

**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM, SILAR ROAD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018, 11:30 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Katherine O'Brien, Chair, at 11:30 am on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, at the Conference Room at the Parks and Recreation Department, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Katherine O'Brien, Chair
Pam Wolfe
Athena Beshur

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tracy Neal, Excused
Tom Dominguez

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Thompson, Parks and Recreation Department
Melessia MacDonald, Water Division, River and Watershed Coordinator
Mary Schruben
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair O'Brien asked to move item 6 (B) up to after the approval of minutes.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2018**

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. TREE PEST REPORT

Chair O'Brien said Victor Lucero emailed his report to the Board members. Pinon Needle Scale females are starting to emerge.

Mr. Thompson said they are susceptible to spray right now.

Chair O'Brien said Confer Aphids are appearing. Ash White Fly are here and parasitoids are here that will help to control the Ash White Fly.

B. TREE INVENTORY UPDATE

Chair O'Brien said all of you received Athena's report on the GIS connections.

Ms. Beshur said this collector method is a very good method. She is appreciative of the work Leonard is doing on this which will make it immediately available on the GEO Cortex. One of her big goals was to make it useful. There was a bit of concern about who is collecting the data and who has access to the input. We are going to have to be sure we train anyone who is collecting data.

Chair O'Brien said you mentioned we may have a training session in March.

Ms. Beshur said we are hoping to do that if the application is ready he will give us a training. She will invite all the Master Gardeners to attend and the Railyard Stewards.

Chair O'Brien said we usually start inventorying in April.

Ms. Beshur said yes we need to get trained on the new system before we start the inventory.

Chair O'Brien asked are you communicating directly with Leonard.

Ms. Beshur said he is working on it and will get back to us. If there is any feedback of information we want added let her know. She did ask Victor about what he wants listed on the drop down for pests. That is what she is looking at right now. She is seeing it as being several drop down lists. Some people want a hazard box to check. It would be a maintenance hazard.

Ms. MacDonald asked what would be a hazard in your mind.

Mr. Thompson said a dead limb in a playground.

Ms. MacDonald asked so a branch over traffic, is that considered a hazard.

Ms. Beshur said yes.

Ms. MacDonald said that is pretty exciting because you can come back with a list of hazard trees for removal.

Ms. Beshur asked is there anything else you would like to see.

Ms. MacDonald said she could not think of anything else right then. Hazard would be good.

Chair O'Brien said we need to be aware that April is the start of inventory. Would you be comfortable in letting Leonard know that we start in April.

Ms. Beshur said we could set up when the training session will be.

Chair O'Brien said regarding the final inventory form that is designed, that needs to be approved by the Tree Board.

Ms. MacDonald asked do you have a maintenance and hazard box.

Ms. Beshur said we did away with the maintenance box.

Ms. MacDonald said it might be helpful in terms of prioritization.

Ms. MacDonald said this would be good for funding. Emergency Services has the ability to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grants. That could help demonstrate a hazard.

Ms. Beshur said we could have a hazard box and a maintenance drop down.

Mr. Thompson said he would like the inventory to be short and sweet. He will send Athena the 5 categories for a maintenance drop down.

Chair O'Brien said she thought we stopped doing the maintenance category. We are doing this for the Parks Department and they said it was unnecessary.

Ms. Beshur said now that we are doing the GPS data some columns are hidden from the exterior view.

Ms. MacDonald said the hazard collection is important.

Mr. Thompson said this it is not a Parks inventory anymore. He has a list of the

things he asked for that Athena's group chose not to do.

Chair O'Brien said we are a subcommittee of PARC. We are serving the City. The inventory needs to serve the needs of the Parks Department.

Chair O'Brien asked Richard to communicate to Athena what he wants to see in an inventory and Athena you need to bring to next meeting a print out of what you are looking at. The only reason the Municipal Tree Board is continuing to do this is for the Parks Department.

Mr. Thompson said we raised red flags when you moved to having Master Gardeners doing it. This is not the analytical tool we will use to drive the decisions at a decision maker level.

Chair O'Brien asked can a tree inventory be helpful to the Parks Department.

Mr. Thompson said we asked the Municipal Tree Board to train volunteers to do a seed pilot inventory of certain parks.

Chair O'Brien asked has this happened.

Mr. Thompson said he walked the Water History Park. The team did hybrids. We only need genus and species with a 4 member code. We would then roll up the data and present it to the Governing Body.

Chair O'Brien said we need to work this out right now. To proceed with the tree inventory we need to serve the Parks Department and give them what they need. If, Richard, you will send Athena what you are looking for then we as a group can get it together to do what you want and that would be helpful to the Parks Department.

Mr. Thompson said the objective was to justify a professional inventory. There is no standard set with this at all.

Chair O'Brien asked is the Parks Department interested in continuing.

Mr. Thompson said we are not going to use the information. We don't have a control aspect on this inventory.

Ms. Beshur said an arborist with volunteers does the inventory.

Mr. Thompson said we need quality control.

Mr. Thompson asked is it a Municipal Tree Board inventory or a Master Gardner initiative.

Ms. Wolfe said originally the pilot survey was meant to be presented to the City Council as justification in the budget for professional survey. Has that been done.

Mr. Thompson said the CIP budget is different from the other budget process. It is on our list.

Ms. Wolfe asked has it reached funding yet.

Mr. Thompson said we will not get it this year or next year.

Ms. Wolfe asked does it make sense to continue the inventory.

Mr. Thompson said the inventory has increased awareness about trees. Is the data coming in the format that he prefers, no it is not. It is a good thing.

Chair O'Brien said she would like us to create the form in the way Richard wants. Athena, please send that to Richard. This will be on the next meeting agenda as an action item.

Mr. Thompson said we ran into trouble with Arbor Day last year. Can the Board assign an individual member of the Board to do these tasks. That needs to happen with the inventories as well. More than one chief is difficult. He applauds the efforts and the Master Gardeners efforts. We have used the report for our tree maintenance budget justification.

Ms. Schruben said the inventory goes beyond the needs of the Park Department. It is useful to the Sustainable Commission to express how a community is looking at their tree canopy.

C. 2018 GOALS

Chair O'Brien said the 2018 goals are in the meeting packet. Tracy has approved them.

Ms. Beshur said she would like the 4th bullet on number 3 to say the following:

“incorporate tree inventory data into the City GIS under the Parks Department tab.”

Ms. Wolfe said on item 3 (A) we have abandoned the idea of producing a brochure as an aspect of this project.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Beshur, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, to delete the

production of a brochure from the project.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Beshur, seconded by Ms. Wolfe, to approve the Tree Board goals as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Chair O'Brien said this item is on the agenda to clarify the Municipal Tree Board's role in Arbor Day.

Mr. Thompson said there needs to be an individual assigned if the Tree Board wants to be involved. If the Tree Board wants to be primary in planning and executing that is what we want. We planted a tree on Arbor Day last year and that was it. We want to know from the Tree Board is if you want it to grow. We talked about multiple locations and multiple plantings. We will support it financially. We don't have the employees or time to promote or inhabit all of this. We have time to plant trees.

Chair O'Brien said part of it is organizing a celebration and letting the public know.

Ms. Beshur asked Ms. Wolfe is she would be the point person.

Ms. Wolfe said she was unable to take this on at this time. She can attend and take pictures.

Mr. Thompson said the Arbor Day celebration will be on March 9th at 10:00 am.

Ms. Beshur said she talked to Jennifer Dann at a conference last week. She said the Chinese Pistachio is now being called invasive in Texas. Out of caution she is going to stop planting those.

Mr. Thompson said we will choose the trees and locations unless you have some ideas. We will put a plant tag on the new tree with an after care link.

Ms. Schruben suggested he put the US Forest Service "Plant A Tree brochure link too.

Mr. Thompson asked for suggestions for park locations for new trees.

It was decided that new trees would be planted in the following parks: Ft. Marcy Park, the Plaza, Macaione Park and a location on the southside to be determined.

B. SANTA FE RIVER ELM TREE REMOVAL

Ms. McDonald introduced herself as the River and Watershed Coordinator for the City of Santa Fe. She is also running the Stormwater Master Plan update.

Chair O'Brien said both she and Athena received an email from Jen Boyer who reported that Michael Smith's group who were removing elms removed all the trees so that now there is no continuing shade. He has organized another group for this year for removal of elms. She wants to make sure there is some City involvement to ensure that large trees are not removed.

Ms. MacDonald said you should be aware that there are many organizations who do clean up of invasive species around the river. The effort is bigger than just Michael Smith. They have scopes of work that they do. With Michael Smith he has an agreement that outlines the sizes of trees they are allowed to remove or not allowed to remove. If it is under 3 inches it is removed. If it is above it has to go through a protocol. There has to be a plan submitted before they do the work. We closely monitor it. One of the bigger problems is we don't have a master plan that shows what the City wants to do along the river. She gets just as many calls to remove trees as to not remove trees. Our goals are to encourage native species.

Chair O'Brien asked have they removed trees they should not have.

Ms. MacDonald said yes. At Mr. Smith's last clean up one tree was removed by mistake over a weekend. It was a large Siberian Elm that was partially dead. There has been no official directive from the Governing Body on this. We leave roots so it is holding the bank. People feel there needs to be a staggering approach. Elms are putting seeds down and she agrees with that. We have limited funds to manage and balance this. With the Watershed Association and Smith we are trying to have on site meetings with neighborhoods to look at what we are doing and to educate. In the next stretch with Smith it is an area that is heavily used. It is the upper portion above where he worked before. There are portions of that area where there are larger trees that we may want to consider removing. We definitely want to do public notice.

Ms. Schruben said 2 years ago we did an inventory with the Women Who Walk on Water group. They were down on their hands and knees plucking out elm shoots. We stopped that activity in favor of doing the inventory for that day. We inventoried the south bank and down into the river. We found walnuts, apple and peach trees down by

the river. There are lots of invasives there.

Ms. Beshur said she typed up that inventory. We have some that the group slated to remove right away. You may have use for that.

Ms. MacDonald said the status with Friends of the Santa Fe River is she has not been contacted yet for upcoming work, but they did express interest in doing it. The Watershed group is looking at a project as well. We would meet and discuss what the goals of the effort would be. Also there would be a public outreach effort. We have a cooperative effort between Departments and Divisions. Occasionally things happen.

Chair O'Brien asked for the last inventory the Friends of the Santa Fe River did were they mainly removing invasive species.

Ms. MacDonald said that is all they were removing. Right now each reach up the river has a different quality and different aspects to it. We are looking at it reach by reach. The way the Governing Body works the neighborhoods like certain things and don't like certain things and they communicate that as constituents. We have guidelines.

Mr. Thompson said Siberian Elms are the only tree not protected in any way in the Land Use Code.

Ms. Schruben said accessibility to the river needs to be taken into consideration.

Ms. Macdonald said Richard is correct that pretty much all the elms can come out. The size is what we need to be aware of. Volunteer organizations are not removing anything without us being aware. There is a process. They have to sign an agreement. It has to be signed by the City Manager and recorded.

Chair O'Brien asked is reseeding done.

Ms. MacDonald said we are not required to do that. That was a separate organization that did that.

Mr. Thompson said our position is that native species will reseed on their own.

Ms. MacDonald said in that section from St. Frances to Defore bridge we are going to divide out some of those willows. That is where we are educating people about what we are doing.

Ms. Beshur said she likes the staggered approach.

Ms. Wolfe said it takes so long to replace the shade.

Ms. MacDonald said there is the idea of shading the water and decreasing evaporation. We don't want to take it all out at once.

Mr. Thompson said if you have a 30 inch Elm tree it is probably transpiring more water than it is saving. There is a formula for that.

Ms. Wolfe said the transpiration of the tree can be estimated as well.

Ms. MacDonald said the amount of time it takes to reestablish is important to the quality of life. It is a balance. In a drought year what is the likelihood of the survival. The goal is to get rid of invasive species and the sooner goal is to remove invasive species close to native species. There are some judgement calls done.

Chair O'Brien said thank you. We have enough information to give back to the citizen. She will call her.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**9. NEXT MEETING
MARCH 28, 2018**

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Katherine O'Brien, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer