idea. He has plans drawn and a semi current assessment. When we get volunteers we need to encourage them so we can keep them. The Parks Department is simply providing the boxes, tapes and markers. We will be the depository for the information and we will do the reporting.

Mr. Neal said his inclination is, since we are running out of time for this season, is to set up soon and work on the Railyard Park. Some of the volunteers we get may then want to work on other parks with us.

Ms. O'Brien said we are running out of time. Railyard is going to go quickly I think.

Mr. Thompson said and we have an interest group.

Ms. Shafer said along the acequia is the densest area of trees. On Fridays the kids from the masters program at the charter high school come for an hour to do projects. Usually fifteen to eighteen come. Right now they are weeding the acequia.

Mr. Thompson said we could train them the first week in the hour they have and then next time they can work on the inventory.

Ms. Shafer said she can ask if they are willing to come for two hours.

Mr. Neal said he was wondering if that would serve us well or if it would be better to work with the regular adult volunteers. They are there every week, twice a week. He is more inclined to do that.

Ms. Schruben asked have the volunteers at the Railyard Park been told about this Seattle based project.

Ms. Shafer said no, this just came up last week.

Chair Torres said we will work with the Railyard Park Stewards. What is our time-frame.

Mr. Thompson said we will coordinate by email to do this. He asked Mr. Neal if he will take the lead.

Mr. Neal said yes, he will co-ordinate with Linda. Are either of the other Board members willing to do this as well.

Mr. Wood said he is willing to volunteer but needs advance notice.

Ms. Schruben said she is willing but needs advance notice.

Ms. Shafer said volunteers come tomorrow so I will give them a heads up. They are there from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Mr. Neal said it will take a couple of weeks to do the Railyard. I will be in touch with you Linda.

Ms. Beshur said she was interested in helping with notice.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Tree Campus USA

Mr. Wood said he has not worked on this much. The City still owns the property. Requirements for a Tree Campus USA include the formation of their own Board, that they have an arborist contracted out and that they have a dedicated budget. Every contact I have made with the College of Arts and Design has been with no response. It might work better through the Community College rather than the Arts School.

Mr. Thompson said we were approached by Mandela Charter School. They are interested in it.

Mr. Wood said they would not qualify as a Tree Campus USA but I will check it out.

Ms. Schruben asked have you contacted St. Johns College. Their students do their landscape work.

Mr. Thompson asked do we get points from Tree City USA for having a Campus in the City.

Mr. Wood said I think so but there are no Tree Campuses USA in New Mexico.

Mr. Neal asked Mr. Wood to send him information about this program.

Mr. Wood said it is all on the Arbor Day website.

Chair Torres asked Mr. Wood to contact Jeff about this.

Mr. Wood said yes he will do that.

B. Potential Board Members

Chair Torres said we had this discussion last month. Some names were thrown out. Tracy brought Ms. Beshur's resume today and the Chair brought the resume of Tom Dominguez. He said he will stick it out through December. If we fill the vacancies I will stay as an ex officio member. Tom is interested. At this point how would you like to proceed to consider individuals who have been brought forward. Mary Schruben is also interested.

Mr. Neal asked Mary you are still up for being on the Board if we need you.

Ms. Schruben said yes. She is aware that the vacancies that the Board has now are for specific categories of people but she is happy to serve if there is a spot for her.

Mr. Neal said he would like to ask Ms. Beshur to speak to the Board and tell us why you might want to be on the Board.

Ms. Beshur said her goals are in urban forestry. She said she has been a Landscape Designer for ten years and has her own company. She is also a Master Gardener. Urban forestry is the focus she wants. She is enrolled in a graduate program with Oregon State for a Certificate in Urban Forestry and she is looking forward to that. She was told about the Board and is interested. There are design elements within an urban setting. The health of our City is dependent on the health of our urban forest. She is interested in developing the Board and learning new techniques. She said she would appreciate the Board's consideration.

Mr. Neal asked her if she had worked on City committees before.

Ms. Beshur said no she had not.

Ms. O'Brien said that she liked that she had local knowledge and asked if she had done any projects at the Community College.

Ms. Beshur said no she was working on botany.

Chair Torres asked if the Board wanted him to have Tom come to the next meeting.

Mr. Neal said he would like to meet him.

Ms. O'Brien said that would be good.

Mr. Thompson said the make up and number of members of the Board is determined by Chair of the PARC Board. It does not go to Council. Maybe there should be more members and a wider scope. That would not be contrary to the intent.

Mr. Neal asked how do we expand.

Chair Torres said we would take it to PARC if we want to. Sometimes it is hard to get a quorum when there are more members. We can explore that possibility as time goes on. Do we want to make it a goal to act here today on the names brought forward so we can submit them to PARC for approval.

Mr. Neal said he is inclined to read people's resumes and think about it first.

Chair Torres said not today but at the next meeting.

Mr. Neal said yes.

Mr. Thompson said the Park Department sent a letter on letterhead to invite Ms. O'Brien to a meeting for an interview before she was placed on the Board and then we sent an acceptance letter. Would the Board like for us to do that with these two candidates.

The Board agreed.

Chair Torres said he had no problem stepping down if the Board wants a new Chair.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Thompson introduced Victor Lucero, the new IPM Coordinator.

Mr. Lucero said he was happy to be here. He is looking forward to getting to know the Board. He started on the 31st of August and had already found ash white flies in the area. He had also found a naturally occurring predator colony. He is looking at bio control options including physical removal of the larvae with a high pressure water application. He told the Board to contact him if they have any questions.

Mr. Neal asked how extensive is this pest.

Mr. Lucero said wide spread. They are on green and white ash.

Mr. Neal asked does it do significant damage.

Mr. Lucero said it had potential to stress the tree. It has the feeding pattern of an aphid. He has had good success with treating it with bio control. It is resistant to a wide variety of pesticides.

Mr. Thompson said the previous IPM Director said Emerald Ash Boar would not get here because it would not be able to survive here. Mr. Lucero has found this pest and they are comparable.

Mr. Neal said we talked a lot earlier about the Emerald Ash Boar and preventing it from coming here. We talked about educating people about buying firewood from another state. Is anything in the works.

Mr. Thompson said public outreach is at our expense. We have two marketing people. We could rely on them for PSAs. We don't feel justified to spend our scarce tree money on advertising. It is not effective. We will monitor and respond to epicenters. We will not rule out a least toxic chemical approach. We have to populate the predators of the White Ash Fly.

Mr. Neal asked is there any monitoring on the Emerald Ash Boar yet.

Mr. Thompson said he did not know of any .

Mr. Wood said a series of traps were set out that NMSU sponsored. Nothing has been found in Santa Fe.

Mr. Thompson said we will reserve some action until it moves closer to us. Next spring we will see the eggs if they are here.

Mr. Wood said he could encourage people to buy local firewood on the City website.

Chair Torres said some kind of informational piece should be posted on the website. It would not cost much and would be for awareness.

Mr. Thompson said it is a mandate in the Ordinance that we maintain a Webpage on the City's webpage. We will look into that. We don't want to be an alarmist.

Mr. Wood said it might be better to show a link to the Colorado website.

Mr. Thompson said we have a webmaster. He will do it and show a link.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Shafer said she would be happy to put information about the Emerald Ash Boar and firewood in their newsletter.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

There was discussion. It was determined that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 27th, at 3:00pm.

Mr. Wood said he would not be able to be there.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Chair Torres, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17pm.



Chair Patrick Torres



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer