

**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD  
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD  
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017, 10:00 AM**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
CALL TO ORDER		1
ROLL CALL	QUORUM	1
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	APPROVED	1-2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2017	APPROVED	2
 <u>OLD BUSINESS</u>		
TREE PEST HOTLINE	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	2-4
PARKS AND RE-CREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION UPDATE	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	4
ARBOR DAY	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	4-7
TREE INVENTORY PROJECT	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	7-12
TASK LIST	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	12
 <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>		
MEDIAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	12-13
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT	INFORMATION/DISCUSSION	13-14
COMMENTS FROM	NONE	14

**THE BOARD**

<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>NEXT MEETING DATE</b>	<b>MARCH 22, 2017</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<b>ADJOURNED</b>	<b>14</b>

**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD  
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD  
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017, 10:00 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Municipal Tree Board was called to order at 10:00 am by Katherine O'Brien, Chair, on Wednesday, February 22, 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  
(Vacancy)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tom Dominguez, Excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Richard Thompson, Parks Department  
Mary Schruben  
Andy Otto, Santa Fe Water Association  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

Chair O'Brien said Jeannie O'Rourke resigned from the Board. She did so in an email to her yesterday and without any notice. We are looking for a new Board member.

Mr. Neal said we should ask Tom to put that in the next Master Gardeners newsletter.

Ms. Beshur said that is a great idea.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair O'Brien said the agenda was sent out late. She would like it sent out the week after our meeting not 4 weeks after the meeting.

Mr. Neal asked for an update on the task list to be added to the agenda.

Chair O'Brien said there have been no more comments. We will add that to the agenda under Old Business.

**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  
JANUARY 25, 2017**

Ms. Beshur said on page 9 it says IMP instead of IPM.

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

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

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. TREE PEST HOTLINE**

Chair Beshur said we started discussing this at our last meeting. As we are getting more and more tree pests we would like the information publically available. Victor said they have a City website for IPM and perhaps it could be listed on that site.

Mr. Thompson said that is great news. We can move the IPM Hotline up to the top of the website. We have notification requirements on using chemicals as well and will integrate that into the Hotline site.

Chair O'Brien said what we were looking for is when Victor as IPM Manager encounters a pest that he notify the public as soon as possible and include preventive treatment and treatment.

Mr. Thompson said we can tell them but we cannot make a recommendation of a commercial product. We can say what we are using. We have to tell them of chemicals used but can't use a brand name.

Chair O'Brien said we are backing the IPM Ordinance. She would like to prevent people over reacting and would like us to work this out.

Mr. Thompson said Victor has a plan for the management of all pests at various sites. Those will be incorporated into every pest species identified and put on the

website. We will also show the steps we will use.

Mr. Neal said part of what he was hoping to see is a heads up as to what is active out there and what is coming up with a time line of how to treat it. If Victor sees something and notifies the public of it and tells the public how to do preventative maintenance that would be valuable. It would be a site for him to send the public to.

Mr. Thompson said that would be a different site from the Hotline. The Hotline is asking people to tell us if they see pests. They can make one click and see that. The treatment plan will stay there all the time. We could have a link from the Hotline to the management plan.

Chair O'Brien said that is what we need.

Mr. Neal said we have talked about having a link from the Master Gardner website to come to this website.

Mr. Thompson said Athena can link to the City website but we cannot link to Master Gardner. Anyone can put that link on their website.

Mr. Neal said Victor said the main hangup will be IT support.

Mr. Thompson said we have no problems with IT. The bottleneck will be inputting the information into the system. We will get this done. Our goal is to provide information to the public and the Hotline is to alert us to scouting. We also need to alert contractors in town to alert us about pests.

Chair O'Brien said as soon as we can get this together, which is a priority, we can get the word out.

Mr. Thompson said we can work on a limited budget but it does not have to be the City website. It could be the Tree Board's website.

Chair O'Brien said let's start with seeing what we can do with the City to get this going.

Mr. Thompson said we have positions and a budget to pay those individuals but we do not have a web master nor do we have an individual on staff who can go in and make changes. That is part of IT security.

Mr. Neal asked can you find someone who can get into the web to put this together.

Mr. Thompson said we have someone but he has another job. He does events. We can't guarantee a daily update. We will work on getting this set up on our website.

There will be a static set of management plans and a dynamic site with pests in the community.

Mr. Neal asked can Victor get in there to enter the information.

Mr. Thompson said Victor has become pretty self protective with all that has happened over the last year. We can take it up with Victor but he can't guarantee that.

Ms. Beshur said the National Plant Diagnostic was offering a First Detector Workshop for plants and pests.

Mr. Neal said it would be a nice outreach to get people to get to the Hotline.

Mr. Thompson said we really want to support the State Tree Alliance.

Mr. Neal asked are you talking about the Urban Forest Council. He is on that.

Mr. Thompson said yes.

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

Chair O'Brien said the PARC meeting was last night. She and Mary attended and Tom was there as a new member. He will be the Tree Board Representative on PARC and a member of PARC. They have one more vacancy and a gentleman is to be voted in tonight at Council.

Chair O'Brien said we did finally present the Tree Board's recommendations to PARC and the IPM Ordinance statement. There was no discussion really but we got full support from PARC. They voted unanimously to support it. They were very excited to hear about our inventory. Mary gave them all the details.

Chair O'Brien said she was very vocal about the need to support the IPM Ordinance because of the influx of pests into our urban forests. Now they have added to the PARC agenda an item that will always be there that is committee reports from the Golf and Tree Board. We are very welcome to come and give them our recommendations any time. We made tremendous progress. She will go as much as she is able to and will alert other Tree Board members of the meetings and forward their agenda so you can participate as much as your busy schedules allow you to.

## **C. ARBOR DAY**

Chair O'Brien said she will defer to Richard on this. Jeannie has left the Board and gave her no information as to the progress of the task.

Mr. Thompson said he encouraged Jeannie but she never responded. We want to move Arbor Day to the last week of March. We are shooting for that. We will take it to Council through Committees. Planting of the trees is the easy part. We were approached by the Indian School about adding trees and we will help her to find trees but they are on Tribal land so we can't give them trees. We are always looking for the opportunity to get children around tree planting. We don't do much with the public schools. If we can design a series of tree plantings and publish it that would be great. We talked about expanding it to the whole forest element. We have the opportunity to plant a plant community. We are in for that.

Mr. Neal said last Fall we discussed using Valentine Park. There is no water there. You talked about bringing water to the park and getting someone to water the trees.

Mr. Thompson said all our meters are cut off until March 15<sup>th</sup>. If we can steal water from the YMCA or the Headstart maybe. We have not investigated that.

Mr. Neal said he thought water would be brought to the park like a faucet.

Mr. Thompson said he encouraged you all to look at that Park. He would not plant a tree there.

Ms. Beshur said other options discussed were the Rose Garden and Patrick Smith and planting 3 trees in each park as an option.

Mr. Thompson said a group of trees or a tree with associated plants makes sense.

Ms. Beshur said we could do it if one of those organizations would take over the water.

Ms. Schruben said they are not willing.

Chair O'Brien said it would be good to locate a park in the SW part of the City that could use trees.

Ms. Beshur said we could plant in the entry basin of Ragle. Maybe that is a good option.

Mr. Neal said it is a nice water collection site. Is there irrigation nearby that could be brought to that tree.

Mr. Thompson said yes.

Chair O'Brien said the SW part of the City has newer parks in general. Does

something come to mind of a park that needs trees.

Mr. Thompson said SWAN was just completed and has all new trees. Other parks in the region are Colony Prisma, Los Milagros, Rancho Del Sol Park and Las Acequias. Las Acequias 4 Park would be a good site. It was on Bond 2012 to add a sports field and lightening. We took it to a public meeting and there were 80 people there who said no.

Mr. Neal said he does not have time to go look at these parks. He would like Richard and Gary's input about the criteria. He would rely on that. Parks that need trees, is there water and is there parking for a public event.

Mr. Thompson said every park needs trees. They have 50 to 80 year old trees. We will make suggestions but will accept suggestions from the Tree Board without a doubt. A tree anywhere is a good thing.

Ms. Beshur said we are talking about 2 different things. Arbor Day but also we need trees everywhere. She thinks every park we inventoried has notes of dying or dead trees and requests for trees. Why not use that information and say every inventoried park is receiving a tree this year with one specific site for the Arbor day event.

Mr. Thompson said we have no objection. He does encourage the Board to plant a tree on the south side.

Ms. Beshur asked is there water to phase 4 Las Acequias.

Mr. Thompson said there is a meter. We could put a hydrant. We may be able to find a patron in the neighborhood to adopt the tree. Otherwise we will put it on automatic irrigation. There is native turf there.

Mr. Neal asked did you say you are looking to change Arbor Day to the last week in March.

Ms. Schruben said the 27<sup>th</sup> through the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Thompson said he will check into it.

Ms. Beshur said the site says the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in March.

Ms. Schruben said that is a bit soon.

Chair O'Brien said the City is requesting to move it to the second Friday in March.



Ms. Beshur said Jennifer Dann will be here on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We are meeting at noon to present our paper. Noon to 4.

Mr. Neal said we could do the plantings in the morning.

Mr. Thompson said the issue is getting a Proclamation signed. We have a City Ordinance that says the last Friday in March. We will make the change next year. Let's go back to April.

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

Chair O'Brien asked when will we start doing inventories.

Ms. Beshur said thank you Mary for helping to facilitate the meeting with our co-leaders.

Ms. Schruben said the recommendation by the co-leaders of Master Gardeners was for the inventories to be every other Wednesday and Saturday starting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She referred to the information provided to the Board. The proposed dates are on the back. We wanted to slate these dates so people can sign up. We thought establishing a regular schedule of days would help people focus. Wednesdays would be in the evening and Saturdays in the morning and/or evening. We wanted to put dates in the calendar of the Master Gardeners and see who signs up for what. We would let the Master Gardeners work out where they have people clustered and ask where individuals are signed up on a date work with them to move to another date. We feel this gives us plenty of flexibility to promote as many volunteers as possible. After volunteers are signed up the Tree Board can figure out which Tree Board member is going to join which date. The other side of the paper is short list of parks. Large, medium and small parks in various districts. Bicentennial Park is attractive because there is a large variety of species of trees.

Mr. Thompson said the north side of the river is not Bicentennial park. It is a different park.

Ms. Schruben discussed the park list.

Ms. Beshur said June 17<sup>th</sup> is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rose Park. We talked about participating in that.

Ms. Schruben said this list of parks has a good variety of species and that will help to meet the Master Gardeners needs. If we get any publicity about doing this work that would be good.

Mr. Thompson said terrific. You may peel off those parks with a small number of

trees for a group to do quickly.

Ms. Beshur said thank you so much Mary. She will go ahead and enter these dates. One of her goals this year is to build the inventory and get some of those tweaks done on the sheets to match up with I Tree. For example they have a condition class with percentages of die back and crown condition. She wants to match up to the national standard.

Mr. Neal asked do we want to meet national standards and what works best for Parks to work with.

Mr. Thompson said we added to the pull down menus mechanical damage. That is an important key to management decisions.

Mr. Neal said we saw that kind of damage at Ragle.

Mr. Thompson said there has to be a column for comments. You can say fire ants, highly compacted, gophers etc. You don't tabulate that column. The management plan comes from the condition, conflicts and comments. Everything else is to standardize it.

Ms. Schruben said we have 5 boxes but only 3 tapes. If we get more tapes that would be good. We have been making fewer entries on a page so there is more room to write. We can improve the sheets. We talked about making sure that the team includes a person who is doing I Tree and a person doing paper entries so we can see how that transfers out. We will reevaluate mid season.

Ms. Beshur said she agrees. We will revisit this spread sheet quite a bit. She is going to propose that we continue with Excel. It is much easier in utilizing the data. We will revisit to reflect on what we need and what we don't need. Another goal she has is to give the Master Gardeners who are trained the authority to go out and do parks.

Ms. Schruben said she does have the thumb drives with the original forms.

Mr. Thompson said I Tree is a national collection of information. We can send them these numbers without entering them into their spreadsheet. They do a great job but we are not going to use I Tree. We are going to put this into the GIS layer once we get a professional. The intent is to establish a relationship with a private contractor to do a full inventory.

Ms. Schruben said the 5 boxes we are using are at the extension office.

Mr. Thompson said he has 3 more. He will get more D tapes and markers and the plastic sheets with the codes on them.

Ms. Beshur showed the board several reports and graphs that I Tree generated based on our information. It generates all sorts of different charts.

Chair O' Brien said that is really nice.

Ms. Beshur said she putting this all together for City Council.

Mr. Thompson said we don't select data.

Ms. Beshur said for her report for her paper she will.

Mr. Thompson said in order to inform the Council we will do an overall presentation, not park by park. We are shooting at potential, not actual.

Mr. Thompson said we are not in the Smokey Mountains so our tree cover is lower. Every chart you have there we have in Excel. It is to inform the Governing Body that we have a deficit of trees and species diversity in a 3 or 5 word sentence. We need to peak their curiosity. We are very careful not to screen data to paint a picture we want.

Ms. Beshur said she will put the charts on CDS for all the members.

Ms. Beshur said they will have these selective charts. She did not combine all of the parks on one thing. Do we need that kind of PDF.

Mr. Neal said once we get as many inventories as we can and have a good percentage maybe then.

Mr. Thompson said if you have identified a park dominated with one species that is significant. If you have 10 dominated that is important.

Ms. Schruben said we don't have enough data yet for that.

Mr. Thompson said in Excel we can sort like that. That is the advantage. It can do tricks for you.

Chair O'Brien said she would like to come up with the goals of our inventory clearly so that we are not wasting our efforts on things that are not needed. If we really have the goals of the project in mind we know where to begin.

Mr. Thompson said his goal was to get a representative sampling to take to Council to convince them to get a professional service to do inventories. You do run into some confusion on the species when you do this with volunteers. Quality control is ensured when you have a professional contractor.

Chair O'Brien asked are you saying in order to present this information to City Council we need to do quality control.

Mr. Thompson said no.

Ms. Beshur said when we present the information that can be a disclaimer.

Mr. Thompson said yes. When we started this the professionals were doing the inventories, now that is not the case. All of the Board members are professionals. The health of the forest would be best served by having a professional do the inventory.

Chair O'Brien asked are we still embracing this as a goal for the inventory project.

Mr. Neal said he thought these inventories would help with the comments about condition and maintenance needs. Do they actually get utilized.

Mr. Thompson said he reads them and we can translate that into a work order that may or not be addressed. We have no dedicated tree crew or arborist. Really this is a dead end. Do we believe that we can convince the Governing Body to invest \$70,000 to \$120,000 into a comprehensive inventory. We will see. Federal funds can be used a lot of times.

Ms. Beshur said Santa Fe is one of 5 cities in the Nation that has been selected for EPA Took Kit development. Santa Fe is really being looked at for storm water prevention.

Chair O'Brien asked if we spend another full year inventorying 7 or 8 parks do you think that is enough.

Ms. Beshur said she thinks we keep going until we get some money.

Mr. Thompson said he agrees. It is also about reaching the public as well.

Chair O'Brien said she is hearing that we want to select parks this year that will lead us to have good information to present to Council at the end of this year. She is also hearing that we want to establish an on going inventory or public park assessment project year after year.

Mr. Thompson said this is a living document. It never stops. The City Forester, if we had one, would keep that information and enter the information. That is pie in the sky goals.

Ms. Beshur said part of what she is recommending is that we have a City Arborist and City Forester. Those positions are vital. In terms of a paid firm that could

end up looking a lot of different ways.

Mr. Thompson said a professional platform with a searchable platform and long term goals is what we need.

Chair O'Brien said we need to wrap up. She needs to advise this group that as we get ready to start the inventory we need to keep these end goals in our head including that we are going to develop an ongoing community project of accessing parks. That should be part of the information we present to the City. It helps us in our ongoing efforts to continue to be a Tree City USA.

Mr. Neal said he is hearing all this and thinking to echo one of your comments Richard. He worries about people leading these inventories who are not trained in knowing their trees. It is critical that at each inventory we have someone who can comment from a professional standpoint on the condition of the tree. He is also concerned when we have a group going out that we have someone along who really knows the trees.

Ms. Beshur said she sees that person as a paid person.

Mr. Thompson said we would carry this to Council with a confidence level of 95%. With a citizen driven inventory it would lower to 65% to 70% accuracy. That is a valid number and meaningful. It does allow the Governing Body to say they don't believe it or they do believe it. The idea is get them off the mark on investing in the forest.

Ms. Beshur asked how do you all feel to committing to these dates. Can each of us commit to one or two dates a month.

Mr. Neal said there are times when he can and times when he can't.

Ms. Schruben said that is why we choose so many dates.

Mr. Neal said come Spring we may have a bit of trouble with one of us making all these dates.

Mr. Thompson said the presentation to the Governing Body will be one big snapshot of what it is today. We want all of the Councilors to look at the overall urban forest. We want to avoid presenting data park by park.

Mr. Neal said last time we talked about various other groups that might be involved in this process. Mary said she could get a list.

Ms. Schruben said last night a Sierra Club person said they may be interested in working with us. There is Rotary as well.

Mr. Neal asked did you get that list.

Ms. Schruben said that list is not put together.

Mr. Thompson said we did touch on this early on. A list of neighborhood associations and property owners. We decided we would pace this at a different scale. He can't really engage any more groups unless you all want to do it. Sierra Club people will have to go through the Master Gardeners training so that all the volunteers on the same level.

Ms. Beshur said Master Gardeners know more about trees and are able to get the concept easier. Maybe by mid season we can see guides come out of these volunteers.

#### **E. TASK LIST**

Mr. Neal said he did not get a copy of the final list.

Chair O'Brien said she will send it out to everyone.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. MEDIAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

Chair O'Brien said we wanted to know a bit about the City and median development.

Mr. Thompson said we were granted a 5 year CIP with one year to get ready and 4 years to implement. We were given a mandate to bring back an integrated approach to Council. We presented that on January 20<sup>th</sup>. We are now trying to catch up on year one. This will be continuous through 5 years. We are not going to do all medians at once. We were approached by the NMSU Extension Entomology Research Station. They are working on measurement of native plantings and how that correlates to pests. She made a presentation to the Parks Department and now has a designated area for her study. It is at Cerrillos and Zia Road. We do have her 3 proposed native plantings there. We predict 16 medians will be handled in this fiscal year. South Cerrillos and Zia between Yucca and St. Francis. Regarding the concern of the MTB we are going to reduce the number of tree plantings on medians by design. Where the medians are really traffic dividers we are not interested in reforesting those. We may make minor modifications. One of the things we are looking at is pot-in-pot planting. No excavation or disturbance. The idea here is working with a local firm with smaller modules on the perimeters, pot-in-pot and one central tree planting. Drop in and take out.

Chair O'Brien asked is this going to be integrated with storm water harvesting.

Mr. Thompson said yes, that is one of the 4 prime directives. We are working with John Romero, Senior Engineer. He says you can do anything you want there except compromise the road bed. We have a paver in Albuquerque that we can work with. It is all on the table. The design process we have elected to do in-house. This will stretch out for 2 years. We will start simply and grow more complex as we go on. We will knock it out in the 20/21 fiscal year.

Chair O'Brien said that may alleviate some of the concerns of the chemically sensitive people.

Mr. Thompson said yes. He thinks the city deserves organic mulch we can manage manually instead of weed eating.

Mr. Neal said he is having a hard time understanding the concept. Are we talking about doing experiments that are not permanent plantings and then come up with permanent plantings.

Mr. Thompson said these will be engineered solutions, agriculture engineered. They are not formal landscapes. They will be native and low maintenance.

Mr. Neal asked will trees be permanently planted.

Mr. Thompson said yes. There are no trees in Dr. Bennett's plantings.

Mr. Neal said people let some of ornamental shrubs get so big that you can't see cars coming.

Mr. Thompson said the right plant in the right place drives horticulture. We do not want to introduce irrigation into medians. They will be left to their own device. Where we do have water we will utilize it.

Ms. Beshur said that also is directly written in the landscape code. Dr. Bennett emailed her about the potential of working on one of the parks we inventoried last year. I will give her the data. You might want to interface with her about which park.

Mr. Thompson said we have an agreement but there are no parks in our data.

Mr. Neal said the Railyard Park would be good.

Mr. Thompson said he wanted to thank Tracy who went to the trouble to supply us with a list of durable trees for medians.

Ms. Beshur said great list Tracy.

Chair O'Brien thanked Mr. Thompson.

## **B. MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT**

Chair O'Brien said we talked about this last month. She found the existing one and passed it out to Board members.

Chair O'Brien said let's study this and when we reconvene in March see if we need to amend it.

Mr. Neal said he thought about where we are now and what we are up to and he rewrote the mission as follows:

"The Municipal Tree Board assists the Parks Department in creating and maintaining a healthy urban forest that is valued by the citizens and the Governing Body."

Everyone liked Mr. Neal's version and it was discussed that his rewrite become the Vision Statement for the Board.

Mr. Thompson said the previous Tree Board asked to become more relevant. This Board has come to the front and you demand attention and action. You are to be congratulated on that.

Mr. Neal said also it is due to the leadership of Katherine.

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

None

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE MARCH 22, 2017**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Thompson asked that the issue of a new Board member be put on the next agenda as an action item.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

---

Katherine O'Brien, Chair



  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer