

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SILAR ROAD, CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018, 11:30 PM**

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
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SILAR ROAD, CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018, 11:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Chair, Katherine O'Brien at 11:30 am, on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at the Parks and Recreation Department on Silar Road, conference room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Katherine O'Brien, Chair
Pam Wolfe
Tracy Neal
Athena Beshur

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Dominguez

OTHERS PRESENT

Keely Jackson Kennemore, Santa Fe Watershed Association
Gary Varela, Parks Superintendent
Mary Schruben
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Wolfe said on page 4, it should say 4 letter code, on page 5, it is Ms. Wolfe, and on page 6 the tree is spelled Pistache.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

Ms. Beshur said she had just texted Becky. She and Leonard were supposed to be here today to show us the new geo cortex.

Ms. Beshur said she has scheduled the dates for the entire inventory project and sent out SignUp Genius for volunteer sign ups. Please sign up if you can be a tree identifier for any of the sessions. We are planning 9 sessions this year. The goal is to get bigger each time and only do 9 on the Master Gardener side. She is hoping it will open up larger sessions so they can get to the 500 to 700 tree range. This will allow us more time to get the watershed back into the system and to bring in other groups. The other thing is that we have set up 2 tree identification sessions. April 7th and April 28th. 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. She asked that anyone who is interested is participating in the agenda give her a commitment today and also let her know what they would like to speak on.

Mr. Neal said he is teaching a class both of those mornings. With his back he cannot commit. Once he knows he will let her know.

Ms. Beshur said on the 7th it will be an indoor session held in the Master Gardeners classroom. On the 28th we will be in the field at Ashbaugh Park.

Mr. Neal said he has been working with Pam on the pictures she took to put together a presentation, however, it will not be ready by the 7th.

Ms. Beshur said having the visual aid is what we need for that first session.

Mr. Neal said he has tons of pictures of trees but not necessarily taken in our parks. They don't have the detail that Pam has been getting. Do you want to use the ones he has if we don't have the detail.

Ms. Beshur said yes, that is a good start. It is awesome that you all are doing that.

Chair O'Brien said, but Tracy you won't be able to present it necessarily.

Ms. Wolfe said she can fold these into power point.

Mr. Neal said he will go through them and make corrections or changes if necessary and send them on.

Ms. Schruben said she intends to go to the April 7th meeting. After that she

would like to talk with Athena to see if she can be an identifier for some of the other dates.

Ms. Beshur said absolutely.

Ms. Schruben asked is it your intention to go back to original parks and get them caught up to speed with the GIS.

Ms. Beshur said yes.

Ms. Schruben said the Eco School is a resource she can pursue for that part. They need a project.

Mr. Neal said on April 7th in the morning he is giving a class at the Botanical Garden on trees and it is approved for continuing education for Master Gardeners. It will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Chair O'Brien said she will be at both the 7th and the 28th sessions. We need to communicate in an organized manner. Athena, you said Robert Woods is going to present. We don't know what he will present. We need to find out what material is to be presented, who is available to present it and team up and get a good presentation for this year. There should have been better communication about what was assumed to be available when Master Gardeners sent up their dates. It is unfortunate that the information you want is not ready. We need to communicate between those of us available to make it a good presentation.

Ms. Beshur said she doesn't have much time. She needs to set up an agenda.

Ms. Beshur said she would like approval from the Board that we are going to incorporate GIS into the tree inventory this year and integrate it into our collector. It is not ready yet. This screen is an example. She went over the program.

Chair O'Brien said we are under the City and we want it to fit. We do more than parks. Where would medians and open space fit.

Ms. Beshur said under land use. The default is parks.

Chair O'Brien said we need to get back to what the Parks Department is working on.

Mr. Neal said we need to be sure we are not hooked into a national system so much that it does not allow flexibility that allows us to get it to what we need

Ms. Beshur said that is what Leonard has been working on. These are the same categories we had last year.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Wolfe, to approve going forward with the GIS system providing the Parks Department wants and needs are included and that the Department has approval of the final model.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. TREE PEST REPORT

No report.

C. ARBOR DAY APRIL 27

Chair O'Brien said she understands from the last meeting that there will be a celebration on April 27th.

Mr. Varela said he will have Richard make contact with her.

There was discussion about the role of the Tree Board.

D. SF RIVER INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

Chair O'Brien said we discussed this at the last meeting. The citizen who was concerned did not agree with what Melessia said at the last meeting. They felt that there were more trees removed than what was permitted. At the last meeting the Board came to consensus that there has to be monitoring of anyone doing tree removal. There has not been adequate monitoring. That is very important.

Mr. Varela said there are 2 ways we can go about this. We can monitor it or we can go in and actually designate what we would like to see removed. He will need to talk to his superiors so we are all on the same page.

Ms. Wolfe said tell them what to remove and actually see if it is done as specified.

Mr. Varela said good clear communication is necessary. If we know someone is interested in working on this on the weekend we could probably have someone there.

Ms. Kennemore said it sounds like the City Parks people would come up with a list of guidelines for whoever volunteers.

Mr. Varela said we already have them. He will get back to you with the guidelines.

Ms. Kennemore said we have had discussions with Melessia about what to cut.

Mr. Varela said there should be a guideline regarding the diameter of the tree in inches.

Ms. Kennemore said volunteers interpret directions differently. She would like them to have exact directions so they do not interpret to their own agenda.

Ms. Kennemore said we have been talking about invasive species removal with supervision in the area of Defouri Street west to St. Frances. We are talking about the things we would need to do to inform the community about it. We will do an information flyer so they understand what is happening and invite them to a meeting. If the weather is nice we will meet in the area behind the Boys and Girls Club. We will have a meeting there and show them the goals of the program and hear peoples feedback. June 7th is the day we have picked to have the meeting in that park and then on the 9th someone will be out there if people missed the 7th meeting so they can inform people what is going on. The invasive thinning day will be on the 16th. That is the same day as our summer river cleanup. We can use the volunteers who come out for that if they are interested. We can supervise. It sounds like it would be good to have someone from Parks to actually delegate. If anyone has questions please contact us. She will also be working with Melessia to keep her updated.

Everyone thanked her for coming.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRE SAFETY PRUNING

Chair O'Brien said this is something she has been thinking about. There has been discussion on the editorial page and other articles about if fire safety pruning is a good thing. 4 big groups say yes. She is speaking about thinning. Several groups say it is dangerous to do that. They are looking at the Hyde Park area. She is a landscaper and has been in that area and it is scary. It bothers her that there are groups who are against the thinning. Part of it is due to habitats that could be damaged. If we have a big fire there will be habitat devastation. We don't want to delay this.

Ms. Wolfe said certainly the State Forester would have some information about that. They may have some specific informtion relevant to this.

Chair O'Brien said they are saying we need to do it and start it. It pains her that these groups want to delay it. Is there a place for us to make a recommendation.

Ms. Schruben said it is important to emphasize in your recommendation to

encourage people to go to the public meeting sessions they have planned. The Forester is going to talk about the methods they are going to use, dates and times. She encourages the Board to reinforce that public meeting component of it. This should have been done years ago. We did not have the funding or the emergency then. Now we do. People should go and inform themselves. They are willing to have more meetings if the meetings are packed. It is important to their mission. It is on Porfirio Chavarria's site. He is the Fire Shed Manager with the City Fire Department.

Chair O'Brien said she would like to send a letter to the State Forester. The process was discussed.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Neal, seconded by Ms. Wolfe, for the Chair to draft a letter, send it to the Board members for comment, obtain approval from the PARC Commission and the Parks Department and send it out.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Schruben said she wanted to let the Board know that the design evaluation meetings for the Midtown Campus Project will be held on Thursday, April 12th, Friday, April 13th and Sunday, April 15th. She has been allowed to select some people from her neighborhood to attend the meetings. Our neighborhood is directly south of the campus. She has 2 or 3 slots at the private meetings. Some people from Sustainability Commission have asked to attend and she wanted to extend an invitation to the Tree Board. This campus is a rare opportunity to find a spot in this tree desert section of Santa Fe to do urban forestry work. Is there anyone who wants to attend on Thursday or Sunday. Thursday will be from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Art Institute on the campus. Sunday is from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Southside Library. Friday is the open public meeting at Genoveva Chavez. It will be public and kid friendly. We have major concerns about flooding and the impact on our neighborhood.

Chair O'Brien said she would like to go on the 12th. She thanked Mary for the opportunity.

Ms. Schruben said the editorial in the newspaper recently by Community Trees was excellent. She would like to see a response letter to that from the Tree Board saying we are working on it. You can see it online on the New Mexican site. Maybe we could talk about that at the next meeting and invite them to a meeting. She will make copies of the article.

9. **NEXT MEETING**
APRIL 25, 2018

10. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Katherine O'Brien, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer