

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD
Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

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**MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
THE BARN AT FRENCHY'S FIELD
2001 AGUA FRIA STREET
Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 10:00 am**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Municipal Tree Board was called to order by Chair Patrick Torres at approximately 10:00 am, on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at The Barn at Frenchy's Field, 2001 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Torres, Chair
Kathleen O'Brien
Tracy Neal

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Wood, Water Conservation
Mary Schuber
Victor Lucero, Parks Department
Linda Shaffer, Railyard Park
Athena Beshur
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Ms. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Neal, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 21, 2015

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. O'Brien, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON URBAN FOREST POLICY IN REGARD TO WATERING TREES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Torres said we began this discussion at the last meeting. He handed out the discussion points that were brought up at the last meeting. We might want to include those in whatever we develop.

Mr. Neal said he talked to Joran Viers, the Urban Forester in Albuquerque, he said that is something they will be working on after they do lots of other things. They do not have a policy in Albuquerque.

Ms. O'Brien said since Think Trees is next week this is a good thing to explore.

Mr. Wood said they previously had a policy. It is on their website. He will pull it off and email it to the Board.

Mr. Neal said he will send it to Joran. He may have been thrown off because he said climate change, but if they have a policy on watering trees he would love to see it.

Mr. Neal said he then sent off some emails to other people and received a response from the Parks Department in Tucson who is going to forward his request on. The best information came from Tim Fulton, Parks Director in Las Cruces. He is very knowledgeable about water harvesting and water reuse in parks. Mr. Neal said he can't wait to get down there and talk to him. They are starting water harvesting in some of their parks. They are demo projects. When they propose water harvesting they tend to get push back from the civil engineers. They have to educate them about how it all works. He said you also have to get your City Manager on board. He has worked with a group called Watershed Management in Tucson. He suggested we contact them because they advise cities on water harvesting and how to use that in parks. He said Silver City has a water harvesting program as well. He recommended that we use the QWEL program and do a water use audit if we want to understand how to design your program. Mr. Neal said he believes the Board needs to take a field trip in March to Las Cruces, Silver City and Tucson. He would love to take a trip to Tucson. He is excited to learn more from them.

Mr. Wood said he can contact Dan Ransome with Water Conservation in Tucson and have him get those details and send them to you.

Ms. Beshur said in terms of an audit for the parks it could be as simple as adding meters to their system.

Mr. Neal said tracking how much water is used is different from how it is used and how efficiently it is used. That is what a really good audit does.

Ms. Schruben asked does the QWEL audit include rainwater and snow observations.

Mr. Wood said yes and no. It takes into account evaporation. As an active audit it does not. It measures efficiency.

Mr. Neal said he is going to follow up on the idea of finding more adaptive species with Jim Knopf in Boulder. He has been experimenting with different tree species in Boulder for decades. He is working with trees from other parts of the world that are similar to us to see what is hardy.

Ms. Schruben said if you are looking for a park to audit, you might look at Rancho Singo. They are consistently over watering there.

Mr. Neal asked could experimental trees be planted.

Ms. Schruben said yes, we have dying trees that need to come out.

Ms. Shaffer said you could also put some experimental trees in Railyard Park. We have some trees to remove.

Mr. Lucero asked what are the water rights for storing run off water. To begin with, someone should investigate that. It needs to be addressed immediately.

Chair Torres said there has to be a water harvesting plan in place before construction is approved.

Mr. Wood said the Land Use Code addresses that. Certain plans have to be down in writing before construction. Parks are already constructed. You are allowed to harvest off the roof. There is a difference between harvesting and detention and those sorts of things. If you are working with storm water and infiltrating it that is completely different.

Mr. Neal said there is a major water harvesting project in Railyard Park.

Ms. Schruben asked how do you get any harvesting off site that is beneficial to you.

Ms. Shaffer said there is a whole system with cisterns.

Mr. Wood said we did an initial survey of medians that could benefit from water harvesting. We are in discussions with Parks regarding changing that and the meters

they are not using. We will also be offering QWEL training for them.

Ms. Beshur said she thought Bob made a good point about high interest plants and that they should be in the discussion about winter watering. High interest plants that are providing shade.

Mr. Neal said he is thinking along those same lines. Part of our analysis of which trees to water should include what benefit they are providing.

Chair Torres said we will have more discussion after all the information is received and we will discuss this more the at next meeting.

Mr. Neal said yes, at the next meeting we can start to formulate the approach. Thanks Bob.

Mr. Neal said back to the stressed trees and pests, do you expect to see more activity from the Honey Ash Borer and the Emerald Ash Borer

Mr. Lucero said it is not if but when. They are in Rio Rancho. They can colonize healthy trees not just stressed trees. It is hard to forecast those kind of things. There is great soil moisture so far this winter. The need for looking at trees and spotting pests is critical. There are stressed trees here. It will be interesting to see what this spring brings. D shaped exit holes in Honey Locust Trees are made by the borers.

Mr. Neal said Honey Locust Tree pests have been seen in New Mexico.

Mr. Lucero said controls for that pest are prophylactic.

Mr. Wood asked has Parks been able to identify any funding for purchasing pheromone traps.

Mr. Lucero asked for the borer.

Mr. Wood sad yes.

Mr. Lucero said the complex of pheromone are available and literature suggests that new things will be coming out. He will put out a few pheromone traps out to see how they work. He can collect information and report back. Traps are in the works for new pests primarily. We put Tip Moth pheromone traps in the Railyard Park. If the Board wants to look at something particular let him know.

Mr. Neal asked is that the Zimmerman Pine Tip Moth.

Mr. Lucero said it is the Nantucket Pine Tip Moth. That is the one he found in the fall on the Ponderosa Pine trees.

Mr. Wood said Charles Ward years ago identified a New Mexico Pine Tip Moth. They only work from twelve feet down and on new transplants. They do significant damage.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on offering training for next set of volunteers.

Chair Torres said at our last meeting we talked about discussing what kind of training we would offer to the next set of volunteers who would be helping with the next tree inventory.

Ms. Beshur said the Master Gardeners had a project meeting last weekend and have four co-leaders who are interested in the program. She sees that these co-leaders would be at each event to facilitate the Master Gardeners participation. Trainers would be under them and then volunteers. She is telling people that train the trainers will be in April or May.

Mr. Neal asked have the co-leaders been picked.

Ms. Beshur said yes, one is Carol Dumont and she is interested. She is a co-leader as well. They have all finished their Master Gardner training and are very responsive. She will help facilitate the first part of the project. March 19th is the first event where they will sign up volunteers.

Ms. O'Brien asked is March 19th for Master Gardeners.

Ms. Beshur said yes, every project will have a board for volunteer sign up. They will sign up for what they want to participate in. She put the Municipal Tree Board and the Tree Inventory on for a feature in their June newsletter as a project for Master Gardeners. She will encourage volunteers and trainers to sign up.

Mr. Neal asked how do you see this Board interacting. What do we need to do.

Ms. Beshur said we are the caretakers of the entire project. Master Gardeners is one facet. Hopefully other organizations will be in there as well. The Tree Board is over arching. We take the role of creating the training and overseeing the inventories, providing lists and providing training. Hopefully we as a Board can step away from some of the volunteer things. Initially it is critical for us to be present.

Ms. Shaffer asked is this open to the general public. Do you want us to advertise and put something in our newsletter.

Ms. Beshur said she sees those who got trained the first time as trainers. We need to unify the volunteers. Some of the Railyard Stewards are trained already. We need one trainer for every 3 people.

Ms. Shaffer said give her a heads up and she will put in her newsletter.

Ms. O'Brien asked for your sign up do we need dates by that time.

Ms. Beshur said that is not essential. For the Expo she is going to have a list of people that are interested. They can sign up on our website as well. We don't have to have specific dates. If we have dates that would be helpful. They want to get their thirty days in.

Ms. O'Brien said maybe we could figure out some dates for training and inventory.

Ms. Beshur said she sees us as trainers of the trainers. Then we can set up dates for volunteers. Volunteers don't have to be trained before the inventory.

Ms. O'Brien said maybe today we could think of dates and where we want to go. Maybe get three dates firmed up before the Expo.

Ms. Beshur said that would be great. We have June through October to do the inventories.

Mr. Wood said he is going through a new training that will allow tree inventories to be done through smart phones. This is basically for neighborhood trees. They take pictures and send them in. It is a process. You can volunteer for the program by signing in over the phone. It is an exciting program. You can even sign up for a specific block.

Ms. Shaffer asked is it citizen driven.

Mr. Wood said yes. The 1 Trees Programs are free but take a lot of training. There are several kinds of programs. This is version six.

Mr. Neal asked with this program that connects to these different aspects, are you saying you can use this program to do an inventory and it will locate the tree and identify species.

Mr. Wood said you can look at the leaf and go through the key on your phone to identify the tree. If enough information is submitted and approved by the administrator

then it gets posted.

Ms. Beshur said the more people we get the better. Last year was all paper. Now the more volunteers we get and if we can somehow streamline that computer process that would be helpful for us. Maybe that is part of the training we do in April and May. Get some sort of gadgets to streamline that part of it.

Mr. Wood said if there is interest, just go to Google, then to I Tree and download the module. If we could find a way to get it into the GIS system throughout the City it would be great. But at this time they do not have the computer space or dedicated personal to do.

Ms. Schrubber said Rene is doing an inventory for data use and requirements. Let her know.

Mr. Wood said that is a decision for the Board.

Chair Torres said for the next meeting we need to come up with some dates for training.

Mr. Neal said he has concerns and hears what Bob is saying and it feels like we need to do a really good inventory; we need backup with the GIS programs to do it right. We need things we don't have yet and have no budget to acquire. It feels frustrating to know there is a specific way to do the inventory and we don't have that capacity yet. On one hand he feels yes we need to do inventory, on the other hand he feels we are a year away from being able to do a good inventory. It is up in the air if we want to do an inventory this year or not. Maybe pick a few parks and do them then when we have the technology to do it right. It feels to him that for the inventory to be really useful we need people who have enough information to identify the tree and make reasonable assessments about that tree to help direct the Parks department on which trees are worth saving and taking care of and which trees we can let go of. Is that logical or just me being nervous.

Mr. Wood said the I Tree program is Cloud based. If the community adopts it you take over a certain section. Those second views would be done by the administrator. The more they use this program the better trained they get on their own. There is no cost.

Ms. Beshur said she ran into Richard at the Post Office and he mentioned he is excited about the inventory and he said he has some gadgets that will help with the inventory that he can lend out. It sounds to her that one of the trainings we do is technology training and we can incorporate your help and Parks to streamline the entries. It does not have to be a very large group. We can limit the numbers.

Mr. Wood said the most important thing is to have enthusiast volunteers. Even if

they just want to do one tree. There is training involved.

Ms. Beshur asked would it be possible for you to guide the Board on this at our next meeting.

Mr. Wood said he can bring it in and go through some of it. The final version is not released yet. We also have to have several administrators.

Mr. Neal asked does it have to be tied to the GIS system.

Mr. Wood said we can pull that information from Cloud and develop a GIS layer.

Ms. Beshur said for this year if this does not work out we can go with the paper version. She agrees it is a lot of data entry on the City end. It is a consideration. We should not feel overwhelmed with the technology side. The sooner we can get on board the better. If we can get some done this year and get the module in place the following year we could offer a training for the public to inventory their own trees. We can get the inventory done in a five year period.

Ms. O'Brien asked is it possible today to figure out what we want to inventory this year.

Chair Torres said he would like to see us finish Ragle and maybe tackle a couple of other large parks and use that as a starting point and then see if later in the season we could do more that would be great

Mr. Neal said it would be interesting to inventory your tiny park Mary.

Ms. Schruben said she has two possibilities. Another park that would be easy is Singo Road Park. It is on Richards. It has both new trees, ten years old, and established trees. It is in desperate need of maintenance. It becomes a six to eight foot deep lake moving fast when it rains.

Mr. Wood said the name of that park is Mark Brant Park.

Ms. Schruber said another area where they can do an inventory of their own would be St. John's College. They have a work program to harvest mistletoe out of it. There are 1,000 trees. They are desperate for projects for their kids in the summer. They have a big area planted.

Ms. O'Brien said she thought our emphasis was City parks.

Mr. Neal said he is not sure if we do paper or technology this year.

Mr. Wood said yes, as much as he knows. He will start with paper forms. We need to ask what is the purpose of the inventory. Maintenance for parks or public enjoyment.

Ms. Beshur asked could you, Bob, give us a demo on the phone inventory program.

Ms. Schrubber said the Sustainable Santa Fe Committee's subcommittee on the environment is headed by Commissioner Kathy Holian. This is on their list of things to do. They are interested in knowing how to maximize trees for carbon sequestration and where we have huge gaps or can make substantial improvement.

Mr. Neal said he is getting the feeling that one of the things the Tree Board can do is start a process in the City where we train people to inventory and various groups take that training and do their own areas. We can start with paper this year. Not only could we help the Parks Department but other people.

Ms. Schrubben said the Watershed people are interested in doing other parts of the river.

Mr. Neal said we need to update it.

Mr. Wood said most of it was inventoried three or four years ago.

Ms. Beshur asked how do we feel about the River Corridor being one of the parks.

Chair Torres said he suggests that Richard give us three or four parks. Ragle should be one.

Mr. Neal asked Victor after you talk to Richard will you email us his priorities.

Ms. Schrubben said the Homeowner Associations also have the responsibility to keep up the landscape areas. Our priority is City parks.

Chair Torres said if we focus on larger parks as we get citizens involved they will start thinking about their neighborhood or pocket parks and do on their own.

Ms. Schrubben said when we started this Richard's idea was to start with Ragle Park, Ft. Marcy and the Railyard. The Railyard is done and we have started Ragle.

Chair Torres said he agrees. If we start using technology and it is failing it will cause frustration and we will accomplish nothing.

Mr. Wood said keep the paper. You can always move to an Excel sheet.

Chair Torres said the first reason for inventory is for maintenance purposes for the Parks Department.

Mr. Neal said in regard to training the trainers, we need to set dates for that. It feels like first step is train the trainers.

Ms. Beshur said the co-leaders are going to help facilitate the connections such as sign ups and sending out emails. She hopes they become trainers. First is setting the dates for training the trainers.

Mr. Wood said he doesn't know what the events schedule is for Arbor Day yet. That might be an ideal time to roll out a program. We could say come see about trees, look at trees, learn to identify trees. We can plan on that now so you have all the balloons and party favors you need. It is on April 29th.

Chair Torres asked do we want to set those dates now or at the next meeting.

Ms. Beshur said she likes the idea of making Arbor Day a jumping off point.

Ms. O'Brien said she was walking along Upper Canyon Road and saw Waterworks Park. It is a totally coniferous park. We could train the trainers there now. It is on Alameda and Upper Canyon Road. We could get it done before we have to wait for leaves to emerge.

Chair Torres said that is a good idea.

Ms. O'Brien said we could have two or three teams for an hour or hour and a half. We can set up that date today and get people to be trained. How about in March. At our March meeting then we can find out what actual parks we are going to do this year and try to schedule three or four dates for the sign up. It is important.

Everyone thought that was a good idea.

Chair Torres suggested that Saturdays would be good days.

There was discussion about possible dates.

Mr. Neal said can we do February 27th.

Chair Torres said the 27th is good. Everyone agreed.

Ms. Schruben asked at the Water History Park.

Chair Torres said yes.

There was a discussion about the time.

Ms. Beshur suggested 11:00 am.

Chair Torres said February 27th, 11:00 am, we will have a train the trainer training.

It was decided that about twenty people would be a good number.

Ms. O'Brien said all of us can think of people who could be trainers.

Mr. Neal said then we can do another training for budding trees.

Ms. Shaffer asked does anyone know where we are with entering data from the Railroad Park inventory. Last time she talked to him he was still entering data.

Chair Torres said they are still working on it.

Mr. Neal said when we inventoried the parks we had a design. Richard said he would supply overheads of the parks we were going to inventory. We need to get the information to him that we need an image of this park for train the trainers.

Ms. Shaffer said send me your announcement Athena so she can use it in her newsletter.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Neal said he is going to the Think Trees conference.

Ms. Schruben asked are they amenable to someone who is not a professional.

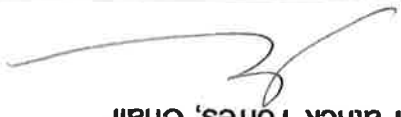
Mr. Wood said yes, anyone. Go to the key note and the second day beginning speaker.

Ms. O'Brien said it is at the Albuquerque Crown Plaza.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wood said he would like to add an item to the next meeting agenda. An item about Arbor day activities and location.

Mr. Neal said he thought Arbor Day activities were initiated by the Parks



 Patrick Torres, Chair

 Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

VOTE

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. O'Brien, to adjourn the meeting.

10. ADJOURN

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 2016.

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Mr. Lucero will find out the details for the next meeting.

Department: