

**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET
WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2016**

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET
WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2016, 10:00 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order at 10:00 am by Chair Katherine O'Brien, on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at the Barn at Frenchy's Field, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Katherine O'Brien, Chair
Athena Beshur
Tom Dominguez
(Vacancy)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tracy Neal

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Thompson, Parks Department
Mary Schruben
Victor Lucero
Gary Varela
Linda Schaffer
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Beshur, seconded by Mr. Dominguez, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Beshur, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. NEW TREE BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

Chair O'Brien said that Athena sent her a copy of her announcement to ask for new Tree Board members.

Ms. Beshur said she sent it to the Master Gardeners and the Conservation Trust. She has not had any response.

Mr. Dominguez said he announced it to the Master Gardner Board but there has been no interest yet.

Ms. Beshur said there is a Forrest Guild we could approach.

Chair O'Brien said we need to make our efforts to complete the Board. She and Athena are here because Tracy asked us.

Mr. Vigil said we will put out an advertisement. You guys will do the interviews.

Ms. Beshur said she would like to request that we have that advertisement resubmitted to the channels we use.

Mr. Vigil said ok.

Chair O'Brien said thank you.

B. ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTINGS

Chair O'Brien said Tracy hit on this in his letter. The Red Oak in Ragle Park did not receive irrigation.

Ms. Schaffer said the Red Oak in Railyard Park is losing leaves. The apple tree

he mentioned, Bob Wood planted that. She thinks it is doing fine.

Chair O'Brien asked has anyone looked at the one in Torreron.

Ms. Beshur said we are slated to do Torreon and Ashbaugh as the next parks to inventory. We can check on that then.

Mr. Lucero said he saw it a couple of weeks ago and it looked fine.

Chair O'Brien asked did we plant one in Ashbaugh.

Mr. Lucero said he thinks one was planted there.

Chair O'Brien said she will swing by Ashbaugh and look at it.

Chair O'Brien said at the last meeting when no one from the City was here, Tracy and Athena mentioned that there was not any publicity about the Arbor Day plantings. A few people came for a ceremony but the tree had already been planted. We could have taken advantage of that but it did not happen.

Mr. Vigil said next time we do this we will put out a PSA and advise the public.

Ms. Schaffer said regarding Arbor Day we only knew several days before and we posted pictures of the planting. She can help you with that and can do a press release and put it on Facebook and in her newsletter. It could help to get the community out to support the City parks.

Chair O'Brien said that goes along with what Richard said. We need to get the community excited about our funding and what we do so what we do is sustainable.

Ms. Schaffer said it is also to build awareness in the community about what the Parks Division does. What they do is amazing. The City needs to get some strokes for their hard work.

Mr. Vigil said 90% of the time we are scrutinized for what we don't do but there is so much we do.

Ms. Schaffer said when she walks around the park to make our work plans for our volunteer groups that come in we see all the work the guys do. They painted the wall that had graffiti. She texted the guys to thank them.

Mr. Dominguez said we have our own Advisory Board with extension. They are tasked with getting our word out and they direct us where we need to focus our educational efforts. That is where he sees this Board. We need something positive in

the paper about Parks. Can we develop a one pager saying this is what Parks is doing. We could get people excited about their parks. It could be nice and colorful. Maybe give to the New Mexican. Are we allowed to do that.

Chair O'Brien said that is a great idea.

Mr. Dominguez said the County has a quarterly newsletter that goes out. We could put a flyer at City Hall. We could stick it in the water bill.

Mr. Vigil said City Highlights is no more, so the City does not have a newsletter.

Mr. Dominguez said he and Victor went around the Plaza a few weeks ago. The trees are in deplorable condition. The medians looks bad as well.

Chair O'Brien said lets pursue the information going out ideas.

Ms. O'Brien said regarding the Arbor Day event we need to do more planning. Make it a real event. Do demos. Maybe we could plant five trees. Play on the parks that have been inventoried. If a park has been inventoried they get a free tree. It may encourage the Adopt a Park program. Invite kids. If we plan ahead of time we could turn it into something valuable.

Chair O'Brien said we will put it on the agenda ahead of time and put Tom's idea on the next agenda.

Ms. Schaffer said we are happy to host something like that at Railyard Park. When we were looking for sponsors for the native bee house, we did a one page fact sheet. We sent it out to our email list and put in on our website. That is a good example of what you could do to show the accomplishments of the city parks. You can send us articles and we will put them in our newsletter.

Chair O'Brien said we will put it on our agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Vigil said we used to actually do a pretty good Arbor Day event and we involved the schools. The kids helped us plant and it was a good event. It would be great to get everyone involved.

Ms. Beshur said if we had it at the Railyard maybe we could have Arbor Day events throughout the week and culminate on that Friday and address the entire urban forest. We could have a meeting and get people involved. We could have it be an organizing event for community gardens.

Chair O'Brien said it will be on the agenda for next month.

Ms. Beshur said maybe we could create a highlight page and sent it to all these other places.

Mr. Dominguez said maybe Athena could do the Arbor Day activities and he would do the one pager.

C. TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

Ms. Schruben said she would update where we are. We did one more central section of Ragle Park on July 9th. Between the ball parks and wash rooms. There are still areas to do in that park. The boxes are ready for anyone who wants to go. Photos are ready for the two large areas. There is another hour of work to do at Water History Park on the trees just outside the coyote fence. The landscape drawing we have been using is very confusing. We may even need to measure between trees to see what is there and what is gone. The little planted space at Candelaro still needs to be looked at for conditions.

Ms. Schruben handed out a tree inventory information sheet. This is a handout she made to try to make it more clear and she used a larger font so that it was easier to read. It will help to organize maintenance issues. She will revamp the comments page to match this. Maybe we could add a comment for water issues. The water is adequate or not adequate. Think about this. These are drafts.

Mr. Dominguez said sometimes it is just moving the bubbler.

Ms. Schruben said simple things could really make a difference.

Ms. Schruben said the last page is a species list. She would love the Board's input on this. On the order, additions and corrections. She would like to have this on the agenda for next month to get your suggestions and help. She will make the corrections and get it all on the little thumb drives in the boxes.

Ms. Schruben said she needs more dates for tree inventories.

Chair O'Brien said she asked Athena if she will be the Tree Board member in charge of the inventories. She has been most active in coordinating the inventory events. She has accepted. She will be the Tree Inventory Coordinator. We appreciate her taking the role.

Ms. Beshur said she is so grateful to Mary that she put this together. It is so much easier to use than before. On the clearance issues maybe we should put BC and add a CC for canopy conflict.

Ms. O'Brien said that is excellent.

Ms. Beshur said the species list is so great. Can Parks buy very small manuals to go in the boxes.

Ms. Schruben said we should look for something already published.

Chair O'Brien said it would be nice to have one that is appropriate to our area.

Mr. Vigil said he has seen those for native plants for the southwest. He has gotten them through County Extension and NMSU.

Mr. Dominguez said Audubon Western is the best one he has. It has a good picture of bark and the leaves.

Ms. Schruben asked could you bring it next time.

Mr. Dominguez said yes.

Chair O'Brien said we could probably create something over the winter. It would be helpful.

Ms. Beshur said or we could use a version that works ok. We could probably get them on Amazon.

Ms. Beshur said in terms of the abbreviations she is not familiar with what the standard is. Maybe we can have Tracy or Richard review them. We should learn the standard. It seems like the six letters are a standard.

Ms. Schruben said she is not sure.

Ms. Beshur said she will do some research on that.

Ms. Beshur said we need some dates for next inventories. It sounds like we should select four more dates. Two for Ragle, one for Water History and one for Candelaro.

Ms. Beshur said in Tracy's letter about trees dying, that ties into the tree inventory. She would like to see us do a park and finish a park and then parks gets the lists sooner and not piece meal. She want to keep this in the back of our minds.

Ms. Schruben said there were 3 ball games going on the day we worked on the inventory there. They parked under the trees and it was a wonderful family day. We were asked what we were doing and it gives us a push there.

Ms. Beshur said maybe eventually we can get to the point where all this is

automated. Where we input and Parks sees it immediately.

Ms. Schruben said she does send the inventory sheets over to Parks every time an inventory happens.

Chair O'Brien said on the inventory in Ragle on July 9th, four people volunteered and only two showed up.

Ms. Beshur said she heard from one woman that she went but could not find anyone.

Chair O'Brien said we need to give them a contact number. We could have done better if we had two teams.

It was decided that on Wednesday, August 10th the inventory at Ragle Park would be worked on starting at 5:30 pm. On Saturday, August 6th, the Candelaro Park would be worked on starting at 10:00 am, on Saturday, August 13th, Ragle Park would be worked on starting at 10:00 am and on Wednesday, August 17th, the Water History Park would be worked on starting at 5:30 pm. Ms. Beshur and Ms. Schruben will be at the 10th, 13th and 17th sessions. Mr. Dominguez volunteered for the 10th. Chair O'Brien volunteered for the 17th. Ms. Beshur said she will be at the session on the 6th as well.

Ms. Beshur said she spoke with Andy Otto and they are interested in beginning to do some inventories.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNICATION WITH CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT WHEN QUICK ACTION IS WARRANTED

Chair Beshur said this item came from Tracy. He asked when we see something in a park how do we notify the Park Department.

Mr. Vigil said send an email to Jesse. She will distribute to the Superintendent in that area. It will also go to him, Mr. Thompson and to Mr. Lucero.

B. ADOPT A PARK INITIATIVE

Ms. Beshur asked for an update at the next meeting.

C. STEWARDSHIP OF SMALL CITY PARKS

Ms. Beshur said she spoke with one of the Rotary Clubs and gave a presentation about what we are doing with the inventory and they wanted to help and do one park or steward or adopt a park. She sent out to her contact what about the section of park along Siringo Road, Mark Brant Park. Mary suggested that park. That made her think of the idea of giving a tree. We could go through the Park Department and give a tree for a park that is being worked on.

D. GOAL AND MISSION OF THE MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD

Mr. Thompson said he has worked with the Chair on this. 50% of the trees planted with the initial bond money are dead. The new Chair brought up what is our mission and vision of this Board. The documents creating the Board and Resolutions are in the packet. This was created as an Advisory Board to POSAC to create an urban forestry program but it is not at this level that those decisions are made. The idea is that the public gets behind urban forestry and gets the Governing Body behind that. We chip when we can and we haul stuff to the landfill every day. We don't have a tree crew. We buy from the trade and hydrate as best as we can. The objective of the Tree Board is to support and advise the PARC Board. We have a top level board now.

Mr. Thompson said he received a letter of concerns from Tracy Neal. He read the letter into the record. It will be attached herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "1".

Mr. Thompson said Tracy is right. We don't have a tree crew or a tree planting crew. We will keep lobbying for support for a tree crew. We hope to get more ground swell support. The Adopt a Park Program will not reduce our work load. He relies on the Tree Board. We rely on you to continue the tree inventory. He is not sure what caused the die back of the Red Oak in the Railyard. Our intention is to use limited chemical control. We have every interest in the world in doing what the Tree Board wants. We would like to get a member of PARC on the Tree Board and a member from Tree on PARC. Our intention is to get some clarity between the different documents that govern the board. USDA supports our efforts. Forestry Service supports our efforts. We are all for trees. There are conflicts in the Resolutions that need to be addressed.

Chair O'Brien said she did not expect to discuss this in depth today. She wants everyone to read these documents and come back to next meeting with suggestions and ideas.

Ms. Schruben said if the City implements the Adopt a Park Ordinance we should get that as well.

Mr. Lucero gave an update on pests and a handout. The handout will be attached herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "2". He said the Nantucket Pine Tip Moth research information is from traps in Railyard Park. If you went to Railyard Park you would see discoloration in the candles and if you break them open you will see moth larvae. He enjoys doing this type of work. Next year he and Tom are going to collaborate and do some work on apple trees.

Mr. Lucero said at the Water History Park the Pine Needle Miner has been found. He brought a branch showing damage from Honey Locust Borer.

Mr. Lucero said if any of you have any questions about the statements made about the IPM Ordinance please ask him.

Ms. Beshur said Victor you are doing a great job for the City. We appreciate your patience with all that. There were some comments made that were inaccurate. That ties directly into the idea that we want to build the image of the parks.

Chair O'Brien said if any of us want to participate in PARC it would be a really good thing.

Mr. Dominguez volunteered to apply as a member of PARC.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Schruben said she went to County's first public comment meeting on the first ENN for the building of the County courthouse. She showed the plans. The plans show where the trees will be. They are already making notes on which ones are in trouble and will be taken out. They will redevelop this with trees to be replaced and what with at their future meetings. As they develop the design of this people have given input on what they would like to have there. These plans will be evolving. There are two parts to the project. Demolition of the old courthouse and remodeling and construction. They are thinking of removing the top floor and making it a community space and having a landscaping plan for that area. There are all kinds of really great comments given. Lots of dialog. She brought this to let the Board know. There will be three or four more public meetings about the design. They really engaged with the community. This is a community group. The time line is demolition this winter and

construction next year, then move everyone, then demolition and construction. The neighborhood is very organized.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016, 10:00 AM

10. ADJOURN

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Beshur, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Katherine O'Brien, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer