

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
 MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD  
 THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD  
 2001 AGUA FRIA STREET  
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017, 10:00 AM**

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD  
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD  
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017, 10:00 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Chair Katherine O'Brien at 10:00 am, on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at The Barn At Frenchy's Field, 2001 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Katherine O'Brien, Chair  
Athena Beshur  
Tracy Neal  
Tom Dominguez  
Janie O'Rourke

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Victor Lucero, Parks and Recreation Department  
Andrew Garcia, Parks and Recreation Department  
Mary Schruben  
Michael Wirtz  
Claudia Horn  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Neal said if Richard comes, he would like to add to the agenda a discussion regarding the Parks Department's statement that they were going to put a proposal before the City Council about medians and development planning. They asked us to attend that Council meeting, however, the issue has not been on any Council agendas.

Chair O'Brien said we will discuss that issue under Comments From the Board. Also you emailed that you would like to discuss the gopher treatment.

Mr. Neal said yes, and some documents that were promised and not received.

Chair O'Brien said we will discuss that as well.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Beshur, to approve the agenda as amended.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mr. Neal said on page 2, the last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, add Victor's last name, Lucero, so that it is clear that they do not have the same last name.

Ms. Beshur said on page 12, 800 should be 1,500 and the plan should be Plan It Geo.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. O'Rourke, to approve the minutes as amended.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. TASK LIST FOR 2017**

Chair O'Brien handed out an updated task list which includes input from Mr. Neal. She did not get input from other Board members or the City. This list is incorporated herewith into these minutes as "Exhibit "1". Please review the document and see if you agree with it. She would like to focus our efforts and energies this year so we are as effective as possible.

Ms. Beshur said on number 4 we could add to insure the new "tree plantings".

Mr. Lucero said he understands the context of number 7 but you might be a bit more specific.

Mr. Neal said his intention in writing that was since they are doing research all the time and discovering new things, it is about anything we can do to support the trees.

Ms. Schruben said you should make a separate item for the Adopt A Park Program rather than including it with the IPM program.

Chair O'Brien said she will send an amended list to Jessie to send to the Board.

Mr. Neal said those of you who have not added anything to this, think about it and if you have something to add bring it up at the next meeting.

Ms. Beshur said these are ambitious goals. Adding more would be getting away from our mission.

Mr. Dominguez asked do we have a Mission Statement.

Chair O'Brien said yes we do. She will send it out to the Board.

Mr. Dominguez said keeping a Mission Statement updated to keep us focused is something we might add to this list.

Ms. Schruben said on number 5 the list needs to add the Land Use Department as well.

Mr. Neal said this is specific for the Parks Department. This is not for private citizens. The intent was a list for the Parks Department to use.

Chair O'Brien said we could communicate to the Parks Department and recommend that the list be sent on to the Land Use Department.

## **B. PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION UPDATE**

Chair O'Brien said both she and Tom were going to go to the PARC meeting in Janaury but they did not have a quorum. That happened in November as well. Our information still has not been presented. Would the Board have any problem with her contacting Victoria Bruneni, the Chair of PARC, directly.

Mr. Neal said he thinks that is a good idea. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Dominguez said he got an email from Mr. Carter yesterday saying he was bringing forward our applications to the City Council tonight.

Chair O'Brien said good and hopefully PARC will start functioning again.

## **C. ARBOR DAY**

Chair O'Brien asked Jeanie to give an update on Arbor Day.

Ms. O'Rourke said she has been in contact with Richard. He is going to call a meeting with other people involved as well as her. She has been on line looking at past

projects over the years. It is very interesting. She also sent an email out to the city Councilors of the 4 districts talking about Arbor Day and asking if they had parks in their districts that are in need. She heard from Councilor Rene Villarreal only, District 1. She noticed the Water Conservation calendar put out by them. There was a poster contest put out by the schools. There is a poster for each month. All by the kids. She contacted the person who did that to ask how they did it. She did receive a response that it could be duplicated for us and that it would be a great idea. Maybe not for this year but for next year.

Ms. Beshur said thank you so much.

Ms. O'Rourke said she has to rush and is sorry about that.

Ms. Beshur said thank you for all your work on that.

Chair O'Brien said that all sounds good. Thank you so much.

Ms. O'Rourke left the meeting.

#### **D. TREE INVENTORY PROJECT**

Ms. Beshur said she has all of the data from last year's inventories thanks to Mary who made the copies. It is exciting to have all the paperwork for an entire year's inventory. A lot of it was not entered into spread sheets so she is going through it but that takes time. She is inputting all the information into spread sheets. Her goal is to unify all of that information and make some pie charts showing diversity of species and quality and from there create some maps of general trends. Is there anything else that you want to see in the pie charts.

Ms. Schroder said the County has the LIDAR data and we can get that. It shows the canopy cover and other things. It is at the County Mapping Office. They have some software to do some interpretation.

Ms. Beshur said the time it takes to enter all this data in is huge. We should move toward the electronic model as soon as we can for inventory. We may have to start looking into grants for experts to do this immediate input.

Mr. Neal said if we have the equipment and the programs couldn't it work the same way with volunteers doing the data input. As long as there is one person who knows how to analyze the tree.

Ms. Beshur said yes, exactly. Having experts would make this a smoother process.

Mr. Neal said he suggests you break out a chart or list from the trees inventoried of the types of trees most used in the parks by tree so we can diversify.

Ms. Beshur said she agrees.

Chair O'Brien said we will discuss this again at the next meeting in February. When will we start talking about where to inventory this year. February or March.

Ms. Beshur said a couple of parks have come up. We can start talking about that in February.

Chair O'Brien said how about checking with Parks Department to see what they want inventoried.

Mr. Neal said that would be good to know.

Ms. Beshur said wherever we end up having Arbor Day should be a candidate.

Ms. Schruben said they are going to do a lot of work in Ft. Marcy because of the realignment of the bridges for Zozobra. That would be a major big park. Most likely it is the place to have the oldest park trees as well. They were planted the same time as the Plaza.

Ms. Beshur said lets plan on that for our first major one. She will talk to Parks.

Mr. Garcia said on list of parks are you going to have a goal of trees to plant in there if not enough in the individual parks. Are you going to recommend how many trees need to go into the park.

Chair O'Brien said we don't do that as part of the inventory. We will have the recommended tree list.

Mr. Garcia said it would be nice to have the recommendations of how many trees should be planted. It gives him leverage and helps him out in the long run.

Mr. Neal said he can see the point but always thought our work was to provide advice to the Parks Department. It seems like every park has its own variables as to usage and structure. He is hesitant to recommend the number of trees. We don't have all the data for use and intentions of the park. He thought we provide information to Parks and they decide how to plant.

Mr. Garcia said those parks have changed over the years and trees have been lost and not replaced. If we had a list and recommendations to use as a guideline that would be a good thing.

Mr. Lucero said maybe there might be some merit to looking at total caliper dimensions in the park as a whole. It makes sense to he and Andrew to have numbers so we can plan to have 5 trees in district 1 of a total caliper number of such and such. Just a thought.

Mr. Neal said he is not clear on that. At the Tree Conference you plant a tree with a 2 inches caliper and it can get up to 15 to 20 inches in caliper. Do we use ultimate caliper goals.

Mr. Lucero said no, the initial caliper amount. It seems to be an easy number to track.

Chair O'Brien said that is good.

Ms. Horn asked what does the tree inventory track.

Ms. Beshur said species, health, size and any hazards or indicators of pests and maintenance recommendations. The information goes to the Parks Department.

Ms. Horn asked is this a GIS inventory.

Ms. Beshur said it is not. We have not reached that goal yet. If you would like to volunteer she would love to get your contact information.

Ms. Horn said she is a local landscape architect. She can help out with trees in our projects.

Ms. Beshur said great.

Ms. Horn said she works on parks as well.

Ms. Beshur said that would be helpful. Having the landscape plan would be great.

Ms. Horn said it does not evaluate health, just what was put in.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. GREEN ORGANIZATIONS OF SANTA FE**

Chair O'Brien said this means organizations that have to do with the green industry. She is looking for what organizations exist in the community who may help us do this inventory project. Athena spoke to Rotary. She would like to see a



brainstorming effort to tell her or to identify what organizations exist in the community to help us with inventory and Adopt a Park. If you could get back to her on that it would be very helpful.

Mr. Neal suggested Earth Care.

Ms. Beshur suggested the Native Plant Society.

Ms. Schruben said there are probably 20 in our Environment Group with Sustainable Santa Fe. She doesn't have the list but we are meeting tomorrow and she can ask John Alejandro for that. It will include groups that bridge both the City and County. Also there is a whole State list.

Chair O'Brien asked do you think State and County organizations would be good.

Ms. Schruben said these are people who work across counties. They work in broad areas.

Chair O'Brien asked do you think any of those should be on list.

Ms. Schruben said you should let them know about the projects and the Tree Board.

Mr. Neal said we should let them know what we are doing and ask them to be involved in our inventories.

Chair O'Brien said that will be good information.

Ms. Beshur said that is a great idea. We can use the model we have been following where we get a group interested and we train them as a group. Encourage them to join us as an organization.

Chair O'Brien said what she envisions is the community knowing each other. The green community. She has been in the landscaping and nursery business all her life. She would like them to know each other and work toward common goals such as pests and climate change. That is where she is going with this.

Mr. Neal said great, he seconds that goal tremendously. The more people out there are who understand the issues the better. We will then have more to encourage the City to put more money into maintaining parks.

## **B. SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE REPORT**

Ms. Schruben said John Alejandro is writing the substance of the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan in conjunction with the consultant from Ft. Collins who is providing overall guidance. She has not seen the latest draft of the Environment Group yet. One of the things that has been brought up is from a group concerned with the Los Alamos stream in Diablo Canyon who have recently joined the group and they are pushing to get that water assessment into our group. There has been an exchange of more than 20 emails about if it belongs in the Environment Group or the Water Group. That needs to be sorted out. The meeting at 10:00 am tomorrow is for the large group. We will see where we are with the different parts and what we are missing. John Alejandro has all of the information. She is not sure what else they are wanting. She still wants to push the State's Urban Forest Ten Step Plan. It is comprehensive and well thought out. It can be used for the primary plan.

Mr. Neal asked how do we access that Plan.

Ms. Schruben said it is on the State's website for the Forest Service. It has a lot of community involvement in it. She was told that updates will be made next year.

Mr. Neal asked where is the meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Schruben said it is at 10:00 am, upstairs in the Market Station offices. It will be John, Beth, the Committee Chair, and heads of each working group to talk about their progress. It is open to the public. There are minutes for past meetings posted on the Clerk's Office website.

## **C. TREE INSECT HOTLINE**

Chair O'Brien said in talking to Tree Board members we are going to have more and more insects attacking the trees. Victor, is there a way for the Parks Department to create an insect hotline so that the community could access it.

Mr. Lucero said we do have a site on the City website for Integrated Pest Management.

Mr. Lucero shared a packet of information which is incorporated herewith into these minutes as Exhibit "2".

Mr. Lucero said maybe we could consider calling it a Tree Pest Hotline.

Mr. Lucero reviewed the packet of information regarding the pests he has seen and the ideas he is thinking of including on the website or hotline.

Mr. Lucero said he would like support of the Tree Board to make the public aware that when he is introducing predators for pest control, he is not introducing species that will change the ecology of Santa Fe.

Mr. Neal said given their similarities genetically is there any reason to think this pest, the White Fly, won't move to the old apple trees here.

Mr. Lucero said keep your eyes out for this animal.

Mr. Lucero said these are things he would like to get more involved in. It is sad to see the decline of the few American Elms we have. He is looking at how to deal with that regarding nutrient deficiencies. He wants to improve plant health methods.

Chair O'Brien said the American Elms on the Plaza are suffering from scale.

Mr. Lucero said yes. That is easily controlled with bio control. Why it has not been addressed, he is not sure. There is tremendous decline. Removal of the trees is what many of the recommendations are at this time. If we could look at some that are not so far gone and release predators that could help. These are things that are not socially acceptable, especially chemical control, but science bears it out so he is caught in the middle there. When we have the charge to maintain a healthy urban canopy and we are not doing anything that is an egregious act.

Mr. Lucero said this fall, the new IMP specialist at NMSU and he will be looking at data for allowing beneficial predators that are available to be used for insect pests. The USDA is monitoring the Emerald Ash Borer in our community. He has not been able to locate their information in the web yet.

Mr. Neal said that would be an incredible service if you would add to the parks website this section on tree pests with the information like you have here of what to look for. It would be a great service. If this does happen he strongly recommends including pictures of signs and systems. It would be an incredibly valuable service. He recommends not excluding chemical controls if they are effective. It would be helpful if you offer people information about what you could use that is not harmful.

Mr. Lucero said he has a pretty good archive on local pests.

Chair O'Brien asked do you have a listing presently of what you have seen.

Mr. Lucero said yes. We don't have a webmaster so he has to collaborate with another City employee to do this. Also he wants to include beneficial predators.

Chair O'Brien asked what can we do as a Tree Board to encourage this to happen.

Mr. Lucero said send me good information and that would be beneficial and direct people to this once it is up.

Chair O'Brien asked do you think it can happen.

Mr. Lucero said yes.

Mr. Dominguez said at Master Gardeners Santa Fe we have a website and a group of volunteers that manage it. We have "ask the master gardener" and we get tons of questions about what is this pest. We could put a link to your site with that.

Ms. Beshur said she talked with Cherry Payne who in charge of the Master Gardner newsletter about putting a box in the newsletter for your information with a link to what you are going to create. She will be in contact with you.

Mr. Dominguez said the newsletter goes out to over 500 people not just master Gardeners.

Chair O'Brien said she would like this information to go out to the community particularly to landscapers and also information about what to do. What is out there and what to do now.

Ms. Neal said in your recommendations for control there should be a mention of timing. It is critical to hit the pests at certain points.

Mr. Lucero said in the Ordinance it lays that out. If you want things like weekly status he is happy to do that. He will include what dates to use what type of control.

Mr. Dominguez said he echos what Tracy said. Give us a recommendation for what we can use. He knows you can't use chemicals but we can.

Mr. Lucero said there are guidelines on the use of pesticides in the IPM Ordinance.

Chair O'Brien said thank you very much.

Mr. Neal said he is excited about the possibility of this happening.

Mr. Lucero said send me information about any pests you all see.

Ms. Beshur said organic methods would be appreciated as well for homeowners and keeping it simple.

Mr. Lucero said we have a good baseline to start with.

Mr. Neal said he recommends when you talk about host plants to mention the pest this has a broad host range and could move to other hosts.

#### **D. THINK TREES NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE REPORT**

Chair O'Brien said Mary, Athena, Tracy, Richard, and Bob Woods were there. Who would like to report on important points.

Mr. Neal said he thought the conference very useful. Overall it is an arborist conference so some things are not that useful to the public. But some information was useful and good to know. Pruning old trees was useful to everyone. Some information was useful for the Parks Department to share with the public.

Ms. Beshur said she enjoyed the talk on Siberian Elms. They showed some benefits and a list of alternatives. The extent of the Siberian Elms in our area was talked about. We are probably at 25 to 30 percent in Santa Fe.

Mr. Neal said the first talk about urban forests and their values and what they are doing in DC drives home the point that getting people to understand the value of the urban forest is one of the things we need to do. They talked about the ways the urban forest mitigates climate change and other general things.

Chair O'Brien said it was wonderful and exciting.

Ms. Schruben said this was her first time going. She learned a lot. All the workshops she attended said community involvement is the key. That was important to her. There was an enormous diversity of people in attendance.

Mr. Garcia said he got from the conference how far behind we are in this world of arborists. What we are not allowed to practice is sad. He grew up in this town and we are going to watch that entire downtown forest disappear because we can't use chemicals and it is very sad. We have to look at the bigger picture.

Chair O'Brien said a good thing about Think Trees is that the attendees and speakers are from all over. It is a good information exchange.

Mr. Lucero said he enjoyed Dr. Bennett's presentation on IPM, controlling pests and plant healthcare.

Ms. Schruben said the Saturday talk by Linda Chalker-Scott was very good and helpful. She had some amazing examples of tree pruning.

**(Public comment was heard before item 7 but is reported in order of the agenda.)**

## **7. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Neal said in regard to gopher control, having done some inventories at Ragle Park it dawned on him that we need to make people more aware of the damage gophers do. That article that was in the paper does let us know what the Parks Department is doing about that. The documents he is looking for are from the October meeting when our Chair, Victor and Andrew went to Cornell park, He would love to get a copy of those notes.

Chair O'Brien said ok.

Mr. Neal said he was looking for the tree inventory data. Richard said it would be in Excel and then a Word document. That did not happen, so Athena if you could share the information with us that would be great.

Ms. Beshur said she will at the next meeting.

Mr. Neal said Richard said they going to deal with how medians are dealt with and how the City is responsible for trees in new development. He said those issues were going to be brought before a City Council meeting. They have not brought it up yet. When will it be.

Mr. Garcia said he does not know.

Mr. Neal said he asked us to attend the meeting but here was no meeting.

Chair Beshur asked that Tracy email Richard.

Ms. Beshur said thank you to Mike for coming and talking with us about what is happening. She wants to echo what the Chair said. We all in this together. There was unnecessary antagonism last year. There is no reason for that. We are trying to decide how to preserve the health of the urban forest and the health of community members. There is validity in both to those. She encouraged him to help propel this sense of connection with the work the City is trying to do. She hopes that at the meeting on Wednesday, they will have that sense of cohesion of like-mindedness and caring.

Mr. Wirtz said we don't want to be antagonistic.

Ms. Beshur said we are all on the same page here. It is a difficult decision. Just acknowledging that there are experts in the field and working together is what she wants to see.

Mr. Wirtz said the health and safety of the citizens of Santa Fe is their purpose.

Ms. Beshur said she wants to encourage compassion and comradery

Mr. Lucero said there are 3 sections in the IPM that speak to public concerns.

Mr. Neal said he appreciates Athena's comments. If everyone can get a sense of the big picture and how the health of the planet is tied to our health it would be great. Taking care of our environment is critical to our health. Urban forests are important to our health.

Chair O'Brien said we are a tourist town and we have clean air. Lets make steps to be a clean city. What could be more precious in this world than that.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Wirtz said he is a member of the Mayor's Committee on Disabilities and is on the Alternatives To Pesticides organization. Our group was waiting for Victor's report. We have that now and are happy to see that this Board is following the City IPM Ordinance. One thing we are going to do is next Wednesday we are having a meeting with the Sustainability Committee, hopefully someone from this Board and others to talk about a strategy on how to make the public more aware of IPM. Last summer we had a petition signed by 1,200 citizens of Santa Fe in support of alternatives to pesticides. We want to figure out how to better inform the public of what is going on in terms of working with the City and what is being done to treat trees. We want to revitalize the Ordinance where we do treat the trees and medians in a sensible and safe way. Citizens are affected by chemicals. Next Wednesday, 2:00 pm, at City Hall in the Council Chambers. We would be happy to have you there.

Chair O'Brien said it is part of our responsibility as Tree Board members to learn more about chemical sensitivity. We need to learn how things such as injections into a tree can possibly affect people with chemical sensitivities. We need to do our homework.

Mr. Wirtz said if you would like someone from that community to come talk to you at your next meeting he can set that up.

Chair O'Brien said that is fine. The more information the better so we can address this as a community. All of us working together to maintain an urban forest and we can all live there is the goal.

Mr. Wirtz said we love the City and the parks but we want to stay healthy.

Mr. Neal said he would love to have someone come.

Mr. Lucero said you mentioned the organization you work with wants to revitalize the Ordinance.

Mr. Wirtz said we want to take the IPM Ordinance that is in effect and on the books make the public more aware of the fact that it exists and what it entails and that you use it and will continue to follow it.

Ms. Beshur asked what will the meeting entail.

Mr. Wirtz said a strategy session about how to inform more people in the community about IPM and how we can contact City Council members about IPM and educate them, especially new members.

**9. NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

**10. ADJOURN**

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

**VOTE** The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Katherine O'Brien, Chair



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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer