



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, April 27, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2016
5. Old Business
 - A. Any final information for Arbor Day Event
 - B. Reflections from the Training Session on April 23, 2016 and wrap-up of Water History Park inventory on March 26, 2016
 - C. Open Meetings Act Information
6. New Business
 - A. June 8th Urban Forest Council Meeting – Inventory Workshop
 - B. Election of new chair – Action Item
 - C. Replacement for position being vacated by Patrick Torres and Tracy Neal
7. Announcements
8. Public Comment
9. Date and Time of next meeting- Wednesday, May 25, 2016 10:00 am
10. Adjourn

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
THE BOARD AT FRENCHY'S FIELD
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET
Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 10:00 am**

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TORRES AND TRACY NEAL

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET
Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 10:00 am**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Chair Patrick Torres at 10:00 am, Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at the Barn at Frenchy's Field, 2001 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Torres, Chair
Tracy Neal
Katherine O'Brien
Athena Beshur

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Dominguez, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Schruben
Linda Shafer, Railyard Stewards
Victor Lucero, Parks and Recreation Department
Richard Thompson, Parks Department
Gary Varela, Parks and Recreation Department
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Chair Torres, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
March 23, 2016**

Ms. Beshur should the minutes should say gophers instead of prairie dogs in Larragoite park, page 5.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. O'Brien, seconded by Chair Torres, to approve the minutes as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. ANY FINAL INFORMATION FOR ARBOR DAY EVENT

Chair Torres asked Victor if he had a schedule for Arbor Day.

Mr. Lucero said they planted a tree at Torreon Park yesterday and will plant one in Railyard Park on Friday.

Ms. O'Brien asked if a schedule could be emailed to her.

Chair Torres said they are doing a tree planting today at Ashbaugh Park.

Mr. Neal asked what are the odds that the tree will succeed.

Mr. Lucero said as good as any other if someone takes care of it.

Mr. Neal asked what about the gophers.

Mr. Lucero said if they are controlled it will be ok.

Ms. Shafer asked are you guys putting out a schedule on the tree plantings.

Ms. O'Brien said it is a city deal.

Ms. Beshur said Tuesday was Torreon, Wednesday is Ashbaugh, Thursday is Ragle and Friday is Railyard.

Mr. Thompson said that is the schedule. All of the plantings are at 10:00 am.

Mr. Neal asked what publicity has been done.

Mr. Thompson said he sent out a press release. He has not seen it in the paper. We are planting one Chinese Pastiche, one Kentucky Coffee Tree, one Texas Red Oak and one other. We were granted the Tree City USA status and that was in the presentation to Public Works on Monday as was the reading of the Proclamation.

Mr. Neal asked is the Kentucky Coffee Tree a male.

Mr. Thompson said he did not sex it.

Ms. Beshur asked are we looking to plant more trees now and should we continue to slate more trees as we inventory the parks.

Mr. Thompson said let us know.

**B. REFLECTIONS FROM THE TRAINING SESSION ON APRIL 23, 2016
AND WRAP UP OF WATER HISTORY PARK INVENTORY ON MARCH
26, 2016**

Ms. O'Brien said she was the only one there from the Board on the 26th. The map did not correspond with the existing trees and it was very cold. We did not make much headway. We still have more to do at the Water Park.

Ms. Schruben said a good half of the trees are on the other side of the water tank. We will mark them off.

Mr. Thompson asked do we believe those trees are planted by us.

Ms. Schruben said yes.

Mr. Thompson said that is not our property.

Ms. Schruben said we will mark them off and not inventory them. We will only do the areas that are accessible to the public.

Ms. Beshur said we are not going to be maintaining them so keeping the numbers doesn't make sense. Just put inaccessible.

Mr. Thompson asked in the Railyard Park we used the planting plan did that work.

Mr. Neal said yes.

Mr. Thompson asked do we want to use planting plans or recent aerals in the future.

Mr. Neal said both.

Ms. O'Brien agreed. We need both. Mary is super with maps. She helped a lot.

Ms. Schruben said both are helpful if you have both. Some of the drawings are really old.

Mr. Thompson said from our perspective if we invested in GPS technology with us already having done Train the Trainer is that preferable at this stage. We probably will not be able to get many GPS trackers.

Ms. O'Brien said the ariel is great.

Ms. Beshur said regarding the training in Ragle it was successful. Half went to Candelero and half stayed at Ragle. She feels everyone there would be able to lead an inventory. She tried to instill in them to keep it simple and fun. If we don't know the exact plant put ash or locust and that is ok. It would be handy to have a generic list of the codes we need to use.

Ms. Schruben said she drafted one that needs editing. In the Railyard we used four letters and in some places we used 6 letters. We need to standardize.

Mr. Thompson said he uses six letters.

Ms. Beshur said that will be really helpful if it is standardized.

Mr. Thompson said we also have spread and height on there. Are we not doing that.

Mr. Neal said we do multi trunk evergreens like pinon and juniper.

Ms. Schruben said she will make some notes to the tree inventory information including class, condition, maintenance, clearance and other categories of condition.

Ms. O'Brien said she uses it as a code sheet.

Ms. Beshur said if you would like she will work with Mary to do the updates.

Everyone agreed to that.

Mr. Neal asked the people you are working with, how many people in the group can really tell the difference between the trees.

Ms. Beshur said we felt it would be good to add on the sign up list someone called a tree identifier. That was recommended.

Ms. Beshur said we had Torreon Park slated for Friday but now events will be at the Railyard. Do we cancel that inventory for Friday. Does she just move with it and coordinate.

Chair Torres said yes. Keep the Tree Board informed.

Ms. O'Brien said she understood Richard to say that he wanted Torreon and Ashbaugh done.

Mr. Thompson said we have all kinds of parks. Torreon and Ashbaugh are heavily forested parks. We would like a semi random sampling from all four districts.

Ms. O'Brien said we need some from District 3.

Mr. Thompson said the parks are listed by district are on the website.

C. OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Chair Torres said he was supposed to get with legal to find out about our obligation in terms of conforming to the Open Meetings Act when doing inventories. The Information came to him before he got to legal. The decision is that whenever three or more of us are together at a location we have to provide notification and have a stenographer to take minutes. Due to limited budgets we can only have a stenographer on a limited basis so staff would have to take minutes. Again due to budget constraints that is somewhat of a concern. Basically the recommendation is that no more than two of us be at the same location at a time for tree inventories. He understands the purpose of the Open Meetings Act but this got taken to the nth degree and effects us. So we have to only have two of us at a location at a time.

Mr. Thompson said we get public records requests all the time. We have a records custodian who handles this for all the City departments. We have a very engaged population that wants to know what goes on. We are bound by the Freedom of Information Act. He is concerned about the Board makeup and the count. We could expand the Board and that allows the opportunity for three members to be at one place at a time.

Mr. Thompson said with the loss of two of the founding members of the Board we are thinking about the make up of the Board. Do we want to get a professional tree care taker on the Board. That is something for the Board to think about. Also there is an invitation for a member of the Tree Board to attend the PARC Board. We could make that suggestion at the PARC meeting.

Mr. Neal said he wanted to enter into the record the quote "good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws." Plato. That is my basic stand on the Open Meetings Act. It seems when it is so broadly written with no exceptions for logic it is ridiculous.

Ms. Beshur asked how does this relate to electronic emailing. Can we email everyone on the Board. Or when letting everyone know about a tree inventory.

Mr. Thompson said we are cautioned that as liaisons we can contact everyone. The Chair is discouraged. There are ways to get around it with a public bulletin board.

An explanation was given.

Ms. Beshur asked is there a caveat on copying people on emails. It seems it would be good for us all to know all the information so we can stay informed as a Board so cc would give us that opportunity.

Mr. Thompson said you could comment on the website. Mr. Lucero is in charge of that at this point. We could set something up like that for PARC and Tree Board. Keeping it up religiously we will have to work on.

Mr. Thompson said it is a challenge.

Ms. Beshur asked would this be something that as Board members we would have access to post on as necessary.

Mr. Thompson said it will be open to the public. Postings need to come through a City employee.

Chair Torres said the public can also weigh in on what we are doing.

Mr. Thompson said they will. There are two walls at City Hall for public postings.

Ms. Beshur asked how do you, Mr. Chair, feel about this idea.

Chair Torres said it is something for consideration. He finds it easier to send information to the staff liaison and she sends it back out. Don't expect that exchange to happen over the weekend.

Mr. Thompson gave out Jesse's email. jbesparza@santafe.gov.

Ms. O'Brien said since you don't come to meetings every month do we send to both of you.

Mr. Thompson send to Jesse and copy him.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. JUNE 8TH URBAN FOREST COUNCIL MEETING - INVENTORY WORKSHOP

Mr. Neal said the meeting will be at the Bernalillo County Extension Office in Albuquerque from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. It will be highly useful to the Board. If some of you want to commute together that would be good. The address is 1510 Menaul NW.

Mr. Thompson reported that Jennifer Dann said they will be coordinating an inventory of Russian Olives and Siberian Elms. She is inventorying them statewide particularly in rural villages where they were planted around plazas.

Mr. Thompson said they have opened up the Municipal Forestry Assistance Grants. The deadline is in July.

Ms. Beshur said in an email it says we can sign in for a webinar on the council workshop.

Chair Torres said a few weeks ago we talked about trying to seek some funding from them. That application is due in July. Elizabeth offered to help with the grant proposal. Do we still want to pursue it.

Everyone said yes.

Mr. Thompson said he will get with Elizabeth and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

B. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR - ACTION ITEM

Chair Torres said the time is now for him to step down. His work load is heavy and he will be unable to attend the meetings regularly. He is stepping down as a Board member and Chair. We need to select a chair for the time being. Also, Mr. Neal has expressed desire to step down.

Mr. Neal said thank you for all the time you have been on the Board. A lot of what made it worthwhile and enjoyable was your presence and work on the Board. Thank you for all your time and efforts.

Chair Torres said it was a team effort. We could not have done a lot without the expertise that we have around this table and the support.

Mr. Neal said keeping it together and rolling was important and we appreciate it.

Chair Torres said it has been fun. He has enjoyed the business and seeing all of

you. The time is right now. He has been on this Board since 2010.

Ms. O'Brien said thank you.

Mr. Thompson said we appreciate you staying on.

Mr. Neal said he is stepping off the Board for now. He thought he would have more time to do Board work but this year is worse than ever. He doesn't feel he has the time or energy to do it. He is so busy right now. The other reason is that after that clarification came out about limiting things due to the Open Meetings Act it makes him so angry when the law is so stupid. If and when he has time to work on inventories he can do whatever he wants because he won't put it over the quota. He is glad to have Katherine and Athena. Both of them bring passion and knowledge to the Board which is needed.

Ms. Beshur said thank you both for your service. She would like to move into what the process is for us to develop replacements for the Board. She recognizes and honors the decisions but at the same time, before she and Tom joined it was difficult to even start a meeting. It is essential to release you from your seats when new people come on. It seems to her that a Board member's place is to make decisions and delegate. What we are doing here takes time. We should be looking toward the stewardship of the community and developing that. We are all busy. The work we are doing is generating a lot of great participation from the community. Because we are all busy in May she doesn't want to get off the Board. She encouraged them to stay on the Board.

Ms. O'Brien said she agrees. It is difficult to have two of you leave at the same time. Patrick expressed his desire that he leave at the first of the year. We were hoping Tom could step into his shoes but with his new job he is unable to attend every meeting. Maybe we can continue by not having a meeting in May and find new Board members so we can keep the Board going.

Mr. Thompson thanked Tracy and talked about his importance to the Board and the community. The City is facing three great challenges. We have climate change, the emerald ash boar and the fact that the Board's continuity through the year is expressed in our application for Tree City USA. They allow us to define the number of meetings every year. If you desire any other meeting time or place the Parks Department will accommodate you. Is it easier to meet in the evening.

Ms. O'Brien said we could meet before or after inventorying a park.

Mr. Thompson said Tracy, you are a gem for the community.

Mr. Neal said he would consider the proposal to not leave the Board until a replacement found. He cannot make a meeting in May.

Ms. O'Brien said we need to all look for possible candidates.

Mr. Thompson said we could call a meeting for a park where the inventory is.

Mr. Neal said his time is constrained. He works every Friday and Saturday.

Ms. Beshur said some of the volunteers would like times not during work hours.

Ms. Beshur asked what about meeting at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Thompson said we have Council meetings at that time.

Chair Torres said we need to deal with electing a new chair and determine how you want to replace him. In the past, a press release has been sent out through the Department and resumes have gone to the Parks Department and they share them with the Board.

Mr. Thompson said the Chair of the PARC Committee makes the appointments. She relies on him and he relies on the Board.

Mr. Neal asked do they reply to you.

Mr. Thompson said to Rob Carter. We will discuss them with you then with PARC. We need to get this in front of PARC ASAP.

Chair Torres asked would you recommend he submit the letter of resignation to PARC and you.

Mr. Thompson said send it to him and he will forward it to the Chair of PARC.

Ms. Beshur asked are any of you here from the public interested in becoming a Board member.

Ms. Schruben said she did not do it last year so that we would not all be at an inventory. It seems activities members want to take on presents an extraordinary burden on us. So she is not willing because it may impinge on our work.

Ms. Beshur said a year ago, we were not in a position to lead inventories on our own. Now all of us could do it without another Board member.

Mr. Thompson said he agrees with Athena. It should be a volunteer driven inventory at this point.

Mr. Lucero said he never thought about it. He does not know the guidelines.

Mr. Thompson said Victor is a City employee so he can't serve on the Board

Ms. Shafer said the work you do is great. She wants to support the Board but her schedule is crazy. Maybe in the fall. She appreciates being thought of.

Ms. Beshur asked is it possible for us to receive a copy of the regulations.

Mr. Thompson asked are you talking about the Ordinance that establishes the subcommittee.

Chair Torres said he will get it to her.

Ms. Beshur said yes, the City guidelines that govern committees.

Mr. Thompson said he has been involved in committees for a long time. Some have specific guidelines for policy committees. The City relies on a broad spectrum of members and opinions. This committee makeup is not expressed. The implication is that there should be representation based on the make up of the city.

Ms. Beshur said it seems like perhaps someone experienced with grant writing might be good on the Board. What qualities do we want to see.

Mr. Neal said the notion of talking to other groups who may have interested people is good. The Santa Fe Watershed Association may have related interests.

Mr. Thompson said the Santa Fe Watershed Association is really interested in doing inventories, but in the riparian forest part.

Ms. Schruben said they want to do them around the river.

Mr. Neal said he is wondering then if there is an announcement that we looking for new members, could that go to other Committees and Boards. The Sustainable Santa Fe Commission is an example.

Mr. Thompson said the Sierra Club comes to mind.

Chair Torres said let's get back to electing the Chair.

Mr. Neal asked does anyone want to be Chair.

Ms. Beshur said mention was given about Tom.

Ms. O'Brien said her hearing is not what it used to be. She could do it temporarily and see how it works out.

Chair Torres asked would you be willing to finish out the rest of this year and then put it back out for election.

Ms. Beshur said we could have revolving leadership. We all could get a chance to lead. Make it more fluid.

Ms. O'Brien said she thought she could serve as Chair to the end of the year and then assess how it is going.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Beshur, to have Katherine O'Brien fill the position of Chair until the end of the year.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Torres said please do not hesitate to contact him if there are any questions.

C. REPLACEMENT FOR POSITION BEING VACATED BY PATRICK TORRES AND TRACY NEAL

Chair Torres said if there are any other things you are looking for in a Board member share them with Mr. Thompson so it can go in the press release.

Mr. Neal said it would be good to have a mix of people with different backgrounds who are orientated to making the Board work and who care about trees. Also in saving the urban forest and who are retired or semi-retired.

Chair Torres asked how long should we keep this open to provide input. At some point we want that announcement out there so you have time to review those applications and make recommendations.

Ms. O'Brien said we could send Richard what we are looking for and he can put out a public announcement.

Ms. Beshur said they need to be able to meet monthly.

Mr. Thompson said that is a mandatory requirement. Also, they have to have an email account.

Ms. O'Brien asked is it too much to ask that we get our ideas to him within the next couple of days.

Everyone agreed to do so.

Ms. Beshur said we need someone who is interested in advising the direction of the urban forest.

Mr. Neal said guiding the health of the urban forest.

Ms. Beshur said it would be great if we could get these applications in by the June meeting so we could vote on them in the July meeting.

Mr. Neal said let's make the deadline in May and meet on it in June. Richard can send them to us.

Chair Torres said we will have a May 31st deadline for the applications. This Saturday is the deadline to get any key words for the press release to Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson said we will put it out twice.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Torres said PARC has asked that someone go give a report on May 17th to them. They meet in the GCC conference room.

Chair Torres said he can do it as outgoing chair and he will inform them about stepping down and about Katherine assuming the role of Chair.

Mr. Neal said someone at a class he was giving said she heard the City was going to start using more herbicides and pesticides. Where are we on that.

Mr. Lucero said the City will follow the IPM Ordinance. He said he doesn't want to say the City will be using more because the City has not been using any. Decisions for pest management will continue to happen. That will take place. He has to post one day before treating a site. He has it posted on the website and has to post at the site a small sign and on voice mail at his office. All the pesticides that the Ordinance allows for are category 3. Anything you can buy at Walmart or Lowes. There are no restricted use pesticides. He is looking at extremely low volume.

Mr. Thompson said we have heard since he has been here concerns about toxic chemicals. The term chemical is often misplaced. The word toxic, by their very nature pesticides are toxic to something. The EPA and State Department of Agriculture have done a lot of work on this stuff. We follow regulations and instructions. We encourage everyone to read the Ordinance. We have heard from the Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Task Force.

Mr. Neal asked how do we access the Ordinance.

Mr. Thompson said it is on the City website.

Mr. Lucero said go to City Code, chapter 10, section 10-7.

Mr. Thompson said one of our major concerns is that we are not holding a beachhead. We are falling more and more behind. The citizens of Santa Fe need to consider the cost, that is his job. We need everyone to consider mechanical control of medians. We have to do that over and over again.

Mr. Lucero said one of the things that is disconcerting is that no one has asked him about his biological control efforts or mentioned the fact that mechanical control is on going or that cultural practices and prevention are in place. This is not just a one tier step. It is classical integrated pest management and how the Ordinance dictates how he operates. It is not anything new. The Ordinance has been in place for over a decade. He would like for the Board to recognize that. A large percentage of the pesticides used are organic materials with the review institute listed. No one wants to hear that. He would like to have an opportunity for dialogue.

Mr. Lucero said he has accepted invitations from several groups to speak to them about this.

Mr. Lucero said he would like to have a show of hands of how many of you have seen the Ordinance.

Chair Torres was the only one.

Mr. Neal asked can you email us that Ordinance .

Mr. Lucero said yes.

Ms. Beshur said for Candelero Park we found some small elms to get out. How would you like us to indicate those on our sheets.

Mr. Thompson said within the Management Plan we will group them all and verify.

Ms. Schrubber said in doing Ragle we added those spots to the numbering system saying they were invasive species and to get rid of them.

Mr. Lucero said we don't necessarily need that information. If you want Mr. Thompson to have an inventory that is good.

Ms. Schruben said Parks planted Russian Olives and we indicated those.

Mr. Thompson said you can put it in the comment area that they are ready to be removed.

Mr. Thompson said as an update of the Emerald Ash Boar, we are providing information regarding the species to the public. Apparently they have accomplished a genic modified organism that survives the Emerald Ash Boar. They are crossing with a genic modification.

Mr. Neal asked what about cross breeding with trees that have developed a resistance.

Mr. Lucero said that is years in the making.

Mr. Lucero said he has been keeping data on Nantucket Pine Tip Moths. The population is spiking. He sets a trap and they get caught in it. He hopes to do this with other pest species.

Mr. Neal said it is great to see this. If someone was going to use oil or BT is this the time to spray.

Mr. Lucero said yes, whatever the label suggests.

Chair Torres asked are the numbers on the chart we have, the number of moths per trap, per week.

Mr. Lucero said yes.

Ms. Beshur asked is this the BT K that you apply.

Mr. Lucero said he would have to check the label. It has to be approved for ornamental trees. He will continue to get data throughout the next generation of the moths as well.

Mr. Neal and Ms. Beshur thanked him.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016, 10:00 AM

This meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be June 22, 2016, at 10:00 am.

Ms. O'Brien took over as Chair.

Chair O'Brien said this meeting is cancelled. We will be meeting again on the 4th Wednesday of June, at 10:00 am.

Chair O'Brien asked is anything set up for inventory in May.

Ms. Beshur said there is not anything set up yet.

Chair O'Brien said we need to finish Ragle and Water History Park.

Ms. Schruben said we have a lot to finish in Ragle. In Water History there are one hundred trees still there to do.

Mr. Thompson asked are they planted and desirable.

Ms. Schruben said yes. They are on the southern edge along the street and along the east boundary edge and east of the building.

Mr. Thompson said the contractors are already there but the inventory can still be done.

Ms. Beshur asked what dates work for Katherine and Mary.

Ms. Schruben said after May 20th. Katherine said it is the same thing for her.

Ms. O'Brien said she will send her some dates.

Ms. Beshur said she will talk to her co-leaders as well. The boxes are going over to Tom's office now so they can get picked up.

Ms. Beshur said thank you Mary for getting the materials so organized. She will go ahead and contact the co-leaders and the Board and go from there.


10. ADJOURN

MOTION A motion was made by Chair O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Beshur, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.


Chair Katherine O'Brien


Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer