



Staff Liaison  
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## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE Urban Forest Committee

Monday April 12, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

<https://zoom.us/j/96840605800?pwd=NXNiRjVJNkdtWHNvNU1MWVBYMmlkUT09>

Meeting ID: 968 4060 5800 Passcode: 214432  
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

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**CONVENE REGULAR MEETING:** Chair Torrusio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### 1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Mary Torrusio, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes; Members, Yan Linhart, Robin Mitchell. Not present: Cathy Bleier

Also present: Staff Liaison Stephen Prée, members of the public: Sue and Paul Duncan, Jennifer Kaczor, Cassie Hughes, Martha Jackson.

### 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- A. Sue Duncan asked if the City was aware of the Eucalyptus tree dieback occurring on Motorcycle Hill.
- B. Staff Liaison Prée read comments submitted by El Cerrito resident Gary Wolinsky recommending that the City curtail tree pruning activities during bird nesting season. Discussion: UFC inquired about the duration of nesting season and the City contractor's bird nesting awareness and protocol. Members suggested that Prée review the contractor's bird awareness activities and notify residents of the location of pruning prior to performing the work in order to provide them an opportunity to report nests. Hrubes requested that Prée follow-up with Mr. Wolinsky and inform him of the UFC's acknowledgment of his concerns.

### 3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:

- A. Chair Torrusio reported that the UFC meetings are still not listed on the City website calendar. She also reported that the #ElCerritoTrees Instagram account has 139 followers.
- B. Robin Mitchell announced she would send the Committee a link to a talk on California's magnificent oak trees by Kate Marion.

### 4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS-

Staff Liaison Prée, informed the UFC that the City pruned 529 street trees and planted 24 new street trees since January; UC Berkeley Pathology Lab and US Forest Service are performing an Acacia Die-back study. Prée said that future street tree planting may need to include funds from a special source that would receive contributions from the public to offset the actual cost to the residents desiring trees.

**5. DISCUSSION- Tree Board University:** Committee members relayed favorable impressions of “Tree Board 101”, and recommended reviewing City documents related to the UFC during the next meeting before deciding to move on to the next TBU course. Prée will distribute these documents prior to the May meeting. A discussion regarding the purpose of TBU concluded that TBU is a framework for UFC actions that would correspond with the work of other urban forestry boards across the world as well as establishing a clearer role in relation to other City boards committees and commissions.

**6. URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR AND WORK PLAN UPDATE:**

- A. Earth Day 2021 – The Committee agreed with Robin Mitchell’s recommendation that the UFC participate with the EQC in a Doug Tallamy presentation on April 25 in conjunction with the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.
- B. Tree City USA sign locations- Yan Linhart and Robert Hrubes suggested locations on Barret Ave., El Cerrito gateways and the Ohlone Greenway.
- C. Work Plan- deferred

**7. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2021 meeting: Linhart; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitchell; unanimous.
- B. Motion to recommend to Council the appointment of Jennifer Kaczor to the UFC: Mitchell; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hrubes; unanimous.
- C. Annual Election of Officers. Motion to elect Robin Mitchell as Chair: Torrusio; 2<sup>nd</sup> Linhart; unanimous. Motion to elect Mary Torrusio as Vice Chair: Linhart; 2<sup>nd</sup> : Mitchell; unanimous.

**8. NEXT MONTH’S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS**

- EQC meeting – April 13: none
- PRC meeting – April 28: Torrusio

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Tree Board University and review of UFC Mission and Goals
- Forest Sustainability Council- presentation Vice Chair Hrubes
- Grant Funding
- HNA Planning

**10. ADJOURNMENT-** Chair Torrusio adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Robin Mitchell, Chair or Robert Hrubes, Vice Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of April 12, 2021 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

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Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison