

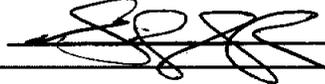


Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 12/15/15 TIME 10:21 AM

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MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD

A Subcommittee of the PARC (Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission)

The Barn at Frenchy's Field

2001 Agua Fria Street

Monday, December 21, 2015

3:00 – 4:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2015
5. Old Business
 - A. Update on action items
6. New Business
 - A. Urban Forest Policy in regard to watering trees in the face of climate change
7. Announcements
8. Public Comment
9. Date and Time of next meeting- December 21, 2015 3:00 pm
10. Adjourn

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**SUMMARY OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
DECEMBER 21, 2015**

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URBAN FOREST POLICY IN REGARD TO WATERING TREES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE	DISCUSSION/INFORMATION	2-5
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MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD
Monday, December 21, 2015, 3:00 pm
The Barn at Frenchy's Field
2001 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, NM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Torres, Chairman, on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 3:00 pm at The Barn at Frenchy's Field, 2001 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Torres, Chairman
Tracy Neal
Katherine O'Brien
(Vacancy)
(Vacancy)

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Victor Lucero, IPM Program Manager, Parks Department
Athena Beshur
Richard Thompson, Parks Department
Mary Schruben
Tom Dominguez, Santa Fe Agriculture Agent
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. O'Brien asked that Meeting Dates be added on the agenda as item 6 (B).

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 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 ACTION ITEMS

Chair Torres said PARC has not met since October. We need to get our two proposed new Board members on the Board. We also need to present our position statement on invasive species. PARC won't meet until January and they will have several new members. He is hoping he can get them to approve the new members and put the position statement on their agenda for their January meeting.

Chair Torres said that he had previously said he was leaving the Board at the end of December, however, he will stay until those items are approved. Everyone agreed and greatly appreciated Mr. Torres staying on the Board and continuing as Chair.

6. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chair Torres said in our September meeting, the PARC Chair asked us to develop a policy regarding watering trees in the face of climate change. In discussions in October we said let's hold off on this until things get quieter for this Board. Now is a good time to tackle this. He asked Mr. Thompson if he is aware of such a policy that other cities have implemented.

Mr. Thompson said there is very little about the supplemental watering of trees. We will have an increase in insect species that we are not accustomed to that will move here and the general supposition is that nature will have her way. I am speaking in broad strokes. Everyone in Parks knows his position on irrigating trees. He is opposed to it. It does not do the tree any good whatsoever after establishment. If we ease and wean the tree from irrigation then the tree itself will develop pathways to what it needs. It comes down to if we want to name a species or native trees that we want to save due to the changing climate or hunker down and start planting trees that will survive. Our budget will be much lower this year. We will not be watering trees more than last year or adding irrigation. We pay for water just like everyone else does. We do not have a permit to use reuse water except for Marty Sanchez and SWAAN. Adapting to the changes will behoove us and keeping an open mind and trying new species for drought resistance and pest resistance will be helpful.

Mr. Lucero said one of the things that is critical in the changing environment is dealing with things that have not been seen before. An example would be white flies at our elevation and stresses on existing established landscapes. Not every insect species attacks a stressed tree but some of our trees have tremendous scale problems. Looking at those issues and the oversight of the trees those issues need to be addressed. Insect control on some of those would be better to do rather than supplemental irrigation.

Mr. Neal asked if there is an outbreak of a significant pest and you have a tree that is not effected or only lightly effected can irrigation help.

Mr. Lucero said research shows that yes, it could. It needs to be looked at systematically.

Mr. Neal asked is it the elms on the plaza that are getting hit by scale.

Mr. Thompson said those have drip irrigation. We are going to stop introducing drip irrigation at the base of trees. It is the nature of the business for the last 20 years, if nature wants them to live they will live. We need to keep looking for adaptive species. Victor brings to us the broad vision of trees in the forest and the movement of pests in the city. He has great faith that we will overcome obstacles in the short run but for long term we are not sure.

Mr. Neal said he thought earlier that Mr. Thompson had said we wanted to use primarily natives as tree species. He thinks looking at adaptive is great.

Mr. Neal said one of the things that has been a balancing act for the last 20 years was the zone changes. We have to be cautious about trees.

Mr. Thompson said you are right. Discovering sustainability is a challenge. We want to try to let nature succeed.

Ms. O'Brien said she is picturing down the road that we will have trees on private property but will lose them on City properties because of no watering when they become mature. She would like the City to look at alternatives like using stored water and water collection or the water harvesting approach so we can still have some trees in the city.

Mr. Thompson asked what is the greatest threat to trees. Drought is. Soil is the key to all of this. The City would like to get ready and you are seeing some of that in adaption. The Mayor is looking at all of this. We are doing all we can in our division to embrace science. We are having discussions about emerging pests and science. When he says soil amendment it goes back to the zone management of landscaping. We will tackle areas in our parks that we can make adaptive and amend the soil in those areas and turn off the water and see how it does.

Ms. O'Brien said there is one missing element, we have to think about quantities of trees not just selection of trees. If you have fewer plants competing for the existing water and if it is contoured for survival a lot will survive. A lot of the new construction permits demand so many trees for the development.

Mr. Thompson said we try to keep up on the changing climate. He thinks it is the citizenry that will change the shape and hue of the landscaping.

Mr. Neal said he does think creating more of a forest soil around trees to support them and getting rid of the turf under them is appropriate. Land contouring is important as well. One of the nice things about climate change is that there is a lot of research going into this where new things and techniques are coming out all the time. There are hopeful aspects to it. We need to look at everything from trees who will put up with drought to how to get water to the trees. Looking at what they are doing in the desert in Israel and the Middle East to keep their trees going is important. What we can learn and pass on is important as well. The tree inventory can help us to know what to put water on and what to let go.

Ms. O'Brien said and how they consume water.

Ms. Beshur said she likes the approach we are going toward such as establishing trees and using natural resources and encouraging soil building and using the dump mulch. It is essential that we acknowledge that for the first 3 to 5 years trees need to get established and weaned. We also need to encourage basin building.

Mr. Neal said he has had some email conversations about mulching trees and water harvesting. He asked if the Board would like him to ask if Albuquerque has a plan for irrigation of trees as the climate changes.

The Board members agreed that he should work on that.

Ms. O'Brien said they have been doing the mulch in Albuquerque for years.

Mr. Thompson said can we ask the Board to look into vertical mulching as opposed to surface mulching.

Chair Torres said we will.

Ms. Beshur said what she usually recommends for home owners is that new trees get twice a month watering through the winter and existing plants once a month.

Mr. Thompson said there is a City provision that we turn off irrigation November 1st. There is a limited water source in the Railyard Park. We are looking at frost resistant hydrants.

Mr. Neal said they just came out with an announcement about the Think Trees conference in Albuquerque on February 4th and 5th. He encouraged everyone to attend. Pests, climate change and drought are on the agenda.

Mr. Lucero said there is available water monitoring techniques used in Israel using gypsum blocks and electrical conductivity in soil. There are several new technologies out there. Those types of technologies work well in established landscaping. It gives us concrete data. The Board might consider having a demonstration.

Mr. Dominguez said he has worked with Water Mark.

Mr. Lucero said that helps trigger irrigation.

Mr. Neal said some years back there was a guy in the Water Department that put monitors in Cathedral Park and did watering there based on what they showed. It showed that if you are tracking water and watering based on that you can cut down on water use.

Chair Torres said we will revisit this and the ideas and options discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Thompson said add analysis of the soil type.

Mr. Neal asked what lab does the Parks Department use to test soil.

Mr. Thompson said we do not test soil. We are collecting soil samples and looking at using Helena Chemical in the future.

B. MEETING DATES

Mr. Neal said if we stick with Tuesdays he has to attend a meeting every Tuesday at 3:00 pm for his new job and he will not be able to attend the Board meetings any longer.

Ms. Beshur said we should look at changing the day.

There was discussion about possible days. It was agreed upon that the Board will meet on the forth Wednesday of the month from 10:00 am to noon.

Chair Torres said he will get with Jesse and the clerks office regarding the day change.

Ms. Beshur said so January 27th is the next meeting.

Chair Torres said yes.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Beshur said regarding the tree inventory, she and Tom have garnered support from the Master Gardeners. They have this as a project now and are looking forward to helping us.

Mr. Dominguez said we have sixty new intern students coming up.

Mr. Neal said we need to have a train the trainers session.

Mr. Torres said we will discuss this and the training at our next meeting.

Mr. Neal said in the last meeting Victor was going to check about what the Parks Department role was in the inventory process and if there was a budget from the Parks Department for the tree inventory. Can we have that information for the next meeting .

Mr. Thompson said he did receive the questions and has the answers for the next meeting. The idea was for you to take the lead. Also we need the support of the Municipal Tree Board and PARC to fund a position. This is a document we prepared from the Ragle inventory. The document was passed around. This gives you an idea. We got the tote sheets from the Railyard Park inventory. There are some blank blocks. We will compile the results and share that with you.

Mr. Neal asked how will the Parks Department use the condition and comments we added. How will that feed into the maintenance decisions.

Mr. Thompson said we can add graphs of the information. The comments will determine the removal in the near term or get us looking at it. It will help us make decisions. The idea that we are going to do something with this tree inventory immediately is misleading. We have no staff trained in this. Dedicating a tree crew and training them is the secret to sustaining the Santa Fe forest.

Ms. Schrubber said she went to the Santa Fe West River Corridor meeting. There was a presentation from the River Commission and the County who is going to be taking on the next stretch of the River Trail, river changes and corridor plan. They will be starting on that in late February, early March. They were all excited about the idea of a tree inventory happening in Santa Fe. They also have a crew of volunteers and River Corridor Stewards who are interested in the inventory. They have marked out the river corridor into 5 zones. They think the inventory could start at the treatment plant and go

through downtown to St. Francis. That would be the first stretch that needs to be done. They think they can call out their volunteers to help with that. They have a plan for what they are going to be doing. It is on their website. One of the things they would like for the inventory to include in their priorities is St. Francis to Frenchys Field. They would like to get a count and condition statement to see how well the trees did. The next stretch is Frenchys down to Siler. They are planning for how they are going to do development. What will stay agriculture, what will be commercial and other categories. They have easement agreements. The County is funding all this. It is part of their Greenway Project.

Mr. Neal said it sounds like there are a lot of people who would like help inventorying trees along the river.

Ms. Schruben said this is something to talk about next time.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

This was previously discussed.

Chair Torres said Happy Holidays to everyone.

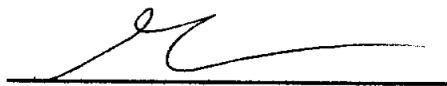
Mr. Neal said it is truly a treat working with you Pat . It will be very sad if you leave. He has a great appreciation for what Pat has contributed to this Board.

Chair Torres said what makes it worth sticking around is involvement and good Board members.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Patrick Torres, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer