

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
FRENCHY'S FIELD COMMUNITY ROOM
AGUA FRIA AND OSAGE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019, 11:30 AM**

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
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AGUA FRIA AND OSAGE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019, 11:30 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Kathryn O'Brien, Chair, at 11:43 am, on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at Frenchy's Field in the Community Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Katherine O'Brien, Chair
Tracy Neal
Pam Wolfe
Becky Touchett
(Vacancy)

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Thompson, Parks Division Director
Jacob Pedersen
Keely Jackson Kennemore
Dr. John Formby
Nancy Varvil
Mary Schruben
Sherry Griswold
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair O'Brien asked to change item 6B to the Municipal Tree Board Tree Care handout.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2019**

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Chair O'Brien gave an overview of what the Tree Board does and why it was created.

There was an introduction of Board members and potential Board members.

Chair O'Brien asked that each of the potential Board members tell the Board about their background and why they want to be on the Municipal Tree Board.

Ms. Varvil said she lived in Arkansas from 1984 to now. She became interested in native plants and environmental concerns and trying to grow native plants on her own property. She was with the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association as secretary and founding member. She had urban forest concerns and environmental concerns while on the Board. She was able to get on the Urban Forestry Board. We celebrated Arbor Day every year and were a Tree City USA. She became chair and brought several ideas to the Board. One was an award for sustainable residential landscaping and others regarding landscaping, commercial and residential. They would be publicized to encourage public involvement. As to invasive plants concerns, we made list of the most invasive plants and native plants that would be best for replacement and included the list in water bills. She has experience serving on similar boards. When developments came in they had to come through us for approval of trees. We had oversight authority with the urban Forrester role. We also reported to another committee. She heard about this opening through Master Gardeners. She was a master gardener in Arkansas.

Mr. Pedersen said he and his wife moved to Santa Fe in October, 2017. She is a school teacher and taught on the Navajo Reservation. We are both from Seattle. He is employed with the State Mining and Minerals Division as a Project Manager. His bread and butter is working with communities in developing more ambitious projects where the project can go above and beyond with a bit of extra community organizing. His motivation for this is he really enjoys working with communities and that is something he does professionally. His current project is a multi-million dollar one in Madrid managing

stormwater through town. He has a lot of urban forestry experience. Since we moved here he has been looking for civic engagement to get involved with. Public service. He did urban forestry work before coming here. He volunteers as a neighborhood forester where he puts together little maintenance projects. He comes at this from a volunteer perspective. He has technical knowledge about running urban forestry projects in cities. He created a GIS system. When he was in grad school his thesis was on implementation of urban forest management programs.

Dr. Formby said he is a Forestry Health Program Manager with the State Forestry Service. He is the representative for the entire State. He has three duties. One applies here which is offering technical assistance to private land owners. The majority of the calls he gets are from Santa Fe. What brings him here is he is on the front lines dealing with forest health issues in Santa Fe. Understand the key here is prevention, the initial thought that goes behind where to plant a tree, what type, for the right place and root zone issues. Trees not maintained or planted properly. He is dealing in the forefront of those issues. Prevention is key. Wild land forest or urban forest. The concerns he has with Santa Fe and the urban forest include the decay of the trees in and around the Plaza. The elms and cottonwoods. The big issue is European Elm Scale down there and invasive tree species such as the Siberian Elm. They do provide a tree canopy, but there are issues with that. Pinon Needle Scale is a big issue in Santa Fe. Bringing visibility to the forest health issues in Santa Fe is a big point to him. There is a need for proper trainings. He sees a lot of improper pruning jobs. There are many examples around State parking lots. Improper pruning can lead to Honey Locust Borers. He placed traps in pruned and unpruned trees. He saw a huge difference in infestation in the trees that were pruned improperly. It would be a good idea to do a decay rating system around the Plaza. That is available from the Forest Service. He is an entomologist. He is involved with proper irrigation techniques and pruning. That goes back to prevention. He has extensive knowledge with forest health inventories. Through his program he gets funding from the US Forest Service. For the last two years he has received \$10,000 to \$15,000 for urban forest stuff. He is willing, if you would like to cooperate with him, to put some money in for some of these things. His background is urban and community Forestry. He understands issues regarding pests today and out a decade from now.

Ms. Touchett said the tree inventory project is done through the Master Gardner's Program and is open to the public to participate. You can sign up on the Master Gardner site.

Chair O'Brien asked are there any questions

Mr. Neal said having been on this Board since 2013, when you are working with municipalities patient and tact are critical. It takes forever to get things done in the City. If you think we are going to crank up the program it does take time. It does not happen overnight.

Chair O'Brien said the people on the Board all do their share. We are a "let's get it done" Board.

Mr. Pedersen asked what is the process for the Board to advise the City.

Chair O'Brien said our recommendations are voted on by us, then they go to PARC for approval, then to the City. We work with the Parks Department to get things done. There is open communication about what is important.

Mr. Thompson said this Board has bought two documents to the City Council for education. This is ground work. In the budget this year we included the hiring of degreed people for several critical position.

Ms. Griswold said that is good to hear.

Ms. Varvil asked you send a summary of your concerns to PARC.

Chair O'Brien said she makes a presentation to them to get approval to move forward.

Chair O'Brien said we will table this discussion for now and vote on the candidates at the next meeting. Feel free to communicate with her on any questions or concerns you may have between now and then.

Mr. Neal said you are welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting.

B. TREE INVENTORY PROJECT REPORT

Chair O'Brien said the City was going to purchase Planet Geo Tree Plotter software from discretionary funds. Where are we on that.

Mr. Thompson said they are not really discretionary funds. We got caught in the crux of closing out this years budget and making proposals for next year's budget. When we went to the City Manger and asked him about it he said to run it through the budget committee. There was an article in the newspaper about the City killing good trees. That caught the attention of the Administration. We are now dealing with the software company and purchasing. We are close.

Chair O'Brien asked Becky you wanted it by April 13th.

Ms. Touchett said because Master Gardeners are the ones using it there are a couple of things that happen early on. March 16th is the Master Gardner Expo where we present all the projects to the Master Gardeners and she was hoping to have Tree Plotter available to show people how we will utilize it. She also wanted a map of the parks to show what has been accomplished and some GIS information to show them

what you can do with GIS to get people excited about joining.

Ms. Wolfe said the Expo invites the public as well.

Ms. Touchett said we found we wanted to move along the inventory quickly, but we needed more instruction on how to actually identify trees before doing an inventory. We opened up a couple of sessions for tree identification. Bob Wood is going to do it for us. It will be at the rodeo grounds in the County Extension classroom. We will also do a workshop on Tree Plotter on April 13th. We will customize it to Santa Fe.

Ms. Schruben said if the tablet is not loaded up for March 16th Tree Plotter has a demo phase we could use.

Ms. Touchett said she was hoping we would have it so we could customize it.

Ms. Schruben said she will volunteer if you need to see any paper maps to dissuade them from the old way she will bring them.

Ms. Griswold left the meeting.

C. PARC REPORT: TREE LIST UPGRADE

Chair O'Brien said she went last week to attend the PARC meeting, but it was no where to be found.

Mr. Thompson said it was cancelled. Jesse broke her leg and there was lots of confusion.

Chair O'Brien asked Richard if he has met with Terrance to reformat the tree list.

Mr. Thompson said no. There are two tree lists. The Santa Fe preferred list and a statewide tree list. He just wants it simpler. He will work with Terrance on reformatting the tree list.

There was discussion on the tree list and how to revamp it including suggestions of clarifying what PARC wants and a simple tree list with links to more information.

Mr. Thompson said we can put it on with links.

Ms. Wolfe asked wasn't there discussion about an MTB webpage. How far in the future is that.

Mr. Thompson said he is not going to do that.

Chair O'Brien said she is not ready to take that on yet.

Mr. Pedersen left the meeting

D. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Ms. Martin, as a volunteer, reported that she has spoken with the Principal at Cesar Chavez Elementary about what the Board proposed. The Principal is all for the school participating in the event and planting trees in the nearby park. The school has a gardening club of 4th grade students that meets after school. They also have a school garden. Ms. Martin would like to email the Principal the specifics, set up a meeting with the Principal and several Board members to iron out details and turn the celebration over to the Board.

There was discussion around this event including the following information and decisions:

- Friday, April 26th is the celebration of Arbor Day in New Mexico and will be the day for the event at Cesar Chavez School with the Parks Department.
- Monday, April 22nd is the day the Board will hold an educational session for the school's gardening after school group. The park that will have the trees planted is Chavez Park and is on the corner of S. Meadows and Jaguar
- The Board will participate in the Earth Day Celebration at the Railyard on April 27th with an information table.
- Ms. Wolfe would like to have all the information pamphlets they have requested for use at Earth Day and Arbor Day and would like information on the Tree Board with contacts at Earth Day along with a fish bowl for business cards of people who are interested and maybe something for a drawing.

Ms. Martin will move forward in coordinating with the Principal at Cesar Chavez Elementary.

Chair O'Brien tabled the discussion on Earth Day until the next meeting.

Ms. Varvil left the meeting

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. MASTER GARDENER FAIR

This item and the Expo were discussed previously.

Ms. Wolfe said she offered space at this event to Water Conservation and would offer it to you as well. You can have a half table or a whole table. She will be there for most of the day. She could not man the table for the whole day. A lot of people will be there. Lots of plants for sale. Lots of vendors. We could make a button that says "ask me about the urban forest". The Forest Service comes and sells small trees for \$2.

Chair O'Brien asked Pam to work with Richard and staff to get the button or sticker done.

Ms. Wolfe said she will do that and volunteered to work on a logo as well.

B. MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD TREE CARE HANDOUT

Mr. Neal said the initial handout is included in the meeting packet. He would like to use it tomorrow night for the workshop that he, Pam and Tom Dominguez are holding at the Extension Office. He and Pam will be talking about trees and Tom will talk about insects and pests. This would be our handout to say what we want to say about planting trees and watering trees. It still has to be tweaked and we will bring it to this Board for approval at the next meeting. The workshop tomorrow is at 5:30 pm.

All of the Board members were fine with Mr. Neal and the others using this version of the handout at the workshop.

Chair O'Brien said we will vote on the final version of the handouts at the next meeting. Then she will get with PARC for inclusion of the documents on the website.

C. THINK TREES REPORT

Chair O'Brien said a summary of her thoughts from the Think Trees Conference is included in the meeting packet and was emailed out to everyone.

D. WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

This item was previously discussed.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Schruben reported that she is going to attend the Arid Land and Water

Conference tomorrow and Friday in Albuquerque and will report back to the Tree Board at the next meeting. Also there is a Water Conference on Saturday to discuss the Five Year Conservation Plan.

Ms. Martin stated that the Santa Fe Veterans Alliance would like to have a Memorial Day planting of trees at Griego Park where the Santa Fe Veterans Memorial is located. She would like it to be in conjunction with the Tree Board and the Parks Department.

Mr. Thompson said anything they want to do just let him know and we will participate.

**9. NEXT MEETING
MARCH 27, 2019**

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Katherine O'Brien, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer