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

1. ROLL CALL:
Present: Chair Robin Mitchell, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes; Members, Cathy Bleier, Catherine (Cassie) Hughes, Jennifer Kaczor, Yan Linhart.
Also present: Council Liaison Paul Fadelli, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public: Sue Duncan, Susan Kuchinskas
Absent: Melissa Feudi.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Ms. Duncan wished everyone a happy new year.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:
Chair Mitchell reported on her attendance to the December EQC meeting that City Council has adopted an expanded foodware ordinance; she suggested that the UFC may want to participate in the Hillside Festival on May 14 & 15 and recommended that the UFC participate in a future EQC meeting when the Fire Department may make a presentation related to climate action.
Cathy Bleier requested that a standing item be added to the UFC agenda relating to collaboration with the EQC (and PRC).

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS
Council Liaison Fadelli reported on the appointment of the 2022 Mayor, Council officers and assignments; provided a City budget update overview; Council goals in consideration of equity for agenda bills and actions, climate action, with local and state focus on homelessness and fire prevention. Mr. Fadelli invited UFC members and the public to meet him for a chat on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 at the El Cerrito Natural Grocery Annex.
Staff Liaison Prée provided an overview of recent and upcoming City tree work.
5. ACTION ITEMS-
Consider a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 13, 2021 UFC Meeting with noted changes. Motion: Kaczor; 2nd: Linhart; Ayes: 6, Noes: 0

6. URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR AND WORK PLAN UPDATE-
A. 2022/2023 Work Plan- Discussion regarding prioritization of activities based on individual member participation. Bleier & Mitchell – regarding formation of a 501c3, no one is currently willing to take this on. Regarding adequacy of City budget funding the urban forest program – Bleier recommended devoting one meeting per year to the budget process, PUBLIC COMMENT: Duncan suggested the UFC focus attention on City Council meetings to better comprehend the budget process; Liaison Fadelli - Council will be scrutinizing City Department Head’s budget decisions, City may create a grant writer/ disaster response position. Bleier requested an annual check-in on the urban forestry budget. Chair Mitchell will refine Work Plan edits as discussed and present plan for adoption at the February meeting.

B. Urban Forestry Grants – Prée reported that he is completing a pre-application for a Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Grant (due January 14) and thanked the ad-hoc subcommittee for their collaborative efforts.

C. Arbor Week- discussion of potential activities: tree planting- location(?), promote a tree care video,” Ask the Arborist”; Cathy Bleier and Chair Michell volunteered for ad-hoc subcommittee to investigate, confer with Prée and make recommendations to UFC.

D. Tree Board University- deferred.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –
- 2022/23 Work Plan adoption - action item
- Recommend to Council the appointment of Susan Kuchinskas – action item
- Arbor Week – March 7-14, 2022
- Urban Forestry Grants
- Community Group Connections
- Tree Board University

8. NEXT MONTH’S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS
- EQC meeting February 8 – Chair Mitchell will attend
- PRC meeting January 26 – Jennifer Kaczor will attend
9. **ADJOURNMENT**- Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of January 10, 2022, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Robin Mitchell, Chair or Robert Hrubes, Vice Chair

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison