

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD  
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD  
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017, 10:00 AM**

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<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>12</b>
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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD  
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD  
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017, 10:00 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Katherine O'Brien, Chair, at 10:00 am, on Wednesday, May 24, 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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Gary Varela, Parks Department  
Richard Thompson, Parks Department  
Victoria Bruneni, PARC Chair  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair O'Brien asked to move items 6 B, C and D to after the approval of minutes.

**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**

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

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

**6.    B.    MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> TREE PEST SYMPOSIUM REVIEW**

Chair O'Brien reported that she and Mr. Neal went to the Pest Symposium. Victor Lucero and Kara Sutherland, State Entomologist made presentations. The Honey Locust Borer was discussed and the following things were pointed out as remedies to the pest destruction: take good care of the trees first with water and fertilizer, on private property there can be a systemic pesticide used and remove the tree.

Mr. Neal said the pesticide can be a drench or implant. It is Imidacloprid or Azadirachtin-Neem Oil.

Chair O'Brien said this pesticide has been used across the country for the Emerald Ash Borer. The Honey Locust Borer is related to the Emerald Ash Borer. The City, at this time, is removing infested trees and that is the only thing the City is doing.

Mr. Neal said with the intent that if the infected tree is removed others will not be infected.

Chair O'Brien said at the symposium both entomologists had examples of what is effecting our local forest. Mr. Lucero had actual wood that had been damaged by the borer.

Mr. Thompson said we are also trying to be a Bee City. By IPM Ordinance we are not allowed to use preventive treatments.

**C.    TREE PEST REPORT  
AND**

**D.    MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE URBAN  
FOREST**

Chair O'Brien asked what is the responsibility of the Tree Board as an Advisory Board to Park and the City on this damage. Aren't we also there to serve the community.

Mr. Neal said to him it becomes critical as we see the urban forest under increasing threat from climate change and new pests that we owe Park and the community to raise an alarm call to put as many resources in place as possible in the ways we can. We need to take care of the trees with water, fertilizer and man power. We can't be crippled in our controls of pests by saying the City can't use any pesticides. The IPM Manager knows how to use non toxic controls. That is insane. We are going to lose our urban forest if he is not allowed to treat the trees. We need to recognize the

importance of the urban forest. Sometimes he drives around and looks at the City and visualize the City with the trees gone. Do people want to let all this go away because we don't put the resources into effect to take care of it.

Ms. Bruneni said some of the public would care but some of the public created the IPM Ordinance.

Mr. Thompson said they place the urban forest in some hierarchy order and create value systems where trees don't rank very high. What do the people want. We asked them. Trees did not make the list. We do inform the public. There was an article in last Sunday's New Mexican that said if we can't beat the Siberian Elm we should embrace it and enjoy it. In the face of a community divided and science vs non science it is tough. Prairie dogs are a greater threat but we have a very misunderstood and misapplied prairie dog Ordinance. When we try to apply that Ordinance we get push back from this well meaning group of environmentalists. It defies science, law and economics. It is hard to establish a platform from which to work.

Mr. Neal asked who does not allow these preventatives.

Mr. Thompson said the IPM Ordinance. The law is ignored and the science and economics is ignored.

Chair O'Brien said the minority of citizens have the ear of the Council and the Mayor.

Ms. Bruneni said they show up.

Mr. Neal said this is just this side of criminal.

Mr. Thompson said there is a means through the City Charter to change laws. For the people who come to us and complain we explain to them how to change the laws.

Chair O'Brien said we need to let the issues we are talking about now be known to the public. Are the City Council meetings the only venue.

Ms. Bruneni said you could put together a very outlined document with the issues and how the Tree Board proposes they be treated and ask PARC to support you on those and then they take it forward to City Council through the Parks Department. It needs to be very black and white. It should go to the PARC Commission for approval for support or not to support then to Mr. Carter and Parks then to Council or not.

Ms. Beshur said so it comes down to we have an IPM Ordinance and Manager and he is not able to follow the Ordinance that has been approved because of this small contingency that is preventing the standard process of pest control. He is not able to

follow the law.

Mr. Neal said he can't do his work.

Ms. Bruneni said at City Council it is only those people being heard.

Mr. Thompson said they made the Ordinance and there is a way to change the Ordinance.

Ms. Bruneni said she will reach out to Mr. Lucero and ask him to inform you when he is presenting on these issues. She sees two issues here. Public knowledge and revising the IPM.

Chair O'Brien said we 3 are landscapers and we meet customers every day that request Honey Locusts and Green Ashes and other trees that we should not be planting anymore. The sooner we get the information to the public that this pest is here the better. Isn't that possible.

Ms. Beshur said Mr. Lucero is talking about having a little text box in the Master Gardeners newsletter regarding pests.

Mr. Neal said he would like some of the City busses to drive around with pictures of Santa Fe with the trees removed.

Mr. Thompson said the person who won the national election won on the question of if global warming is real or not. He does not think the Rio Grande Cottonwood will be the primary native species in Santa Fe in 10 years. It will be Pinon and Juniper. No shade trees. He doesn't know where you draw the line. He does not think it matters to the people.

Mr. Neal asked you think people would not care if trees started dying by the 100s.

Mr. Thompson said they are dying by 10s now. The Councilor that sits on the Public Safety Committee asked the Fire Chief to ask us if we predict when trees are going to fail to protect the safety of the public. We don't and that was the end of that. He doesn't think people are the answer. Park professionals are the answer.

Mr. Neal said you are talking about getting the public to work to get Parks the resources needed to protect our urban forest.

Mr. Thompson said yes, and we can look at what works in other communities. Some communities are planting lots of trees.

Mr. Neal asked are they taking care of them.

Mr. Thompson said yes, they have a tree crew. Mayors take the lead. He doesn't know what to tell you on this.

Mr. Neal said part of it goes back to the fact that people don't realize what is at stake.

Chair O'Brien said we are still planting Honey Locusts. Shouldn't the landscaping community at least know about the borer.

Mr. Thompson said it is on our website.

Mr. Neal asked how do we do more outreach.

Ms. Bruneni asked how long have we been a Tree City USA.

Mr. Thompson said 7 years.

Ms. Bruneni said do it was with Mayor Coss.

Mr. Thompson said yes.

Ms. Bruneni said she cannot imagine there would be any issue about this Board contacting nurseries.

Mr. Neal said we could put together a flyer and hand it out. At least they can't say they did not know.

Mr. Thompson said he is not sure that not planting Honey Locust is the key. We need to enlighten them but if they want the tree they get a tree.

Chair O'Brien said when you are a responsible tree professional you recommend trees that are going to survive. Customers spend \$1,000 to \$1,500 on a nice big tree.

Mr. Thompson said and it costs \$8 of a systemic control to take care of that tree.

Mr. Neal said we have clients that do not want to use insecticide.

Chair O'Brien said getting together solid recommendations for the PARC and then go forward to the City is a good idea. Do we think as a group think that is what we should do or are the factors we dealing with eminent enough to meet directly with the Mayor.

Mr. Neal said he would love to have a document with the points we want to make and send it to PARC and also meet with the Mayor and City Council if they allow us to.

Mr. Thompson said POSAC had the ear of 4 Councilors and had conversations with them on a daily basis. Mr. Carter has decided that is not the kind of Advisory Board they want.

Mr. Neal said Mr. Lucero has the ear of 3 or 4 Councilors. We need to follow the outline of the process of how it is supposed to go and go forward. There are multiple steps. Public education is one. As a citizen of Santa Fe he would want to know how to protect his plants and trees before losing them. We need to put that knowledge out there. That is really important.

Mr. Thompson said Congress designed the Extension Service for this purpose. To research and give information to people. We have a budget if you want to spend it on outreach. We can fund that at any level. We choose to buy trees out of that fund right now. Parks will do what you want to do within reason.

Ms. Beshur asked would it help if the Parks Department reads the document that she produced. It is a great document.

Ms. Bruneni asked that she forward it to her.

Mr. Thompson said if you will vote to develop a flyer we will fund it.

Chair O'Brien said she understands that out of this conversation we have come up with 2 directions. We will create a document summarizing the current status of the urban tree forest and the current threats. After that is approved, we will develop a flyer.

Mr. Neal said also bringing up points about what needs to be done to protect the forest.

Chair O'Brien said also specify the current threats.

Mr. Neal said yes, not summarize but focus in.

Ms. Bruneni said it needs to be very simplified. The threats and how anyone can go about dealing with them. Whether they fall under the IPM Ordinance or not. Not too wordy. There should be no mention of global warming or the concept of an urban forest. It needs to be easy to understand.

Chair O'Brien said we need to stick with familiar terms.

Mr. Thompson said no paragraphs or cautionary words, just bullet points. Direct them to the website for the science. Don't include that in the detail.

Mr. Neal said if we list all the steps that can be taken with pests we should also talk about the fact that part of problem is constraints are in order to take even the logical



steps under the IPM Ordinance is not allowed. It seems we need to make recommendations for how the City Parks Department and the IPM Manager can implement an IPM program going by the Ordinance.

Ms. Bruneni said one thing is regarding the IPM Ordinance, she needs to meet with Mr. Carter, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Lucero to discuss this further about what plan of action we should have. Right now, as the Tree Board, you need to focus on what the hazards are and not the IPM Ordinance. Create an initial simplified document. In a separate meeting she will meet with Mr. Carter, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Lucero to figure out what our next best move is. We don't want to chop off our foot off before we can do anything.

Ms. Beshur said public safety is also a concern. At Cornell Park we saw Douglas Fir Tussock Moth cocoons. That could be solved with BT. It is non toxic. Instead we let kids be around those bugs. The only way to deal with it now is a fence so that they don't touch the bugs. There is a solution totally accepted by IPM but he can't use it. That is an angle we could use. BT does not kill bees.

Chair O'Brien said we are going to make a document focusing on the hazards.

Mr. Neal said the current threats.

Ms. Bruneni said don't use Urban Forest. Put your creative hats on. Don't use save our trees, that is over used. The message is saving the trees.

Mr. Thompson said a City without trees is not fit for a dog.

Ms. Bruneni said part of marketing is capturing peoples attention with humor. A conceptual visual about someone's trees. Not the sky is falling but eminent threats.

Chair O'Brien said so we will put together a document and send it to PARC. Then we will do the flyer.

Mr. Neal said the flyer will be for nurseries and landscapers.

Ms. Bruneni said they could very well be the same thing. You are saying the same thing to landscapers and to the public.

Chair O'Brien said to them it needs to be more detailed.

Mr. Thompson said we have 4 major pests, the white ash fly, the borer of Honey Locusts, the Emerald Ash Borers and rodents. These will become homeowner issues because Parks is not addressing the pests. We have the upper hand on the EAB but are playing catch up on the rest. This could be a 4 or 8 hour symposium.

Chair O'Brien and Mr. Neal thanked Ms. Bruneni for her help.

Ms. Bruneni left the meeting.

Chair O'Brien asked is there anyone in the City staff to help us with the document.

Mr. Thompson said Mr. Lucero can be involved.

Mr. Neal said he could give us the information we need.

Mr. Thompson said he is an expert but for marketing skills for the flyer, Henry Lucero at MRC could help you.

Chair O'Brien said since Ms. Beshur is so busy with the tree inventories we should not add this to her responsibilities. She would like to suggest that she work with Mr. Neal and Mr. Lucero to develop a draft of the document.

Ms. Beshur said that would be great. She trusts both of them.

Chair O'Brien asked that Mr. Neal contact Mr. Lucero to set up a meeting based on their schedules. She is flexible. Time is of the essence.

Mr. Thompson said you need to approve the document conceptual today. The meeting dates for PARC and the Tree Board as such that the Tree Board will not meet again before the next PARC meeting. Mr. Carter will approve the document and put it on the agenda for PARC.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Beshur, seconded by Mr. Neal, that the Tree Board approve conceptual the development of an informational document outlining the current challenges to our City trees to be forwarded to PARC for approval.

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

Chair O'Brien said after this is completed and approved we will then do the flyer.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### A. TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

Ms. Beshur reported that they finished Cornell Park and are moving to

Bicentennial Park tonight. She has created a sign up genius for tree identifiers. All of our initial dates have at least one volunteer on them. She spoke with Amy Bell from Albuquerque. She and Ben Wright are involved in a statewide inventory sampling County seats. They are using a Planet Geo model. They offered to come to one of our inventories to do a presentation.

Mr. Neal asked is the suggestion that we use this program.

Ms. Beshur said it is not free but more comprehensive. She will work with the co-leaders to select a date and will keep the Board informed.

Mr. Neal said lots of times he does not know until a day or two before if he is free to do an inventory.

Ms. Beshur said just sign up then.

Mr. Neal said if there are people among the Master Gardeners who want to become tree identifiers we could get together with them now that trees are in leaf and work with them to help them.

Chair O'Brien said we could do a tree identifier training. Include Bob Wood as well.

Ms. Beshur said maybe have a tree identifier meeting and talk about these issues.

Mr. Neal said we need to have a training for those people. Not during an inventory.

Mr. Thompson said in tree inventories volume is what we want, not detail. We just need the genus and species. Nothing else. As we started this project the idea was to create a volume project. A basic inventory. We diverted from that with details. We still don't run quality assurance or quality control on the data we have because we have experts in the field identifying the trees. The code matters that comes back to the person who puts it into the computer.

Ms. Beshur said thank you for that Mr. Thompson. We will let people know we need volume.

Chair O'Brien said we did add a pest identification comment to the sheet. We make a comment on the sheets about likely pests for Mr. Lucero.

## **B. FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION**

Ms. Beshur said no one had any time to work on that. The time has passed.

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

Chair O'Brien said she attended their last meeting. The City is undergoing a Master Plan through Parks and Recreation. They are having public meetings going on about that. There are 2 more meetings. May 30<sup>th</sup> at the United Way Office, 5:30 - 7:30 and June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Convention Center at 5:30. It is important that we keep up with what is going on with Parks.

Mr. Thompson said Jessie Gullien, the City's Legislative Liaison, has indicated to Mr. Carter that we need to look at the membership of the Tree Board and PARC. He said that in order for the Tree Board to be a subcommittee of PARC they need to be members of PARC. We are working on how to address this.

### **D. SUMMARY OF ARBOR DAY PROJECT**

Chair O'Brien said there was not anyone at our last meeting who knew what the City did on this.

Mr. Thompson said we planted 7 trees including 2 memorial dedications and we took pictures.

Mr. Neal asked why didn't you notify us about the plantings.

Mr. Thompson said we had a member of the Board we tried to align with and that did not work out.

Mr. Neal said you need to notify us.

Mr. Thompson said it was not really an Arbor Day thing.

Mr. Thompson said we did have an appointment with the Mayor but he changed Executive Assistants 2 weeks before and it got lost in the shuffle.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Chair O'Brien said our applicant, Mr. Delfine, accepted a full time job and was unable to be a Board member. We are looking for another member. She would also like to talk to Mr. Dominguez to see if he is able to attend meetings and if not we need a new Board member there as well.

Mr. Thompson said we are seeing more and more Committees who have named positions in the committee makeup, such as specific slots. We could say we would like to have slots on this Committee. We have to change the Resolution that created the Tree Board anyway with this concern about the subcommittee issue.

Chair O'Brien said right now all the weight is on us 3. We have to all come to the meeting in order to do business and that is not fair.

Mr. Neal said with the difficulty we have in getting new members specificity would make it even harder.

Chair O'Brien said it is a requirement of being a member to be in attendance at meetings.

Ms. Beshur said Tree Boards usually have the County Extension Agent on the Board.

Mr. Thompson said local professionals are critical to these meetings. We could change the Ordinance to make the County Extension Agent an ex-officio member.

Ms. Beshur said she would like a grant writer on the Board.

Mr. Neal said thank you Chair for bringing up our responsibility to the urban forest.

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

Ms. Beshur said it came up at last meeting that the tree inventory would be better placed in the hands of the Master Gardeners instead of continuing as a Tree Board function. She wanted to get his opinion.

Mr. Neal asked what was the reason behind that.

Ms. Beshur said all the paperwork we have to do.

Mr. Thompson said if you do that he cannot comment. The City has a Policy on volunteers regardless. They would still be a City volunteer if they are doing this for the City. Also the information we are getting now does not fit within our computer system.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.


**9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**JUNE 28, 2017**

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katheryn O'Brien, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer